

ENGLAND HAS AN UNDERAGE SEX SCANDAL THAT REACHES TO THE U.S. CONGRESS AND SILICON VALLEY

**Major investigation and public
protection**

Operation Hydrant

Operation Hydrant is coordinating multiple historical child sexual abuse investigations around the country. Relevant investigations are those which involve either people of public prominence and/or abuse which has taken place in an institution. In most cases the victims are reporting abuse which took place when they were children. The College of Policing is developing bespoke briefing notes to support forces running such investigations. These will be released on a phased basis, and will also be published on POLKA (Police Online Knowledge Area). A dedicated community will be jointly facilitated by the College and the Operation Hydrant Major Incident Room. The POLKA community will also provide a platform for practitioners to highlight any areas where guidance is unavailable or ambiguous, and to allow the learning to be captured as it arises. Until the dedicated Hydrant community is available, documents will be held on the APP POLKA community. **Briefing notes:**

- [Victims and Witnesses](#)

(Further briefing notes are currently under development and will be published in due course.) **Reference material**

- [Master script](#)
- [Victim and Witness Interview Strategies in High Profile Cases Involving Delayed Reporting](#)
- [Risk of suicide](#)
- [Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority](#)

All documents are available via the APP community on POLKA, which is a RESTRICTED online tool with access limited to

registered PNN and GSi users.

Hunt widens for VIP paedophiles

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Entertainer Rolf Harris leaves Southwark Crown Court. Inset: Tessa Munt MP Photograph: REUTERS

POLICE have set up a national VIP sex crimes group in response to the growing number of politicians and celebrities accused of child abuse. As hundreds more victims came forward last week and it emerged that government whips had shredded compromising records on MPs, chief constables revealed they were conducting at least 21 separate criminal investigations. Simon Bailey, the chief constable of Norfolk, who is running the

national group, said 30 senior officers involved in investigating MPs, peers, and other “prominent” figures were now co-ordinating their work. The new police inquiries cover the whole country. “There are 13 forces currently investigating 21 cases. These are allegations against elected officials, celebrities, people of public prominence and people directly connected to them,” Bailey said. He said the recent convictions of Rolf Harris and the publicist Max Clifford had given victims the confidence to come forward knowing that they would be believed.

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- [Police ‘superlist’ of 21 child abusers](#) 13 July 2014
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[Full Story Concerning The 660 Arrests From NCA Website](#)

UK-wide operation snares 660 suspected paedophiles An unprecedented six-month operation coordinated by the NCA and involving 45 police forces across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland has led to the arrest of 660 suspected paedophiles. More than 400 children across the UK have been safeguarded. Some of those arrested had unsupervised access to children in the course of their work. They include doctors, teachers, scout leaders, care workers and former police officers. Of the 660, 39 people were Registered Sex Offenders but the majority of those arrested had not previously come to law enforcement's attention. The operation targeted people accessing indecent images of children online. It has stayed covert till today in order to protect children, identify offenders and secure evidence. The NCA and its partners are not revealing the methods they used to track down suspects so that they can use the same tactics again in the future. Charging decisions are awaited in most cases because of ongoing enquiries but so far charges brought range from possessing indecent images of children to serious sexual assault. NCA Deputy Director General Phil Gormley said: "This is the first time the UK has had the capability to coordinate a single targeted operation of this nature. Over the past six months we have seen unprecedented levels of cooperation to deliver this result. "Our aim was to protect children who were victims of, or might be at risk of, sexual exploitation.

A child is victimised not only when they are abused and an image is taken. They are re-victimised every time that image is viewed by someone. "Some of the people who start by accessing indecent images online go on to abuse children directly. So the operation is not only about catching people who have already offended – it is about influencing potential offenders before they cross that line "We want those offenders to know that the internet is not a safe anonymous space for accessing indecent images, that they leave a digital footprint, and that law enforcement will find it". Chief Constable Simon Bailey, the National Policing Lead for Child Protection and Abuse Investigations, said: "Sexual abuse is a complex crime taking many forms. The vast majority of forces around England and Wales are dealing with an unprecedented increase in the number of reports of sexual abuse of children. Forces are investigating exploitation of children and young people by groups and gangs, non-recent abuse including large scale investigations into abuse in institutions over many years and sexual abuse by parents and family members. "During this operation, we've targeted offenders accessing child abuse images. Police must continue to use a range of investigative techniques targeting all forms of abuse if we going to protect children and bring offenders to justice. Chief officers are committed using all the tools available to them because nothing is more important in policing than protecting vulnerable people".

John Carr, Secretary, UK Children's Charities' Coalition on Internet Safety: "This huge operation provides another distressing illustration of the scale of online offending against children but perhaps more importantly it also sends out a very clear warning to paedophiles and collectors of

indecent images everywhere that the internet is increasingly becoming a very hostile environment for them. Police forces all over the world are co-operating on an unprecedented scale in pursuit of online child sex offenders and they are deploying technical tools to track them down with ever greater effectiveness.

Claire Lilley, Head of Online Safety at the NSPCC: "This is an important two-pronged operation which has rescued children from abuse and also identified many previously unknown sex offenders. Direct action like this sends a strong message to those who subject children to harrowing sexual assaults that they can and will be traced and prosecuted. "But law enforcement agencies alone cannot deal with the vast problem of illegal images which continue to flood the market. Industry has to find inventive ways of blocking the flow of such horrendous pictures which are only produced through the suffering of defenceless children – many of who are not even old enough to go to school.

"So while this operation must be rightly applauded we should view it as yet another warning sign that far more needs to be done if we are to stem the sordid trade in these images, which are often used by those who go on to abuse children."

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