

# **THE POLLARD REVIEW**

## **APPENDIX 10**

**ReedSmith**

**Please let us know when the Newsnight Savile Investigation was first added to your rolling News Programmes list, and explain how and by whom the investigation was identified to you for insertion onto that list:**

I have already provided the relevant email from my files in an effort to show firm dates which indicate that the Savile investigation was on the MPRL but it is possible, and likely, that I had discussion about the project before these dates. However, I cannot recall precise dates or times. The Savile project was just one of many projects I would have been discussing over a year ago and my recollection of individual conversations (again, in the context of many other conversations) is not exactly clear. That said, I will try to set out below the points I do remember in an effort to establish a probable, approximate timing.

I do remember that I spoke to Peter Rippon about the project in general terms, with him explaining that it was a project which needed to be handled with discretion and that it would need to be on the MPRL. I cannot remember exactly when this conversation took place, but I think it is most likely the first time I heard of the investigation. Similarly, I have no recollection, nor record, of when the first entry for the Savile film was made on the News Programmes list. However, if I had spoken to Peter about this I can only think that I would have added the entry as soon as possible after that conversation, as this is what I would normally do. I would agree that the email from David Gibson does suggest that the entry was already on the News Programmes list by the time he emailed me on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011. As I had already had other discussions about the Savile film I would estimate that the first conversation with Peter took place around the beginning of November 2011.

I do remember that I discussed the project with Stephen Mitchell on more than one occasion. But again, I cannot recall exact dates. I have diary entries from our routine meetings at which it is probably that the Savile project was discussed but, as I work very closely with Stephen, I could also have had adhoc conversations with him as necessary. I do remember, during one of our discussions commenting that output areas were planning coverage of the tribute and funeral ceremonies for Jimmy Savile and that they should be given a 'heads up' about the possible Newsnight investigation. I remember agreeing with Stephen that I would mention to Kevin Bakhurst that Newsnight were working on something connected to Savile and that I would give him more details when I had them. Clearly, for this conversation to have taken place with Stephen, it seems likely that the SAVILE story was already on the News Programmes list. As my email to David Gibson suggests, I had the conversation with Kevin Bakhurst on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011 which means that I had discussed the project with Stephen before this.

**Please explain who made the decision to remove the Savile Newsnight investigation from the list to be included in the News MPRL, and the circumstances in which that decision was made:**

(i) I believe I was referring to me and Stephen Mitchell, as I would have spoken to him about this in one of our routine, or adhoc, meetings.

(ii) I cannot remember precisely when, nor any detail of the discussion, but it is probable that it took place at one of our routine or adhoc meetings. Clearly, the decision to remove the entry from the list had been taken before I sent off the News Programmes list to Stephanie Harris on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011. I do not remember any extended discussion with Stephen as we would have been looking at the list as a whole and not just this story, but I think Stephen would have said to take the entry off

for now. I can remember having a general sense that the Savile project was not in a sufficiently advanced state to be included on this list of editorial risk. My understanding was that it was a case of taking the entry off for the time being and that it would be put back on when the content of the film had been stood up and the piece was closer to transmission. This approach was also taken by the programme team in not mentioning the investigation in any planning meetings or wider divisional discussions at this stage.

(iii) I do not remember any specific concern being discussed. The News MPRL has a wide circulation and is seen by many areas beyond News. It is not unusual to hold a programme, or material, from wider view or discussion until it is in an advanced state of production and the journalism has been thoroughly interrogated. As such, Stephen and I did not have a detailed conversation about this. It was simply that the entry would be taken off the list for now. My understanding was that it was a question of timing and that the programme would be put back on the list nearer transmission.

(iv) I do not recall any discussion of this, other than the investigation was not in a state where it could be circulated more widely.

(v) No. As detailed above, the only discussion I was involved in was to give the Controller of the News Channel, Kevin Bakhurst, a verbal warning that there was an investigation being worked on and that I would let him know when I had more details. I do not recall any other discussion.

Sara Beck

11<sup>th</sup> December 2012

**HELEN BOADEN**  
**WRITTEN STATEMENT**  
**WITH ANNEX 1 AND ANNEX 2**



## THE POLLARD REVIEW

I, Helen Boaden, c/o BBC News will say as follows:

### **Employment Background**

1. I have worked for the BBC for 29 years (freelance and staff) in many roles, including Reporter and then Editor of File on 4, presenter of Women's Hour, Head of Current Affairs, Controller of Radio 4 and as Director of BBC News since 2004.
2. Since April 2011 I have been formally designated as Director of the BBC News Group which comprises Network News, the English Regions and the Global News Division which includes BBC World News, bbc.com, World Service English and the Language Services. Please find attached a diagram illustrating my field of responsibility as Annex 1.
3. In my role as Director of the BBC News Group I am responsible for 8000 staff at home and abroad. I report to the Director General who is Editor in Chief. Please find attached a diagram of the News Group structure as Annex 2.
4. I am a member of the BBC Executive Board and the newly formed BBC Management Board.

### **Background – Investigations and Commissioning of Programmes**

5. BBC News carries out investigations and original journalism across many of its outlets (TV Current Affairs like Panorama, Newsnight and Inside Out across English Regions; Radio Current Affairs like File on 4 and The Report) and from within BBC Newsgathering.
6. The Director of the BBC News Group does not get involved in the commissioning of programmes or specific investigations.
7. Editors edit and commission ideas which they feel have journalistic merit, are appropriate for their audiences and sit within the BBC's public purposes.
8. Departmental Heads refer investigations upwards to the Director of the BBC News Group if the investigations are highly contentious and/or especially legally challenging before transmission when they need my view or advice.
9. If appropriate or necessary, the Director of the BBC News Group and the departmental Head will meet the Editor-in-Chief, the DG, to ensure he knows of a

programme/investigation about to be broadcast and its content with regard to the editorial or legal risks.

10. Examples of this would be Football bungs, FIFA corruption, both Ashcroft Panoramas, and the upcoming Panorama on the Barclay Brothers.
11. The Director is informed of progress on investigations as Departmental Heads think appropriate. At any one time there will be 30 – 40 commissioned investigations or challenging pieces of journalism on the Managed Risk Programmes List.
12. The Director of the BBC News Group works closely in this area with a Deputy and Head of the Programmes Department, Stephen Mitchell ("SM") who runs the most editorially challenging and journalistically high risk part of News.
13. SM is responsible for some of the BBC's most iconic programmes which do original and investigative journalism like Panorama, Newsnight, File on 4 and Today and has a large department to manage.

#### The Newsnight investigation into Jimmy Savile ("JS")

14. JS died on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011. His funeral was held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011. Over 700 mourners filled the cathedral and hundreds more lined the streets to mourn his death, hoping to catch a glimpse of his coffin as it drove by. By way of context it is fair to say that during this period public figures, including Prince Charles, and the media in general eulogised him.
15. I became aware of the Newsnight JS investigation at some point in mid November. Through a process of elimination in the diary, I believe the date to be 21<sup>st</sup> November, just before I went on holiday on 24<sup>th</sup> November. I had not been able to attend a lecture in Oxford as I had planned that day because a meeting in London overran, so unexpectedly, I had some free time late in the afternoon.
16. I drop in (or 'walk the floor') on programme editors when I have time to do this. This gives them a chance to share what's on their mind and is an attempt to avoid me being too remote from staff as BBC News grows bigger. On this day I happened to drop in on Peter Rippon ("PR"), Newsnight's Editor. This meeting was short, informal and unplanned.
17. From memory, I think we discussed reaction to the appointment of Allegra Stratton at Newsnight's new Political Editor which had been announced that day and also my upcoming holiday in Spain where PR's parents have a house.
18. PR then said something like "*could I ask you something?*" and explained that they were doing an investigation which could prove embarrassing to the BBC. PR asked if that was a problem.

19. I made it very clear that is was not. Indeed, I told him that under no circumstances should the journalism be affected by any consideration about its impact on the BBC. I reiterated a fundamental value of BBC News (which outsiders do not always appreciate): that BBC News reports on the BBC as it would any other institution or business.
20. I then asked what the investigation was about. PR replied something like: "*Jimmy Savile and teenage girls*". When I heard this I thought PR was talking about groupies. Such stories can break when famous people die. I asked PR if it was really core Newsnight territory.
21. PR then went on to explain it was more serious than that. The programme would be about allegations that JS had sex with underage girls at an approved school in the 1970s. He did not mention the name of the school.
22. I asked whether the school was involved and was the BBC involved? PR said neither. I think he said that one of the women had said "*the BBC could not have known*" and that JS had used his Rolls Royce.
23. I asked who would be working on the story and was told Mierion Jones and Liz McKean.
24. The job of the Director of News is to uphold the BBC's editorial standards and I was keen that such a potentially controversial investigation didn't fall down on our standards just because the alleged perpetrator was dead and couldn't sue us. Applying BBC standards should be the same for everyone – celebrity or not, dead or alive. These standards are about keeping faith with the audience who expect BBC journalism to be accurate, fair and trustworthy.
25. I talked to PR about the challenges and questions he might want to think about. These challenges included:
- a. The fact that sex abuse allegations can come down to one person's word against another.
  - b. The fact that in this case the alleged perpetrator was dead.
  - c. The fact that the allegations go back thirty years.
- The thrust of the conversation was that Newsnight would need to build a credible case.
26. I told him that no one would expect the witnesses to be perfect. They had been to approved schools so could have had troubled lives but they needed to be credible.
27. I said more than once: "this isn't a reason for not doing the story". I was trying to emphasise credibility and care.

28. The whole conversation probably lasted about 5-10 minutes.
29. The following points are as good as my memory permits and using the diary as a prompt. I went to Scotland the following day and I think I mentioned my conversation with PR to SM the day after that. SM said he was interested in whether the Approved School was involved and I believe we talked about the challenge of historical allegations.
30. When I had my informal conversation with PR on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011 I was unaware of plans to broadcast JS tribute programmes during the Christmas schedule. I believe it was SM who first mentioned them to me. He said we should alert George Entwistle (Director of BBC Vision) ("GE") because he would need to change the Christmas schedule if the BBC Newsnight investigation was broadcast.
31. I went on holiday from 24<sup>th</sup> November and returned for Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November. I remember walking to GE's office a couple of times to talk to him about this matter but he was out on each occasion I went to see him.
32. The first time I saw GE (after my holiday) was at the Sky Women in TV and Film Awards on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011. After the lunch when most people had left the table I got him to one side when no one else was around and told him Newsnight were doing an investigation into JS and if it went ahead as planned, *"you will definitely need to change the Christmas schedule"*. To the best of my recollection he said something like "Thanks – keep me posted". I cannot remember if I gave him any explicit detail about the subject of the investigation though it is probable I did mention it was about sex abuse.
33. I believe that at some point during a catch up meeting with SM he told me that PR had re-nosed the JS story to focus on a more recent failed Surrey Police investigation which had apparently been dropped when JS was alive because he was too old and frail. SM said PR seemed more comfortable with this approach. I think he said it would be short film – about 12 minutes and I remember SM mentioned difficulties getting other women to go on the record. I cannot be sure when this conversation took place.
34. About two weeks after the Sky lunch, just before SM went on holiday to Australia, he and I had a big catch up at the end of one day and discussed several big managerial issues and some other investigations. It was at this meeting that SM told me that PR had halted the JS investigation.
35. I asked why and SM told me that PR could only get one woman on tape and in the view of PR she lacked credibility partly because [REDACTED] and could be seen to have compromised motives. I think I asked about the other women who had been mentioned before and SM said that PR thought there was too much "hearsay" in what they had to say. His Police angle had also been undermined by the CPS.

36. I asked what would happen to the allegations and SM told me that all the women had already been to the Surrey Police.
37. PR bumped into me after Christmas and said that his Christmas break had been ruined by calls from newspapers about him dropping the story. I think he sent me some cuttings. The Press Office also had a call about me suppressing the story which the BBC rightly and accurately denied.
38. In conclusion, I wish to make clear that at no point did I put pressure on the Editor of Newsnight to drop the investigation into JS because it might cause embarrassment for the BBC or indeed for any other reason. As Director of News, my role is to ensure that Editors uphold the highest editorial standards in all BBC News output. In this case – as in all other cases – that is what I sought to do.

#### The Peter Rippon Blog

39. After the transmission of the ITV documentary Exposure about JS, PR said he wanted to put the reasons for his decision in a blog. He was very resistant to the Press Office's idea of going on air to do this and I think SM asked me to intervene to make this clear to the BBC Press Office.
40. Programme Editor's Blogs are their own work and responsibility. However, I looked at what he had written and thought that none of it appeared to contradict what I had been told about this matter.
41. David Jordan (DJ), Director of Editorial Policy, agreed to represent PR's case on air in a series of media interviews and PR contacted me about some of the content when he felt DJ had not fully represented his position.
42. On 9<sup>th</sup> October at a BBC Management Board meeting, GE asked me to check with SM the accuracy of claims that the women had all talked to the Police and that all the material was with the Police.
43. I interrupted SM in a meeting and he telephoned PR. SM reported to me that PR had told him that all the material was with the Police and that when he had written the blog, he thought all the women had contacted the Police themselves.
44. At some point later that week GE called me into his office and showed me two emails from Mierion Jones (MJ) and Liz MacKean ("LMc") claiming there were major inaccuracies in the PR blog. He asked my view. I suggested one way forwards would be a formal investigation leading to possible disciplinary action as the claims were serious and a formal approach would have clear rules for everyone.

45. GE preferred to do something less formal which was to ask Ken MacQuarrie to do an investigation and report its findings to him.
46. From then on I believed that the blog had become a Corporate issue being handled by the DG's office and the Corporate Press Office.
47. At this time I was also told by SM that he had been trying to reconcile the various parties in Newsnight as they had all contacted him. He had talked to both MJ and LMc. MJ had told him that he didn't mean to imply PR was lying and LMc told him she thought PR was out of his depth.
48. To the best of my recollection I was not asked to consider the blog by GE or anyone from the Corporate centre until 21<sup>st</sup> October. I was running overall news coverage and was not involved in Corporate decision making on the blog.
49. On the morning on 21<sup>st</sup> October I received a very early call from DJ suggesting that I urgently tell PR to change his blog.
50. I rang PR who was baffled as to why there was urgency because he said he had agreed with DJ that he would change the blog for Monday.
51. Sometime later that morning GE rang to say that due to an investigation into emails as part of the Pollard Review, there were some significant errors on the PR blog which needed to be changed urgently. He asked me to hurry PR which I did. PR said he was waiting for his lawyer to check the changes.
52. GE rang several times to find out what was happening with the blog changes but by this time PR was no longer responding to my calls.
53. Sometime in the afternoon of 21<sup>st</sup> October, GE said that PR had been told he was being "stood aside" because of the errors on his blog. He said the BBC would not change these errors but do a statement which SM or myself would have to sign off as accurate. I explained neither of us would know if it were accurate as we did not know the detail of the Newsnight investigation. PR would be needed for this.
54. I think GE decided then to delay the "standing aside" announcement till the following day.

[REDACTED]

Helen Boaden

Dated 19.11.12

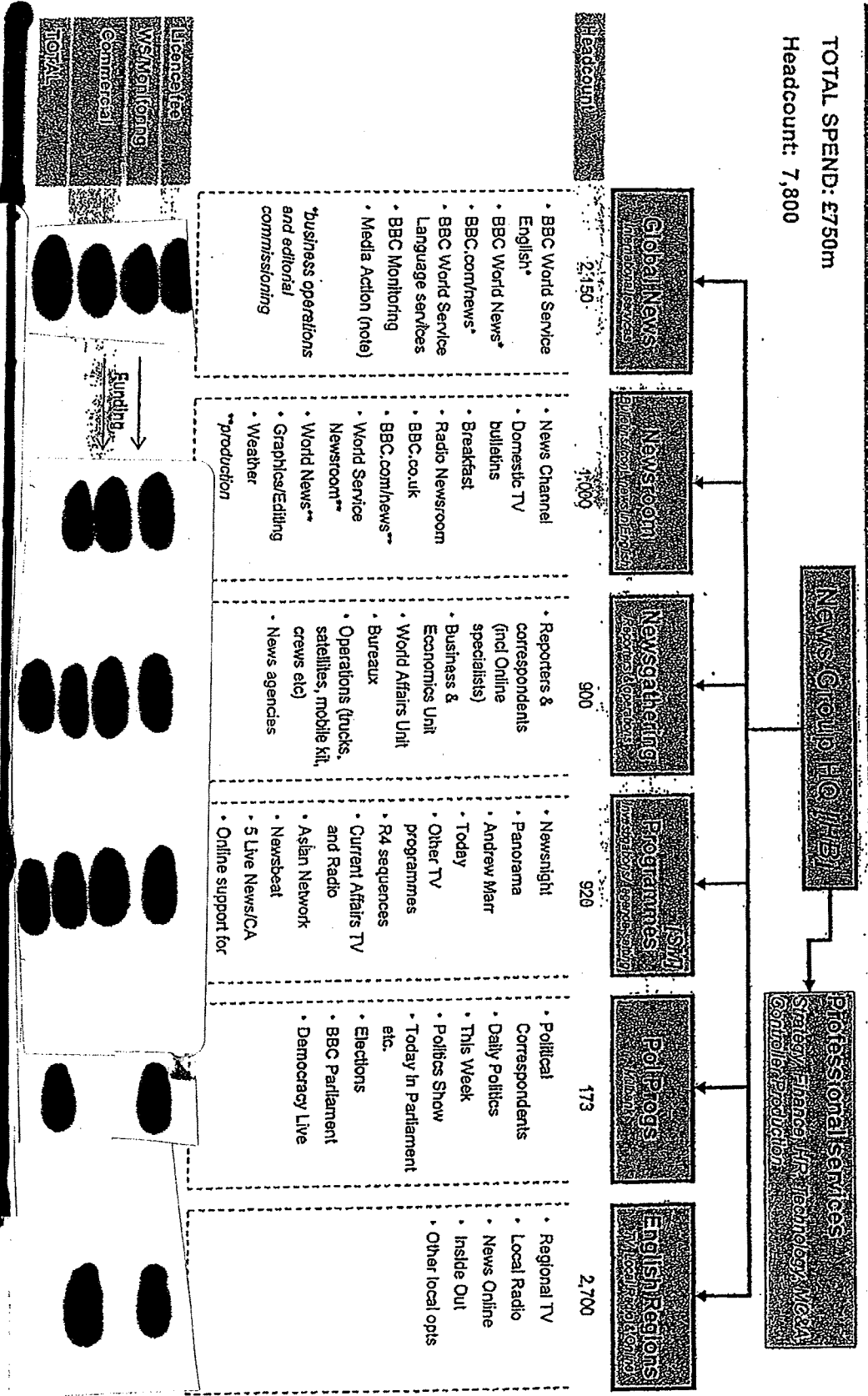
THE POLLARD REVIEW

Helen Boaden

ANNEX 1

# News Group Structure and budgets: 2011-2012

TOTAL SPEND: £750m  
Headcount: 7,800





THE POLLARD REVIEW

Helen Boaden

ANNEX 2

**Job Description -**  
(Should be no longer than 2 pages)

<b>ROLE TITLE</b>	Director of News and English Regions		
<b>BBC GRADE</b>	SM1	<b>DATE MODIFIED</b>	12/8/09
<b>REPORTS TO / LINE MANAGER</b>	Deputy Director General		
<b>RESPONSIBLE FOR</b>	Deputy Director of News & Head of Multimedia Programmes Head of Multimedia Newsroom Head of Newsgathering Head of Political Programmes Senior Editorial Advisor Head of Accountability Dotted line to a number of other roles e.g. HR, Marketing & Coms, Finance etc.		
<b>DIVISION</b>	News		
<b>DEPARTMENT (SUB DIVISION)</b>			
<b>TEAM</b>			
<b>LOCATION</b>	Television Centre, London		
<b>PURPOSE OF ROLE</b>	<p>Oversees the corporation's entire news output across TV, radio and online, from BBC Radio 4's Today programme to round-the-clock coverage on the BBC News channel.</p> <p>BBC1's flagship 10pm bulletin is the country's most popular news programme, with an average nightly audience of 4.9 million viewers to date. More than 80% of the population uses a BBC news service at least once a week.</p> <p>Also the Director has additional responsibility for local TV, radio and online services in England.</p> <p>Oversaw a wholesale reorganisation of the corporation's news department, including a new multimedia newsroom and on-air look.</p>		



Version 3  
May 2009

ROLE/TITLE	Direct of News and English Regions		
BBC GRADE	SM1	DATE MODIFIED	12/8/09
<b>SCOPE OF ROLE - KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES</b> (no more than 6 to 8 bullet points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ultimately responsible for all output in News and English Regions</li> <li>• Editorial judgement exercised at the highest levels working at direction level inside the BBC but also with opinion formers both in the UK and internationally.</li> </ul>		
<b>SCOPE OF ROLE - KEY METRICS</b> (no more than 6 bullet points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for a staff of 6,000</li> <li>• Budgetary responsibility - Annual programming budget: £508m with full responsibility for setting and directing?</li> <li>• Recruitment responsibility - Fully engaged in the process and takes a final decision in high profile appointments e.g. North America Editor, Europe Editor etc.</li> <li>• Health and Safety responsibility - accountability for News operation along with the inherent high risks of some newsgathering.</li> </ul>		
<b>SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS</b> (no more than 6 bullet points)	<u>Essential</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant senior editorial experience of news management and production</li> <li>• Management and development of a large team, including partners, freelancers and/or independent companies</li> <li>• High level Knowledge of editorial and other compliance policies</li> <li>•</li> </ul>		
<b>C LEADERSHIP IMPERATIVES &amp; BEHAVIOURS</b>	<u>BBC Leadership Imperatives</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Harnessing Creativity: Engaging audiences through nurturing and harnessing people's creativity, seizing opportunities and growing and retaining talent"</li> <li>• "Managing People &amp; Performance: Managing people through setting clear objectives and giving regular constructive feedback. Making best use of resources"</li> <li>• "Framing The Future: Setting and communicating clear and coherent vision and strategy for the team and direction for the team, focussing on key priorities"</li> <li>• "Building Purposeful Relationships: Building open and trusting relationships and communications internally and with the external world"</li> <li>• "Leading With Conviction: Making exceptional things happen. Acting with integrity to get things done with decisiveness and pace involving others and taking measured risks"</li> </ul>		



**GEORGE ENTWISTLE:  
WRITTEN STATEMENT  
REGARDING 30-31 OCTOBER  
EMAILS**

#### NOTE REGARDING EMAILS OF 30-31 OCTOBER

Soon after the scale of the Savile crisis became clear I asked Eileen Grundy – my assistant when I was Director of Vision – to check my archived emails at and about the time of Savile's death, and from December 2011, when I believed Helen Boaden had mentioned the Newsnight investigation to me. My detailed recollection of events a year or so ago is limited. Eileen did this work around the 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October. In addition, BBC Legal have been collecting e-mails from others relevant to this issue for the review and I have been made aware of relevant email exchanges between Jan Younghusband and Nick Vaughan-Barratt, and Jan Younghusband and Phil Dolling.

On 11 October, Eileen phoned my Chief of Staff, Jessica Cecil, to bring her attention to a series of email exchanges involving me from 30 and 31/10/11 which addressed how BBC Television should react to the death of Jimmy Savile. These exchanges included an email from Jan Younghusband to me, dated 31/10/2011 and timed at 12.01hrs. It was the last in a chain and provided an explanation of why there was no Jimmy Savile obit already on the shelf. It included the following statement: *'I gather we didn't prepare the obit because of the darker side of the story. So something celebrating a particular part of his career is probably better than the live story as there are aspects of this which are hard to tell.'* Jessica brought the discovery of this email to my attention around lunchtime on 11/10/12. In view of the e-mail's potential significance I phoned Lord Patten later that afternoon to talk him through it having already arranged for it to be sent to Legal so that relevant information could be supplied to the reviews and the police.

I have no recollection of reading the e-mail in October 2011. We have found nothing to suggest I replied. During my time as Vision Director, I received over 150 emails on a typical working day. My diary on 31/10/11 was busy; I was in meetings away from my office from 10am to 2pm (with a 15 minute break at 12.45pm) and had an evening engagement and other appointments. The e-mail from Jan would have arrived before the end of the BDG Meeting that morning. I didn't always read Jan's emails because she was out of the office a lot and often fell out of sync with email exchanges.

As to detail, this account is built on a study of the email exchanges I've now been given as a result of the search carried out by Eileen. Jimmy Savile died on 29 October 2011. This was drawn to my attention by an email from Jan Younghusband (TV Commissioning Editor for Music, Events and Obits) sent at 09.19hrs on Sunday 30/10/11 to which I responded at 18.28hrs that day. In her email Jan asked me whether I wanted her to commission a formal obituary film about Savile (an obit). Jan is a TV commissioner working inside BBC Vision, reporting to Emma Swain (Controller of Knowledge Commissioning). To commission anything, Jan needs (a) available budget and (b) the agreement of a channel controller (this system is known as the twin tick); she does not need approval from the Director of Vision, my role at the time. Indeed the Director of Vision has no formal role in commissioning TV for the BBC channels – this takes place at least one level below Director. The Director's role is to set the strategic framework for commissioning and spend across all four TV channels.

Because Jan wouldn't normally need my permission to commission an obit of Savile (once she had a channel controller's agreement), I think my assumption was that she was asking me because she didn't have any money available. Had I thought an obit was necessary, she would have expected me to find the extra money. However, I had for some years been discouraging people from spending money on formal obit films, which I thought old-fashioned. I suggested to Jan in my e-mail of 18.28hrs on 30<sup>th</sup> October that we consider repeating some archive, which was a more effective way of commemorating people in my view, and a lot cheaper. My suggestion in that email that BBC One might not be the right place for such a thing reflected my view that BBC Two and Four had a tradition of showing archive programmes which might suit better. Danny Cohen, the Controller of

BBC One, responded to my 18.28hrs at 19.16hrs On 30/11/11, saying he agreed archive programming wouldn't work for One and suggested BBC Two and Four might consider such an approach in November.

After reflecting overnight, Danny Cohen responded again to my 18.28hrs of the previous day, making some clear suggestions for how we might mark Savile's death. His 10.19hrs email on 31/10/11 made a series of suggestions, including floating the new idea of a Fix It Special (which became Shane'll Fix It) and mooted the idea we consider showing the Louis Theroux Savile film among other archive. I would have been in the 2.25hr-long BBC Direction Group Meeting at the time he sent his email and I responded after that meeting ended at 12.47hrs (31/10/11) to indicate I thought he was on the right lines. "Great idea - keep me posted." - I sent this from my iPhone. On reflection, I believe these exchanges satisfied me there was no further need for me to catch up on Savile planning in the week ahead as I'd suggested we might in my 18.28hrs email the previous day. I have no recollection of a further Savile discussion that week or later with any of the people cc'd on Jan's email save for a discussion with Danny later in the year about who might present a Fix It Xmas Special.

The fact that I had already communicated my lack of interest in an obit to Jan the previous evening, as well as my interest in archive to Danny, is a possible reason why I might not have read Jan's 12.01hrs e-mail on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October which was in a separate chain. A forensic enquiry will be undertaken to seek to establish, if possible, whether and when the 12.01hrs email was first opened.

I hope the information I've been able to give here is useful and I have attached copies of the relevant emails. I will be happy of course to try to answer any further questions.

~~zzEmma Swain-Private~~

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From: zzDanny Cohen  
Sent: 30 October 2011 19:16  
To: George Entwistle; Jan Younghusband  
Cc: zzEmma Swain-Private; Phil Dolling -PRIVATE  
Subject: Re: Sir Jimmy Saville

Hi,

I think I agree with that George re BBC One.

A group of programmes across BBC2 and BBC4 later in November might well be the right response.

DC

----- Original Message -----

From: George Entwistle  
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2011 06:28 PM  
To: Jan Younghusband  
Cc: zzDanny Cohen; zzEmma Swain-Private; Phil Dolling -PRIVATE  
Subject: Re: Sir Jimmy Saville

Hi Jan

My instinct is that we probably wouldn't want to commission an obit as such but would commemorate Sir JS by repeating some of the programming we already have. And I suspect One may not be the right place for that ... But I look forward to catching up with everyone's thinking in the week ahead.

All best, George

On Oct 30, 2011, at 9:19 AM, "Jan Younghusband" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

- > Dear George and Danny,
- >
- > Just to say we don't have an obit of Jimmy standing by as I gather the BBC decided not to prepare one in advance.
- >
- > So please let me know if you would like us to commission one now?
- >
- > Thanks
- >
- > Jan
- >

10/016

zzEmma Swain-Private

**From:** zzDanny Cohen  
**Sent:** 31 October 2011 10:19  
**To:** George Entwistle  
**Cc:** Mark Linsey; Dan McGilp; Jan Younghusband; zzEmma Swain-Private  
**Subject:** RE: Sir Jimmy Saville

Hi George,

One thought I've had this morning is to do a 'Fb: it' Special at Christmas with a loved BBC personality taking Sir Jimmy Saville's role. It would be a homage to him, and would I think feel like a real Christmas treat.

Mark is going to talk to inhouse Entertainment this morning about the rights issue, and who the BBC personality might be.

This would leave the way for BBC2 to do archive, biography or the Louis Theroux Special.

I will report back if it is something we can get going and deliver in time for Christmas.

Best  
DC

Danny Cohen  
Controller, BBC One

-----Original Message-----

**From:** George Entwistle  
**Sent:** 30 October 2011 18:29  
**To:** Jan Younghusband  
**Cc:** zzDanny Cohen; zzEmma Swain-Private; Phil Dolling -PRIVATE  
**Subject:** Re: Sir Jimmy Saville

Hi Jan

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All best, George

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> So please let me know if you would like us to commission one now?

>

> Thanks

>

> Jan

>

10/017



Eileen Grundy

From: George Entwistle  
Sent: 31 October 2011 12:47  
To: Danny Cohen  
Subject: Re: Sir Jimmy Saville

Great idea Danny. Please keep me posted. Cheers, G

Sent from my iPhone

On 31 Oct 2011, at 10:19, "Danny Cohen" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

- > Hi George,
- >
- > One thought we had this morning is to do a 'Fix it' special at
- > Christmas with a loved BBC personality taking Sir Jimmy Saville's role.
- > It would be a homage to him, and would I think feel like a real
- > Christmas treat.
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- > Mark is going to talk to Inhouse Entertainment this morning about the
- > rights issue, and who the BBC personality might be.
- >
- > This would leave the way for BBC2 to do archive, biography or The Louis
- > Theroux Special.
- >
- > I will report back if it is something we can get going and deliver in
- > time for Christmas.
- >
- > Best
- > DC
- >
- >
- > Danny Cohen
- > Controller, BBC One
- >
- > --- Original Message ---
- > From: George Entwistle
- > Sent: 30 October 2011 18:29
- > To: Jan Youngusband
- > Cc: Danny Cohen; Emma Swain-Private; Phil Dolling -PRIVATE
- > Subject: Re: Sir Jimmy Saville
- >
- > Hi Jan
- > My instinct is that we probably wouldn't want to commission an obit as
- > such but would commemorate Sir JS by repeating some of the programming
- > we already have. And I suspect One may not be the right place for that
- > -- But I look forward to catching up with everyone's thinking in the
- > week ahead.
- > All best, George
- >
- >
- >
- > On Oct 30, 2011, at 9:19 AM, "Jan Youngusband"

10/018

zzEmma Swain-Private

---

From: Jan Younghusband  
Sent: 31 October 2011 12:01  
To: George Entwistle  
Cc: zzDanny Cohen; zzEmma Swain-Private; Phil Dolling -PRIVATE  
Subject: Re: Sir Jimmy Saville

I gather we didn't prepare the obit because of the darker side of the story. So something celebrating a particular part of his TV career is probably better than the live story as there are aspects of this which are hard to tell.

Jan

-----Original Message-----

From: George Entwistle  
To: Jan Younghusband  
Cc: zzDanny Cohen  
Cc: zzEmma Swain-Private  
Cc: Phil Dolling -PRIVATE  
Subject: Re: Sir Jimmy Saville  
Sent: 30 Oct 2011 18:28

Hi Jan

My instinct is that we probably wouldn't want to commission an obit as such but would commemorate Sir JS by repeating some of the programming we already have. And I suspect One may not be the right place for that ... But I look forward to catching up with everyone's thinking in the week ahead.  
All best, George

On Oct 30, 2011, at 9:19 AM, "Jan Younghusband" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

> Dear George and Danny,

> Just to say we don't have an Obit of Jimmy standing by as I gather the BBC decided not to prepare one in advance.

> So please let me know if you would like us to commission one now?

> Thanks

> Jan

>

10/019

**Nicola Cain**

---

**From:** Jan Younghusband  
**Sent:** 19 October 2012 09:48  
**To:** Nicola Cain  
**Subject:** FW: Jimmy Saville

-----Original Message-----  
**From:** Jan Younghusband  
**Sent:** 17 October 2012 10:03  
**To:** Kit Kitson-Investigations  
**Subject:** FW: Jimmy Saville

-----Original Message-----  
**From:** Jan Younghusband  
**Sent:** 30 October 2011 09:21  
**To:** Nick Vaughan-Barratt  
**Subject:** Re: Jimmy Saville

Yes I completely understand ... There will be loads of news coverage anyway, so we don't need to rush it . I've asked George what he wants to do .  
Thanks Nick .  
Jan

----- Original Message -----  
**From:** Nick Vaughan-Barratt  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 30, 2011 09:17 AM  
**To:** Jan Younghusband  
**Subject:** Re: Jimmy Saville

v. e decided that the dark side to Jim (I worked with him for 10 years) would make it impossible to make an honest film that could be shown close to death. But maybe one could be made for later. N  
Sent from my BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----  
**From:** Jan Younghusband  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 30, 2011 09:15 AM  
**To:** Nick Vaughan-Barratt  
**Subject:** Re: Jimmy Saville

Okay thanks for letting me know .  
Jan

----- Original Message -----  
**From:** Nick Vaughan-Barratt  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 30, 2011 09:13 AM  
**To:** Jan Younghusband  
**Subject:** Re: Jimmy Saville

Some years go we decided not to make one in advance and that decision has been agreed by successive controllers.  
N  
Sent from my BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----  
From: Jan Younghusband  
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2011 08:49 AM  
To: Nick Vaughan-Barratt  
Subject: Jimmy Seville

Dear Nick,

Very sad news about Jimmy . What is the obit position ?

Jan

10/021

**Nicola Cain**

---

**From:** Phil Dolling -PRIVATE  
**Sent:** 24 October 2012 15:13  
**To:** Nicola Cain  
**Subject:** FW: Sir Jimmy Saville

Here It is

-----Original Message-----  
**From:** Phil Dolling -PRIVATE  
**Sent:** 31 October 2011 16:48  
**To:** Jan Younghusband  
**Subject:** RE: Sir Jimmy Saville

No routines yet - soon will I think.

-----Original Message-----  
**From:** Jan Younghusband  
**Sent:** 31 October 2011 16:42  
**To:** Phil Dolling -PRIVATE  
**Subject:** RE: Sir Jimmy Saville

Pelasure - I really enjoy coming along.

Yes let's have a catch up on the obits . Do we have routines in ?

JAN YOUNGHUSBAND  
Commissioning Editor - Music & Events

Music Knowledge Commissioning  
Room 6045, Television Centre, Wood Lane, W12 7RJ

Telephone: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@bbc.co.uk

PA: Nicola Morrison  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@bbc.co.uk

Proposals: Mark Evans  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@bbc.co.uk

-----Original Message-----  
**From:** Phil Dolling -PRIVATE  
**Sent:** 31 October 2011 15:48  
**To:** Jan Younghusband  
**Subject:** RE: Sir Jimmy Saville

To be honest that is probably a good call re Jimmy, better to keep to the entertainment side of his life. But when all is sorted out we should see where we currently stand with obits list.

And thanks for coming to the show - the team always appreciate it when the top brass turn up!

Yours Phil

-----Original Message-----

From: Jan Younghusband  
Sent: 31 October 2011 15:44  
To: Phil Dolling -PRIVATE  
Subject: RE: Sir Jimmy Saville

Phil, they don't want an obit of Jimmy and would like to do an entertainment show, so Ents will manage it.

Nothing for us to do then.

Good to see you yesterday and congratulations on the show. It is always such a heartening event.

Jan

JAN YOUNGHUSBAND  
Commissioning Editor - Music & Events

BBC Knowledge Commissioning  
Room 6045, Television Centre, Wood Lane, W12 7RJ  
Telephone:  
Email: [REDACTED]@bbc.co.uk

PA: Nicola Morrison  
Telephone:  
Email: [REDACTED]@bbc.co.uk

Proposals: Mark Evans  
Telephone:  
Email: [REDACTED]@bbc.co.uk

-----Original Message-----

From: Phil Dolling -PRIVATE  
Sent: 30 October 2011 09:34  
To: Jan Younghusband  
Subject: Re: Sir Jimmy Saville

Thanks Jan - he was such a fascinating character.

It prompts me to think we should go through who we have on the list both Royal and celeb.

Finally we are at the Palace Theatre. (Priscilla)

Come around 15.00. Phil

----- Original Message -----

From: Jan Younghusband

Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2011 09:19 AM

To: George Entwistle; zzDanny Cohen

Cc: zzEmma Swain-Private; Phil Dolling -PRIVATE

Subject: Sir Jimmy Saville

Dear George and Danny,

Just to say we don't have an Obit of Jimmy standing by as I gather the BBC decided not to prepare one in advance .

So please let me know if you would like us to commission one now ?

Thanks

Jan

10/024

**GEORGE ENTWISTLE:  
WRITTEN STATEMENT  
REGARDING PETER RIPPON  
BLOG**



Newsnight editor's blog – origination and subsequent corrections

I am writing to set out the background to, and my role in, the decision to correct the Peter Rippon blog of 2 October 2012, which was implemented on 22 October. The original blog and posted amendment can be found at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/>

I understand the blog was written by Peter Rippon in response to a request from the BBC press office and published late on Tuesday 2 October. I also understand the blog was seen by Stephen Mitchell, Peter Rippon's manager in BBC News, before publication. I relied on their knowledge of the investigation to ensure the accuracy of the blog, which I saw before it was posted. In my mind, its central purpose was to dispel the suggestion of management pressure.

In the blog, Peter Rippon made various statements which were later challenged as inaccurate or misleading. In particular, we now understand the blog incorrectly stated that: Newsnight had no evidence that anyone from the Duncroft home could or should have known about the allegations; Newsnight had no evidence against the BBC; all the women spoken to by Newsnight had contacted the police already; and Newsnight had no new evidence against any other person that would have helped the police.

The blog also stated that the story had been pursued "*because of the nature of the allegations and because a key witness told us the police had investigated the claims but the case had been dropped on the grounds he (Savile) was too old*" and that the potential for "*some sort of institutional failure*" would have strengthened the story from a public interest perspective.

On the evening of 5 October 2012, I sent an e-mail to all staff which included a statement that Newsnight had "*investigated Surrey Police's enquiry into Jimmy Savile*". According to an e-mail from Paul Mylrea to me (and others) dated 4 October, this passage was based on a suggested version from Helen Boaden, Director of News.

In e-mails sent to me via Internal Communications dated Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October (received by my office on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October) and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October respectively the Newsnight producer and reporter, Meirion Jones and Liz MacKean, challenged the accuracy of both the blog and the specific description of their investigation in my staff e-mail. They variously suggested that the focus of the

investigation had been on Savile's behaviour on and off BBC premises, that it was not about the Surrey Police investigation, and that Newsnight did have information not known to the Surrey Police. Their e-mails included some more general criticism too.

On the same day (8<sup>th</sup> October) I asked Ken MacQuarrie, Director of BBC Scotland, as someone truly independent from the development of the Newsnight story inside BBC News, to talk to the journalists to listen to what they had to say. At the same time, I also asked BBC Legal to establish what Newsnight material the police had been given and what was outstanding in view of the obvious importance of this issue. They began to request and assemble Newsnight documentation from around this time. I should also stress that this was my second attempt to ensure we understood whether Newsnight was holding any information that might be of value to the police. My first attempt was made on 2 October when I asked Helen Boaden to leave the Management Board meeting that day to seek reassurance that Newsnight were not sitting on anything that wasn't already known to the police. She received that assurance from Steve Mitchell who had spoken to Peter Rippon and reported it to me later that day.

Ken MacQuarrie met the two Newsnight journalists separately from lunchtime on 9 October. I received his note of the meetings on 10 October. In substance, he noted the journalists' criticisms of the blog and the all staff e-mail of 5 October and recorded their surprise at a *"rapid change in the editor's stance on running the story."*

On the same day, discussions began among BBC management about a possible inquiry into what exactly had happened on Newsnight concerning the Savile investigation, whether such an inquiry could be internal but outside News, or whether it would need to be entirely independent.

On 11 October, accounts of the journalists' meetings with Ken MacQuarrie featured in the press, accompanied by the question as to whether Ken MacQuarrie would be able to look at whether the programme had been dropped by reason of pressure relating to the Tribute programmes. This convinced me of the argument for an independent review into the Newsnight issues, which I announced on 12 October alongside a further review into the historic issues concerning Savile's behaviour and their lessons for the present.

Both Reviews required careful preliminary consideration of the scope of the terms of reference. In the press conference I confirmed that the Newsnight Review would look into the public statements

issued by Peter Rippon in the previous couple of weeks (most obviously the blog) and what material the Newsnight film had of potential use to the police. On the evening of 12 October, Meirion Jones sent me an email in which he stated I was not being accurately briefed, that he had a second on-camera interview (an apparent change from his earlier position that there was only one) and a copy of the script was attached. He did not mention the blog.

So at this stage the question of what to do with the blog was difficult. We were concerned not to be seen to be prejudging the Review's role in resolving the issues between the reporters and Peter Rippon; and I was concerned that withdrawal of the blog might be seen by commentators (wrongly) as a recognition that BBC management had applied improper pressure, that being the principal charge which the blog addressed.

I decided the only way I could be certain what was accurate and what was not in the blog was to have sight of the underlying documents – some of which we had already assembled. So, late on 12 October, with this concern in mind, and the importance of assisting the review, BBC Legal expanded their task of collating documents to include all relevant underlying Newsnight programme material (including e-mails, scripts, rushes, notes and interview material) not limited by reference to what the police had or had not yet been given.

The following week, I think it may have been Tuesday 16 October, I was approached in the corridor at NBH by Meirion Jones who asked to have an "off the record" conversation with me as he had information he urgently wanted to give me. I told him I couldn't have an "off-the-record" conversation with him and then I phoned BBC Legal to tell them what had happened and to ask them to get in touch with him. A member of the Legal team phoned Meirion Jones (this was on 16 October I understand) and explained to him that any relevant information provided by him could not be treated as privileged or confidential. Meirion did not in the event provide any information at this stage.

By the end of 18 October, BBC Legal had established – based on their study of the documents – that there were undoubted inaccuracies in the blog. On the following day they reported that conclusion to me. On Friday 19 October I decided that the blog was going to have to be publicly corrected. I asked David Jordan and Paul Mylrea to contact Peter Rippon to tell him of this conclusion and to do their best to find out from him where he now thought any inaccuracies might lie.

The decision that a public correction was now necessary raised complex issues about how such a correction should best be done, the proper treatment of Peter Rippon, detailed wording and questions of timing. Thought was given to whether it could be done in the course of my evidence before the Select Committee, but it was decided that the BBC should issue a corrective statement in advance. We worked on Saturday to pin down the precise areas for correction and how to word them. Then on Sunday morning, I informed the Trust of the decision we'd reached and I spoke to the Chairman later that day to discuss it.

A draft was finalised on Sunday 21 October and sent to Peter Rippon, who did not challenge it (he had presented his own corrected draft also on the Sunday). Further on Sunday, Meirion Jones submitted a document headed "Problems with perceived current BBC position" which ended with a section on the blog. The BBC correction was issued on the morning of Monday 22 October 2012.

In relation to this chronology I would make some general points. From the moment I started to develop anxieties about the accuracy of the blog I felt I had to be sure I understood what had really happened. Reaching that state did not seem possible on the basis of oral recollection alone hence my request to BBC Legal to study the underlying documents.

Once it seemed probable that the blog needed correction, I had to ensure that any correction was watertight (no significant criticism has been made of it so far as I am aware) and I had to handle the implications for all the BBC staff involved with proper attention given to my duty of fairness.

From 8 October onwards I was faced with inconsistent accounts, but I believe Newsnight's editor was the right person initially to set out the programme's position and that I was entitled to rely on it. Once the question of correction was under consideration I did not think it right to deal with the matter piecemeal, particularly as there were inconsistent accounts of events which required a forensic review of the underlying documents and evidence gathered by Newsnight. The timing of the correction was a result of the completion of that document review by BBC Legal. It was not dictated by my appearance before the Select Committee or by the Panorama programme.

**GEORGE ENTWISTLE:  
FOLLOW UP NOTE**

POLLARD REVIEW INTERVIEW  
FOLLOW-UP NOTE BY GEORGE ENTWISTLE

Abbreviated responses to key questions

1. **Did Nick Vaughan-Barratt or Jan Younghusband put GE on notice that Savile was a suspected sex abuser or otherwise disreputable?**

No:

- 1.1 NVB's and JY's emails to GE envisaged the possibility of a televised obituary of Savile. Such an obituary would have been unthinkable if they had suspected Savile of serious misconduct. If either NVB or JY had had real suspicions of misconduct, they would naturally have mentioned that to GE as it would be a material factor in any decision by him about whether to agree to an obituary.
- 1.2 None of the emails from NVB or JY referred to abuse or misconduct. They were not "red flag" emails. They did not even suggest an obituary would be intrinsically inappropriate. They did not ask GE for a follow-up conversation to discuss matters raised.
- 1.3 GE does not now remember the email exchanges. He only became aware of the emails when they were recovered in recent searches of his emails accounts and produced to this Review.
- 1.4 In October 2011 NVB was one of the most senior managers in the BBC's in-house entertainment department which was considering the idea of the "Jim'll Fix it" Christmas special. If he had knowledge that meant it would be inappropriate to commission special programmes, he does not appear to have raised this with anyone.

2. **Did Helen Boaden's conversation with GE on 2 December 2011 put him on notice of suspicions about Savile such as to prompt consideration of the scheduled Christmas programming about Savile?**

No:

- 2.1 The key message that GE took from the conversation was its conditionality; as far as he can recall HB made it clear that the Savile investigation had not yet been stood up.

- 2.2 What GE took away from the conversation was that if something were to come of the investigation, HB would come back to him.
- 2.3 The closest contemporaneous reference to the conversation is the email which Steve Mitchell sent to Peter Rippon the following day. That says HB told GE she did not think anything would come of the investigation.
- 2.4 Neither GE, HB nor SM can now shed any further light on what was said. GE does not recall asking HB what the investigation was about. She cannot remember whether she told him what it was about. HB confirmed in her October 2012 email to Jonathan Dimpleby that she *"didn't tell George more detail so there could be no hint he had interfered with the investigation"*.
- 2.5 Her email also confirmed the conditionality of the conversation with GE: *"Had the investigation gone ahead, I would have alerted him to it so he could make a decision about the Christmas schedule based on what we had."*
- 2.6 HB says the conversation took place at the end of the lunch. GE recalls that the conversation took place at the beginning, before they sat down for lunch. GE does not believe HB's recollection is correct as he distinctly remembers that he left the lunch early as he felt unwell.
- 2.7 If the Savile investigation had not been removed from the MRPL the Review would not be having to excavate the details of a fleeting conversation between HB and GE at a busy lunch. If HB had wished to wave a red flag at GE such as to prompt action by him, a fleeting conversation at lunch was not the place to do it.
3. **Why was Peter Rippon's blog published even though it was inaccurate?**
- 3.1 GE believed in October 2012, and continues to firmly believe, that the BBC must be entitled to rely on news editors having a full and accurate understanding of the journalism carried out on their programmes and the ability to account for that journalism accurately in public (ie to blog) without the need first to independently verify the accuracy of what editors say.
- 3.2 If the BBC cannot rely on senior news figures to be able to explain accurately the journalism for which they are responsible then neither should the BBC structure allow them to take full responsibility for supervising journalism to broadcast (as it does).

4. Did GE take adequate and timely steps to ensure the blog was corrected when possible errors came to his attention?

Yes:

- 4.1 The first intimation to GE that Peter Rippon's blog might contain inaccuracies was when he got Liz Mackean's email on 8 October 2012.
- 4.2 GE recognised there was a dispute between Peter Rippon and his Newsnight team about what the investigation was about.
- 4.3 GE recognised that the dispute might end in disciplinary proceedings for some of those involved; as the Director-General and the ultimate arbiter of any disciplinary proceedings he was not the appropriate person to assess the dispute at that stage.
- 4.4 GE therefore asked Ken MacQuarrie to interview Liz MacKean and Meirion Jones to give them an opportunity to explain their concerns.
- 4.5 Those interviews took place on 10 October 2012.
- 4.6 By 11 October 2012 GE had concluded it was impossible to get a reliable, agreed account of what had happened on the Newsnight investigation from interviews with Peter Rippon, Meirion Jones and Liz McKean because they clearly did not agree with each other.
- 4.7 GE therefore asked BBC Legal to collect all relevant programme material for Newsnight and to examine the accuracy or otherwise of the blog based on the underlying documents.
- 4.8 By 19 October BBC Legal communicated its view that there were inaccuracies in the blog. GE took the view that the blog would have to be publicly corrected.
- 4.9 GE and others worked on the correction of the blog over the weekend of 20/21 October. The clarification was posted in the morning on 22 October 2012.

7.12.2012



**MEIRION JONES (1):  
WRITTEN STATEMENT**

## THE POLLARD REVIEW MEIRION JONES – SUBMISSION

### 1. BIOGRAPHY

1.1 I am the Investigations Producer at Newsnight, currently on attachment at Panorama. I am a very experienced journalist who has produced material for print, radio, TV and online. I have worked for the BBC for 24 years. In 2010 I won the Daniel Pearl Award for Outstanding International Investigative Journalism, for my investigation with Liz Mackean into toxic waste dumping in Africa by Trafigura. I have made a full contribution to a string of BAFTAs and RTS awards won by Newsnight in the time I have been there. I produced "Bush Family Fortunes" which won the Sundance Film Festival George Orwell Award for Courage in Journalism. I also supplied BBC News with Wikileaks material in advance of publication, and brought a related film to Newsnight called "Incident in New Baghdad" which was Oscar nominated for Best Short Documentary at the 2012 Academy Awards.

1.2 My investigation of price fixing by Reckitts led to a fine of £10 million for the company and a £100 million damages action by the NHS which is still in the courts. My exposé of British companies selling fake bomb detectors led to an immediate government ban on exports to Iraq and Afghanistan to protect allied troops, confiscation of millions of pounds in assets, and trials which will kick off at the Old Bailey next year.

1.3 My investigations of third world debt speculators, called "Vulture Funds", led to the British Government making them illegal in 2010. I have recently investigated scandals at A&E and G4S, problems with metal-on-metal artificial hips, and a plot to pay \$10 million to guarantee Azerbaijan two gold medals at the London Olympics.

### 2. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BBC

2.1 I am very proud to work for the BBC which I still regard as the greatest broadcasting organisation on the planet, and a vital part of British culture. I have been consistently trusted to pursue the most editorially difficult investigations by a series of Newsnight editors. I would not have lasted so long in the job if I had not earned their confidence over many difficult projects. An email from a colleague shows that as recently as August 2012 Peter Rippon described me as a "jewel in the BBC's crown".

2.2 The BBC has also selected a key team of experienced and senior journalists to educate the rest of the BBC about the importance of the core value of trust. I am one of the journalists who management have asked to roll out that programme of Safeguarding Trust to the rest of our teams.

2.3 I have worked for five Newsnight Editors. Sometimes there have been professional disagreements about whether we should or should not proceed with a story but most of these have been pretty close 50:50 calls. I have always respected the Editor's decision on whether or not to run a story. This is not least because I recognised that each decision was based on genuine journalistic concerns. What distinguished the decision to pull the Savile film was that, to my mind, it could not even arguably be based on any rational journalistic or editorial grounds.

2.4 I have worked for the BBC for 24 years so I find it very tough to find myself at an inquiry which may find fault with the organisation. I also have no personal dislike of Peter Rippon or any of his bosses, so it is extremely difficult for me to give evidence which may be in opposition to theirs. However, the issues surrounding the Savile film are in my view so important that I feel

very strongly that it is my moral duty to be completely explicit with the inquiry about the events surrounding the film and the decision to pull it.

### 3. KEY CHARACTERS

#### 3.1 BBC Staff

George Entwistle - Director General  
Mark Thompson - Director General 2004-2012  
David Jordan - Director Editorial Policy and Standards  
Helen Boaden - Director BBC News  
Steve Mitchell - Deputy Director BBC News  
Peter Rippon - Newsnight Editor  
Meirion Jones - Newsnight Investigations Producer  
Liz Mackean - Newsnight Reporter  
Hannah Livingston - BBC News trainee

#### 3.2 External to the BBC

Mark Williams Thomas - Child protection expert formerly of Surrey Police

### 4. BACKGROUND

#### 4.1 1970s

4.2 My aunt, Margaret (Maggie) Jones, was Head of Duncroft Approved School from about 1960 till it closed in 1980. Technically it became a Community Home in the early 1970s but nothing changed in terms of the way the institution was run. All the girls at the school were under 16.

4.3 I was born in 1957 and I visited Duncroft several times a year between 1960 and 1970, and much more frequently between about 1970 and 1976 when my grandmother went to live with my aunt. She stayed in my aunt's house in Duncroft's grounds, and we visited her frequently.

4.4 During that 1970-76 period, I saw Jimmy Savile at Duncroft at least half a dozen times. On one occasion, I saw him take out a group of young teenage girls on his own in a Rolls Royce convertible. At other times, I noticed that his Rolls convertible was parked at Duncroft. I didn't see Savile take a girl out on her own. However, my mother, who visited more frequently, did. She raised it with my aunt at the time. My parents, who were both from teaching backgrounds, complained to my aunt that it was not appropriate to let a 50 year-old man take out underage girls from an approved school/care home out on his own.

4.5 In the 1950s, Duncroft was an elite institution where only the most intelligent young criminal girls were sent. If you were influential and your daughter had been caught doing something criminal, you would try and work the system so that she could go to Duncroft. As a result, the pupils at Duncroft included individuals who were connected to fairly influential and high profile families. There were always celebrities and other high profile individuals hanging around the place in the '60s and '70s, including film and TV stars and politicians. So in that

context Jimmy Savile's presence at Duncroft did not seem that strange. However, his behaviour did.

4.6 Obviously I thought it was odd even as a teenager and I was suspicious, although of course at that time we were taught as children that the threat from paedophiles was "stranger danger" not relatives or "friendly" characters grooming victims.

4.7 The reason why I have included all this detail in my statement is because I consider that my personal experience meant that I had a personal interest in trying to make sure that, if there was a story here, it was a story which was told. Also I believe that it was precisely because of my personal experience that I was uniquely well placed to get close to victims of Savile once I became aware that abuse had gone on there.

#### 4.8 Mid 1990s

4.9 After a period of freelancing as a journalist, I moved to the BBC in 1988 working for Today, World at One and PM. I moved into Newsnight in the mid-1990s. I remember hearing rumours during this period about Savile's conduct towards underage girls. However, when I chased those rumours up, there seemed to be no hard facts to support them. No one could name a victim or a witness. I now realise that in [REDACTED] there was far more concrete knowledge of what was going on but I did not have any contacts in those parts of the BBC.

#### 4.10 2000 – 2010

4.11 Duncroft is an unusual name so I would periodically Google it in case anything popped up. I would also search Friends Reunited and early social networking sites for information. I recall that Savile's name was mentioned when I was investigating paedophiles in the Catholic Church in the early 2000s but again with no specific details. Gradually pictures of Savile at Duncroft and hints that something had gone on started to appear on Friends Reunited.

#### 4.12 2011

4.13 Early in 2011, I found [R1]'s account of her life on FanStory which is a sort of online laboratory where would-be authors can get feedback and improve their writing. She gave an account of Duncroft which was extremely well observed and fitted with the images I had remembered. She recounted conversations with staff members who I had not seen for nearly 40 years but her account brought back their voices and catchphrases in my head. It was a very convincing and well-written account and included her being taken out in the car by a celebrity called JS and what happened in that car. I realised it was Savile but also that [R1]'s testimony alone would probably not get us over the libel barrier. At the same time, other girls were hinting at similar experiences on Friends Reunited and even at some sort of police investigation.

4.14 In July, I went to Interpol in Lyons with Mark Williams Thomas (MWT) to do a report for Newsnight on how they track paedophiles. I've known Mark for a long time and I told him what I knew about Savile and showed him [R1]'s story and the Friends Reunited pages. He was an ex-Surrey Police detective who specialised in child protection and major crime and he started the case against DJ Jonathan King. I asked whether he knew of any investigation into Savile's conduct. He confirmed that he did not, but that he was keen to dig around. I also mentioned the story to Liz Mackean around that time, although again we were not sure it would be possible to do anything while Savile was alive because of concerns over a possible libel action.

## 5. START OF INVESTIGATION

### 5.1 Saturday 29 October

5.2 Savile died on 29 October, which was the cue for me to begin my investigation in earnest. Initially, I thought the story should be told through the format of a documentary but then I thought someone else might get the story first and so I decided to try and develop the story for Newsnight.

### 5.3 Monday 31 October

5.4 I talked to Liz Mackean, and showed her all the pictures on Friends Reunited of the girls with Savile, and their comments. I went to Peter Rippon and he sensibly wanted to see the account of abuse which [R1] had published online. I sent that to him and Liz Mackean. This was the first email I sent to Peter about the investigation. [R1]'s account alluded to her being pressured to give "JS" blow jobs in return for trips with the other girls to watch BBC shows and also about abuse on BBC premises including Savile's dressing room, including a celebrity called "G" having sex with one of the other girls. It was obvious to me that "JS" was Savile and I thought that "G" was probably Gary Glitter. There was also an "F" but I had no idea who that was. From the start the story was about whether Savile was a paedophile and included allegations of abuse at the BBC. There was no mention of the police or CPS in [R1]'s account of Jimmy Savile's abuse because [R1] had never complained to the police.

5.5 A BBC trainee called Hannah Livingston had arranged to spend a fortnight with me at Newsnight and she started trying to track former Duncroft girls down.

5.6 I was very busy with another Newsnight film about Vulture Funds, but I made time to talk to [R1]. It was obviously helpful that I knew Duncroft and could reminisce about members of staff and the weird set-up with her. She also knew that I believed her about Savile being there, because I had been there myself and seen him taking out girls in his car. She agreed in principle to do an on-camera interview. This was a really important development in terms of making the piece a viable news story.

5.7 Hannah and Liz Mackean were responsible for tracking down and calling Savile's suspected victims. Over the next few weeks, they found contacts for about 60 ex-Duncroft girls. Many did not respond or had nothing to report, but around ten gave useful information. Five reported that they had been abused by Savile at Duncroft and we had another reliable report of abuse at Stoke Mandeville hospital. In addition [R1] referred to another unnamed girl from Duncroft who had sex with Gary Glitter and another named girl, who we were unable to get a contact for, who [R1] said had been involved in sexual acts with Savile. Another four women who we contacted gave corroborative accounts of Savile's activities. Several of the girls said they had been contacted by police carrying out an investigation of Savile and that afterwards they had been told that Savile was too old and frail for any prosecution to take place.

### 5.8 Thursday 3rd Nov

5.9 Some of the girls told us they had talked to police around 2007 or 2008 about Savile. We also became aware that [REDACTED], had called some of the women about Savile but he seemed to have called only those women who had told us they had contacted the police. So, for example, he had not called [R1]. This led us to wonder whether [REDACTED] It also made us realise that this was a news-story that other news organisations were pursuing. I am aware that the

5.10 Friday 4th Nov

5.11 MWT emailed to say he wanted to be involved in the Savile investigation – would like to be the reporter ideally – I told him we already had a reporter – Liz Mackean - but we wanted him to be a paid consultant on it which he was happy with. We wanted him to look at all the evidence and come to a conclusion about whether the witnesses were credible and whether Savile's behaviour fitted the pattern of other celebrity paedophiles. We thought that if Surrey Police had actually mounted a formal investigation into allegations of abuse of young girls by Savile that, by itself, was a major public interest news story as well as giving corroboration to the women's stories. We were aware that MWT had contacts with former colleagues in that force and this seemed to be a good route in.

5.12 Sunday 6th Nov to Thurs 10th Nov

5.13 I was in New York to edit my film on Vulture Funds. While there, Liz Mackean emailed me on 9 Nov about a meeting she had had with Peter Rippon and Liz Gibbons ...

*"Had meeting with liz and peter - she thinks we shouldn't do JS story on grounds of taste. I persuaded her otherwise, esp given police line. PR agrees that it's worth it, but of course they're concerned about women's credibility. Will you have time for quick chat today? I have some time and can pursue".*

5.14 Friday 11th Nov to Sunday 13th Nov

Re-editing Vulture film at Guardian (joint production)

5.15 Sunday 13th Nov

I emailed Peter and Liz Gibbons at 18.53 about vultures, Savile and an Olympics story. I confirmed that we would be filming a Savile victim on Monday 14th.

*"I'm filming one of the Savile victims in [redacted] tomorrow I will be in office on Tuesday"*

The victim we were planning to interview was [R1].

6. INTERVIEW WITH [R1]

6.1 Monday 14TH Nov

6.2 At 09.34 am Peter emailed me to ask...

*How are we getting on with corroboration re Savile? MWT come up with anything?*

6.3 We were at this stage trying to get corroboration that there had been a police investigation of Savile. Some victims talked about getting letters from the police. One victim in particular thought she might still have the letter from the authorities. I replied...

*"We still need to get name of officer on original letter from police for MWT to track him/her down. We know of perhaps dozen girls (not just Duncroft) interviewed by police two years ago then about a year ago they all got letter saying CPS decided not to proceed against "the gentleman" because he was too old and infirm."*

6.4 At this point I had not had a chance to catch up with Liz Mackean and Hanna Livingston on the detail of their conversations with the other women. I had been working round the clock editing the Vulture Funds film in New York and then at Guardian Films for the last week.

6.5 Later that day we interviewed [R1] on camera in her home near [REDACTED]. She wanted to be known as [R1] in the Newsnight film because that was what she was known as at Duncroft. [R1] said everything on camera that she had in her online autobiography – underage abuse of her by Savile, and of another Duncroft girl by [REDACTED] on BBC premises, the [REDACTED] incident and the rest. She had not reported the abuse to the police at any time. In fact the Surrey Police had not been aware of her during the 2007-9 investigation because it happened before she published her Fan Story autobiography on the web in 2010-11.

6.6 Unusually there were four of us there for the interview – myself, Liz Mackean, Hannah Livingston and the cameraman, Simon Monk. We all agreed afterwards that [R1]'s account of abuse by Savile was essentially credible despite all the difficulties she had gone through. Before we left [R1] told us that she thought her interview would never be broadcast. She thought the BBC would cover all this up. I reassured her that wouldn't happen. I gave this reassurance in the honest belief that the BBC would not cover up a story which revealed the sort of systematic criminal abuse, including at the BBC, which our investigation was starting to uncover. I am troubled by the thought that, when the film didn't go out, [R1] must have felt that she had been let down by the BBC again.

6.7 The cameraman, Simon Monk, said he'd been told Savile took 10% on all his charity earnings but we were never able to get to the bottom of this – although another BBC source independently made the same claim. As we drove away, we heard there was going to be a BBC Jim'll Fix It special at Christmas on BBC1 starring Shane Richie as a tribute. We all said that if it was confirmed that there had been a police investigation into his paedophile activities the BBC would have to pull the tributes.

#### 6.8 Weds 16 Nov

The Vulture Funds film was broadcast which meant I could concentrate on Savile.

#### 6.9 Thurs 17 Nov

The women had claimed they'd been invited to the BBC by Savile to watch a show called Clunk Click. Over the next week we obtained archive footage from the Clunk Click programmes (early version of Jim'll Fix It" from 1974-5). The footage corroborated their claim that they had been taken from Duncroft to the BBC by Jimmy Savile to watch the show and [REDACTED]. Since we already had stills of the girls at that time we were able to recognise them sitting on beanbags in the audience [REDACTED]. We were still trying to get corroboration that there had been a police investigation.

### 7. THE TRANSMISSION PLAN

#### 7.1 Fri 25th Nov

7.2 I emailed Peter...

*"Off the record Surrey Police have now confirmed that they did investigate Jimmy Savile about sexual abuse of minors and that they interviewed the girls from Duncroft as part of that inquiry."*

7.3 This meant that, on any reasonable view, we now had enough to prepare a film and set a transmission date. We had one woman on camera making very serious and ostensibly credible allegations about abuse by Savile and by ██████████ including on BBC premises. We had four others alleging they were abused as well as reliable reports of another incident at Stoka Mandeville. We knew of two other Duncroft girls who had been abused at the time and we had supporting statements from other women. We also knew that the police had taken their complaints sufficiently seriously that an investigation had mounted. It was clear that we had uncovered a strong factual basis for one of the longest-lasting rumours in show business. We were ready to broadcast a film alleging that Jimmy Savile was a predatory paedophile. Peter Rippon responded exactly as you would expect a journalist to do...

*"Excellent. We can then pull together the tx plan."*

7.4 TX is the jargon for transmission. This meant we could now set a date for broadcast. I emailed Peter back

*"We're hoping to interview second victim on Monday afternoon but we won't know for sure till midday. I think TX early week of 5 Dec easily possible. Let's talk Monday".*

7.5 What is critical in my view about this exchange is that Peter Rippon is giving the green-light for the film to be aired and he is doing so in circumstances where the key focus of the film was Savile's abuse.

7.6 To be clear, what we had at this point was not some shabby celebrity exposé with limited public interest value but a serious journalistic endeavour relating to apparently widespread and systematic abuse by a paedophile who appears to have used his BBC celebrity as both a tool to further his criminal activities and a cloak to prevent their discovery. In my view and, I believe, also in Peter's view at this time, the public interest in this story could not have been more profound. The fact that the story has, since being aired by another broadcaster, attracted such widespread comment and debate is in my view evidence of this point. There was no suggestion at this stage that the film would only be viable if, for example, it could expose institutional failings by the police or CPS. Savile's abuse in itself was the story.

7.7 Savile went up on the board in Peter Rippon's office. It was scheduled for broadcast on the 7th December. I called Sarah Bailey at Surrey Police press office back and asked them to make an official statement confirming that they investigated Savile.

7.8 We learnt at this stage that other organizations had been suspicious of Savile. We were told that in the late 1960s and 1970s there had been concerns amongst executives of the Mecca group which ran dance halls and the Miss World contest. Employees had been informally warned not to leave their underage daughters in the same room as Savile.

7.9 Monday 28th Nov

7.10 Liz Mackean sent me a first rough script. She sent an email to Liz Gibbons, reminding her of the schedule. The plan at that point was to film an interview with another former Duncroft girl, [R3], on Wednesday. She was not a victim but had seen how Savile had behaved. We would do the final filming, a Piece to Camera at Duncroft and an interview with Mark Williams Thomas, on Monday 5th December.

*TX day is Weds 7th.*

*We will do a day's filming this Weds 30th Nov, finishing off Monday 5th.*



7.11 Liz Gibbons replied...

*"Okay - have put 2 days editing in the boxes for saville - 6th and 7th. Let me know if you need more."*

In the event we started the edit on the 5th of December.

7.12 Tuesday 29th Nov

I sent an updated script to Peter Rippon, Liz Gibbons, the lawyer Roger Law, and Liz Mackean and Hannah Livingston. I also sent a copy of the script to Mark Williams Thomas.

## 8. VERSION 2 OF NEWSNIGHT SAVILE SCRIPT

8.1 ROUGH SAVILE

STILL TO COME ONE MORE GIRL ON CAMERA ON WEDNESDAY HOPEFULLY - WILL TRY EX-STAFF NEXT WEEK AND POSSIBLE TONY BLACKBURN OR SOMEONE SIMILAR TO SAY WE ALWAYS KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG

8.2 NOT LEGAL NOWHERE NEAR FINAL

8.3 TRIBUTES TOP COMPILATION OF TYPICAL JIMMY IMAGES INTO FUNERAL:

Radio 1 DJ, Jim'll Fix It, Charity walks, Jimmy's hospital, Stoke Mandeville, Prince Charles etc queued up to pay tribute etc

8.4 PTC AT DUNCROFT APPROVED SCHOOL:

Chatty charm masked another side...one which Newsnight has learnt was the subject of a formal police investigation. It centred around a series of allegations of sexual abuse from girls at THIS former approved school against Sir Jimmy Savile.

8.5 MARK WILLIAMS THOMAS

When Mark Williams Thomas was investigating paedophiles for Surrey Police he began the investigation into BBC Radio 1 DJ Jonathan King which led to his imprisonment for sexual assaults on young boys. Eventually Surrey moved on to other DJs

8.6 MARK WILLIAMS THOMAS (APPROX WHAT I EXPECT HIM TO SAY NOT ACTUALLY RECORDED YET) - :

In the last five years Surrey Police have been investigating allegations of sexual assault on minors by Jimmy Savile in the 1970s. They passed the file to the Crown Prosecution Service - but in 2009 the CPS decided that Savile was too old and infirm to face a trial and dropped the case - I have to say I don't think that is acceptable - and why was it all hushed up?

8.7 DUNCROFT MANSION PIX:

This mansion which is said to have links as far back as King John was once the home of an approved school for girls with criminal tendencies.

8.8 DUNCROFT PTC

14 and 15 year olds were locked up inside here and there were padded cells where they were imprisoned if they absconded. But at the same time in the 1960s and 1970s there were garden parties here where millionaires, minor royals, celebrities and film stars rolled up to do their bit for charity by supporting the school.

#### 8.9 CUT TO ROLLS ROYCE POV

This was when Jimmy Savile swept up the drive in his Rolls Royce convertible...

8.10 [R1]: 30.11 "We were all 14 – 15 years old... we were all vulnerable we all had the same which was next to nothing and he had this wonderful millionaire lifestyle he had this wonderful sports car..."

8.11 [R1] IN VISION... he was very much in the driving seat he was always the one with the bounty he could hand it out or withhold it as he saw fit so you had to be nice to him if you weren't nice to him and didn't do what he wanted the freedom or the rewards would be withdrawn and it wouldn't be just JS who didn't like you any more everyone else wouldn't like you any more because you'd spoiled everything"

#### 8.12 TRACK OVERLAY OFF ROLLS ROYCE GOING DOWN LANE SHOTS

The girls were rewarded by staff with cigarettes for good behaviour - as in prisons they were the currency - and Savile would turn up with boxes of duty-free fags and the latest pop records which made him very popular. Sometimes, he would offer an outing to [R1] or another lucky girl – a trip in his famous rolls Royce, down one of these quiet lanes near the school

#### 8.13 [R1]: 38.17

LIZ: WHAT HAPPENED WHEN JS TOOK YOU OUT IN HIS CAR?

[R1]: It was actually quite horrible because he would pull into a layby and that's when he'd want to grope about under your blouse or up your skirt but more often he would have me fondle him and ask me for oral sex

LIZ: HOW DID HE ASK YOU?

[R1]: Very matter of factly very – 'if you do this for me it won't take long and then you can come to London and be on my television show. You and your mates how about that' -which made me think a bit I didn't want to and I made objections I said things like no no no it'll make me sick - 'no no no it won't' - but it nearly did make me sick very nearly

#### 8.14 CUT TO SHOT OF ROLLS ROYCE DOOR OPENING

I remember him flinging the car door open and saying don't be sick in the car don't vomit in the car.

8.15 PTC DUNCROFT We've spoken to ten girls from Duncroft...all of whom were aged 14 and 15, all telling a broadly similar story about Jimmy Savile's visits. Most of them talked to Surrey Police during their recent investigation but some want to stay anonymous so we've changed their names.

8.16 FRIENDS REUNITED PIX OF GIRLS WITH SAVILE AND HIS ROLLER AT DUNCROFT WITH FACES BLOBBED OUT (EXCEPT [R1])

They say they didn't speak up at the time of the abuse for two main reasons...first didn't think they'd be believed...second: unwritten code you don't spoil treats like free cigarettes and records and trips to TV land for the others.

One girl "[R7]" who was 14 at the time told us:

"At the time you didn't think what you were doing was wrong because you were told to by a figure of authority. He liked blow jobs. The girls referred to it as a Jimmy Special."

[R8] told us about another trip in the car with Savile. She was 15 he was nearly 50

"He put my hand down his trousers and asked if I was a virgin. I said yes. He put his hand down my knickers and said 'I'll be able to tell.' I've never forgotten it...it's like it happened yesterday."

Another, [R9], who was also 14 told us:

"he pressed me against the wall and smothered me trying to kiss me and pushed himself against me so hard I couldn't breathe"

#### 8.17 SAVILE KNIGHTED:

Savile was knighted for his services to charity – particularly his work at Stoke Mandeville hospital. We were informed that another girl [R12] - who was not from Duncroft - told police she was abused by

#### 8.18 JIMMY SAVILE AT STOKE MANDEVILLE

Jimmy Savile in his room at Stoke Mandeville when she was 13. Another who he abused when she was 14 and 15 told us that he offered to fix her a job as a nurse at the hospital when she was 16 in return for sexual favours.

#### 8.19 [R1] IN VISION:

"I think that the fundraising was a very effective smokescreen."

#### 8.20 [R8]:

"he loved vulnerable ones cos he knew he could manipulate us"

#### 8.21 [R7]:

Jimmy always covered himself. You knew it would be your word against his and you would never be believed. We were vulnerable and in need of love and attention."

#### 8.22 PTC AT TVC

There were always rumours behind the scenes about Savile and we've learnt that some of the big names in entertainment warned their friends against leaving young daughters alone with him. Even in public Savile found it difficult to restrain himself

#### 8.23 NOLAN DOC TOP OF THE POPS

as a 14-year old Colleen Nolan found when she appeared on Top of the Pops with her sisters

8.24 COLEEN

"I was stood next to Jimmy Savile and I was 14 and he was all over me – it was a bit like – I don't think I like it –

(CREEPY SHOTS OF SAVILE IN A CLINCH GRABBING UNDER HER RIGHT BREAST WHILE SHE SQUIRMS BUT KEEPS A FIXED SMILE)

Cos I could see my sisters glaring at him you touch her and we'll kill you and they would've"

8.25 CLUNK CLICK SHOW ARCHIVE

Savile became the king of Saturday night television with his shows Clunk Click and then Jim'll Fix it. The Duncroft girls including [R1] (Circle if we can) were invited to sit on the bean bags during the show and then to join Savile and his guests and friends afterwards in his dressing room where the girls say they were sometimes molested.

On one occasion [REDACTED]

8.26 [R1] (41.28)

[REDACTED]

R 27 [R11]:

[REDACTED]

8.28 MARK WILLIAMS THOMAS SET UP (TO BE FILMED)

We showed Mark Williams Thomas some of the footage from Savile's shows...

(VIEWERS WON'T SEE WHO IT IS)

LIZ: [REDACTED]

MARK [REDACTED]

LIZ Was there a different culture then?

MARK Yes anything went [REDACTED] – 20 million watched Top of the Pops – when I first raised Jonathan King abuse it took years to get anywhere – then eventually he served four years for abusing 14 and 15 year old boys but he never believed what he did was wrong – then there was Radio 2 DJ Chris Denning who was sentenced to five years on similar charges and of course people like

8.29 [REDACTED] ON SCREEN

[REDACTED]

LIZ:

You've seen the accounts given to us by the girls does it fit the pattern are they credible?

MARK:

Yes this behaviour by Savile very characteristic etail very convincing etc

[REDACTED]

8.31 [R1]: 34.49

[REDACTED]

WAS JIMMY SAVILE THERE?

Yes

HE'D HAVE KNOWN WHAT WAS GOING ON

Yes – he laughed about it he thought it was funny

HOW OLD WAS THE GIRL

Same age as me maybe 15

PTC DUNCROFT OR TVC NOT SURE YET WITH ANY STATEMENT FROM POLICE OR CPS .

8.32 Tuesday 29TH Nov

8.33 Obviously we were going to need to coordinate coverage with other BBC outlets – I showed Jo Mathys from the Impact team the script and she emailed Peter and copied me in that there would be a "huge amount of interest" and that "all domestic outlets" would want to run it

*"I've just had a very helpful chat with Meirion about Jimmy Saville. I won't mention anything to programmes until you and he are ready for me to do so. However, I think it is safe to assume there will be a huge amount of interest in the story, I would expect all domestic outlets to want versions."*

8.34 Jo sent me a second email saying that she and her colleague would need to work hard the following week preparing versions of the story for other TV and radio programmes

*This is my prediction of what we'll need from Liz...*

8.35 RADIO

*1700 summs (cue + 35 secs voicer)*

*Package for PM / GNS (GNS can run same one as PM)*

*1800 piece*

*Illustrated 2 way for R5L*

*Audio and NN legalised script to send to R1 Newsbeat and Asian Network so they can make their own packages (we vet the scripts before they put it together).*

**8.36 TV**

*6 / 10 TV piece (assuming Peter happy for it to go on the TV10)*

*Channel may want to run the package at 1700, or they may want a live 2 way with Liz.*

**8.37 ONLINE**

*Article - Verity will look after*

**8.38 LIVE GUESTS**

*I'm sure R5L, News Channel and others would be very keen to pick up any live guest suggestions.*

8.39 Our production coordinator sent me the latest copy of the budget which was titled "Jimmy" and listed the December 7th transmission date. It was for £3,857 and included £500 for Mark Williams Thomas as a "one-off fee to go through the evidence" and £500 to hire a 1970s Rolls Royce convertible for filming. In the event our coordinator made a better deal on the Rolls and the edit was pulled so around £2,000 was actually spent.

8.40 On the same day the BBC officially launched the Christmas schedules. In addition to the Jim'll Fix it special on Boxing Day there was to be a one-hour tribute on Radio 2 on Christmas Day and a BBC2 "How's About That Then" tribute to the star on December 28th.

## **9. KILLING THE FILM**

**9.1 Wednesday 30th Nov**

9.2 Peter sent me an email at 09.37 saying...

*Having pondered this overnight I think the key is whether we can establish the CPS did drop the case for the reasons the women say. That makes it a much better story. Our sources so far are just the women and a second hand briefing. Have we exhausted all chances of getting the letter?*

9.3 I was completely taken by surprise by this email which seemed to come out of the blue. Notably, at this point in time, Peter had not reviewed any of the rushes or other evidence which we had gathered. I found it bizarre that Peter should be trying to shift the editorial focus of the film in this way and at this late stage of development in circumstances where he had not even reviewed the material we had put together. This was unprecedented in my experience.

9.4 We argued. I couldn't see how anyone could think that the first evidence that Jimmy Savile had been investigated by the police for paedophile offences, and the first on-camera interview with one of his victims was anything other than a very strong story. I said that if we pulled the story we would be accused of a cover-up to save the Christmas specials and protect the BBC's

reputation. This would damage the BBC's core value of trust. Peter Rippon seemed to be implying that his bosses were pressing him to drop the story, and he wasn't prepared to confront them. He said: "I'm not prepared to go to the wall on this one". What I took from this comment was that Peter was under considerable pressure to pull the film from his superiors.

9.5 I simply do not understand how Peter can seek to reconcile the position he adopts in this email with the fact that he had, on 25 November, greenlit a film revealing for the first time that a revered BBC star, Sir Jimmy Savile, was a systematic child abuser.

9.6 I would add that, if, the CPS had confirmed that they had dropped the case because Savile was too old and infirm, that may have raised difficult questions for the CPS but it would not have materially increased the impact of the film. Whatever the reasons for the authorities dropping the case we now had additional, stronger, evidence which had not been available to them. In any event, as Liz and I had repeatedly made clear to Peter, the key figure in the film, [R1], had not told her story to the police with the result that her evidence had yet to be considered by the CPS.

9.7 At this stage in the process, Liz, myself, Hanna and Mark were all now convinced that Savile was a predatory paedophile who had probably carried out attacks at many of the institutions he was involved with. By now we were aware of concerns [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and Top of the Pops (the Coleen Nolan reference). Our original script already included allegations about Duncroft, the BBC and Stoke Mandeville but now Liz sent me a new version of the script - the fifth version - which included a reference to Haut de Garenne and the picture of him there

9.8 It was clear from our investigations that he was targeting care homes and hospitals. We knew he was associated with many other such institutions and suspected there were likely to be multiple victims at each location. Our firm expectation was that once we had broadcast the film, which included the first on-camera interview with a victim, many other victims from many other institutions would come forward. Liz also added a line to the script which had not been written in detail yet to this effect...

**10. "LINE ABOUT GIRLS NOT BELIEVING IT JUST HAPPENED AT DUNCROFT. OTHERS WILL NOW COME TELL WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM."**

We were supposed to interview the second Duncroft girl, [R3], that afternoon but she postponed till the next day.

**11. "STOP WORKING ON OTHER ELEMENTS"**

**11.1 Thursday 1st Dec**

Peter sent me an email at 15.14 asking about the CPS and ordering a halt to all other work on the story. I was shocked. It said ...

*I assume still no word?*

*I think we should stop working on other elements until we know for sure what we are likely to get from them because we don't really have a strong enough story without it.*

*I'll pull editing etc for now*

11.2 I responded at 15.48

*I don't think that's a good idea let's chat*

11.3 Once again this email was sent in circumstances where Peter had not even asked to review the material which we had.

11.4 We had a conversation where I strongly argued that the story we had was incredibly strong already and that he was putting up an artificial bar to prevent it getting on air. Even if the CPS had dropped the case, as the women believed, because Savile was old and frail, they would be unlikely to say so now and expose themselves to unnecessary criticism. In any case we already had a story which would make the front page of any British newspaper.

11.5 I argued that the police had taken the women's allegations seriously enough to pass a file to the CPS. Of course, this was a point which we were not aware of when Peter greenlit the film so now the case for transmitting the film was actually stronger than it had been when Peter had sent his 25 October email. In any case the allegations we were considering were even stronger than those which the police had investigated in 2007-9. They didn't have [R1] at all, and her allegations of Gary Glitter raping an underage girl in Jimmy Savile's BBC dressing room, as well as further allegations of abuse by Savile himself.

11.6 I pointed out that [R1] had been afraid that the BBC would cover up the story and we had reassured her otherwise. It didn't matter whether or not this was in fact a BBC cover up, what mattered was that it would inevitably look like a cover up to outside observers. No journalist outside the BBC would accept that there had been journalistic grounds for not running the film and therefore they would assume it was a cover-up.

11.7 I made clear that I felt we had an obligation to run the story, not only because of the abuse itself, but because we had unearthed credible allegations of abuse by one of the BBC's top stars and abuse at BBC properties. We could not be seen to be concealing this. I said that the victims would in all likelihood go to the press and tell them that they revealed the abuse to us and we covered it up. In my view this would be bound to damage very severely public trust in the BBC.

11.8 Peter said the problem was that we had interviewed [R1] – if we hadn't interviewed her there wouldn't be a problem. Perhaps in future he suggested we should not interview anyone until we had made a firm decision to broadcast. This seemed to me an absurd proposition as often the decision as to whether to broadcast cannot be taken until the interviews have actually been undertaken. I believe the problem for Peter was not that the evidence was too weak but that it was too strong to drop the film on any journalistic grounds. This caused him a problem which he was seeking to avoid by deploying ever more extreme and irrational arguments.

11.9 There were any number of conversations like this between Liz Mackean and myself (separately or together) and Peter over the next few days. Peter eventually agreed that I could do the prearranged filming on the next day as we had paid for the hire of the Rolls already. In retrospect I think he was glad just to get me out of the office.

11.10 I went and interviewed another of the Duncroft girls on camera. The cameraman was Jon Morris. [R3] did not say she was a victim but she did give us a good picture of what life was like at Duncroft when Jimmy Savile visited. Liz normally worked Monday to Wednesdays so we planned to incorporate a clip of [R3] into the film in the edit on Monday when Liz was there to write the script.

11.11 I was so troubled by what was happening that I made a contemporaneous note that day that I sent to myself via email based on the arguments I was having with Peter. I can't recall ever



having needed to do this before. The email was an aide memoire and it summarized the strength of the argument I was making. It was titled Red Flag...

## 12. RED FLAG

12.1.1 I think we should run this story next Wednesday as planned (subject to confirmation of police and cps situation of course\*) for straightforward journalistic reasons and I think that BBC News should make the decision to run it on straightforward news grounds.

12.1.2 I do however also think that we should notify our colleagues in Vision – or wherever else (I'm always a bit hazy about how the BBC management structure works) so that whoever is making the Jim'll Fix It Christmas Special is aware that there may be a problem for them as early as possible.

12.1.3 However BBC News should not be influenced by other parts of the BBC to cancel or delay transmission until after the Christmas special has gone out. Obviously this a point of principle but there is also a very practical reason for this.

12.1.4 I think if we go ahead with TX next week there will be minor embarrassment to the BBC. If we cancel or delay till after Christmas there is a risk of another BBC scandal on the scale of The Queen or Jonathan Ross and similar damage to our core value of trust.

12.1.5 There is a very high chance that the story will emerge before Christmas anyhow from elsewhere and if that happens the story will not be

## 13. "POLICE SECRETLY INVESTIGATED JIMMY SAVILE CHILD SEX ABUSE"

but

## 14. "BBC COVERED UP PAEDO SIR JIMMY SAVILE"

And if it emerges after Christmas that we sat on this the headlines will be

## 15. "BBC COVERED UP PAEDO SIR JIMMY SAVILE TO FIX XMAS RATINGS"

## 16. WHY DO I THINK IT WILL COME OUT?

### 16.1 VICTIMS

We know that the victims believe that the police and cps covered up for Savile. All they know is that they were interviewed, told what happened and then a year later they were told that he was too old to press charges. We know that they risked libel suits by posting on Friends Reunited before he died "I was interviewed by the police was anyone else? He was a perv and he is too old they said to prosecute. I will join ANY campaign to name and shame him as the Police won't do it." And another wrote of a "perfect opportunity to further expose Saville...It's also a pile of bullshit that he is too old to be questioned or indeed charged for his sexual manipulation of minors". Seven of them have had long and detailed conversations with us about how they were abused by Savile, since his death. We interviewed one of them – [R1] - on camera on November 14th. She risked libel by posting a long detailed memoir of her time at Duncroft and assaults by JS (as she transparently called him) on the web over a year before he died. If they see the BBC about to broadcast a Christmas tribute to Sir Jimmy before broadcasting what we know about him – five or six weeks after we interviewed them - I am

sure they will not hesitate to speak out and accuse the BBC of a cover up. Remember people outside the organisation will not distinguish between what News knew and what Vision knew.

#### 16.2 NEWS INTERNATIONAL

We know that News International are all over this story [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Some of the victims were called by Sky. If they called any of them back now they would I'm sure tell them we were on the case.

#### 16.3 OTHER JOURNALISTS

I can't be the only journalist with evidence of Savile's activities who was waiting for him to die because the victims were vulnerable and would not stand up well in a libel hearing. It would take a few weeks to get something together but the week before the BBC Jim'll fix It Special would be perfect timing for them.

(\*The point here about "subject to confirmation" was that, while we had unofficial confirmation that the police had investigated and taken it seriously enough to pass the file to the CPS, we did not get the official confirmation until 5 December 2011. Footnote added 03/11/12)

#### 16.4 Friday 2nd Dec

I spent the morning filming GVs of Duncroft, with Jon Morris, and then filming with a hired white 1974 Rolls Royce convertible, in the roads around Duncroft, to get shots to put over [R1]'s account.

#### 17. EDITING PULLED

##### 17.1 Monday 5th Dec

I started ingesting material and jexing (electronically transferring) it to NS23 edit suite where VT editor Simon Whelan viewed it. At 11.01 Jo Mathys from the Impact team sent me an email titled "Jimmy S". It said...

*"Are we on for Weds? I've got a meeting here at 12 so was planning to head down after that, that sound ok?!"*

17.2 Around lunchtime the edit was pulled. Surrey Police gave a formal statement confirming what they had already told us. I told Peter about Surrey Police confirmation and sent this email to Liz and Hannah at 15.48...

*In response to my question about an investigation by Surrey Police of Jimmy Savile in relation to assaults at Duncroft Approved School/Children's home in Staines they issued this statement...*

*"In 2007 Surrey Police received a historic allegation of indecent assault which is alleged to have occurred at a children's home in Staines in the 1970s. The allegation was investigated but no further action was taken against any individual"*

*Sarah Bailey Surrey Police 01483 631053 gave me the statement but would not let me talk to the investigating officer.*

*In response to a further question they confirmed that the case had been referred to the CPS and it was the CPS who decided not to take it any further. I rang the CPS - Thomas Carter 0203 357 0908 - and he was initially unable to find the case because he said their online system does not go back very far so I put him in touch with Sarah Bailey so she could put him onto the investigating officer. I hope to hear more tomorrow morning.*

17.3 We were still arguing with Peter Rippon. I looked again at my Red Flag memo and thought about sending it to Steve Mitchell and Helen Boaden but I assumed that the force of my arguments had already been passed on by Peter to them so there seemed no point. In any case Peter Rippon seemed to be hinting that they were behind the decision. In those circumstances there was no point undermining my editor by going above his head which is very badly regarded in the BBC system of management

17.4 I think this was also around the time that Liz Mackean had a conversation with Peter which left her with the feeling that he was minimizing the level of abuse and dismissing the credibility of the victims to try to justify his decision. I did not witness this confrontation but immediately after Liz came up to me utterly outraged and said that Peter had tried to justify his decision by saying that the victims weren't that young and the abuse wasn't that bad.

17.5 At no point during this entire process did Peter Rippon show any interest in going through the evidence. As a matter of basic good journalistic/editorial practice, I would have expected him to watch the interviews with [R1] and [R3], read the transcripts of the phone conversations and email exchanges, and talk to MWT, who we had hired to give his assessment of the credibility of the allegations. Peter seemed to just want the investigation to stop. There were continuous disagreements throughout this period.

17.6 I strongly believe that, had Peter's decision genuinely been one which was driven only by journalistic concerns, what would have happened is that he would have reviewed the material and worked with myself and Liz to explore how the film could be developed so as to overcome any concerns he may have had; the film would then have gone into a further phase of development. This is standard procedure.

17.7 Of course adopting such a procedure in this case would have had the consequence of requiring the BBC to abandon the tributes to Savile and withdraw the trailers. Let us be clear, at this point the BBC had in its possession credible and on its face damning evidence that Savile was a paedophile and that there had been abuse by BBC personalities and on BBC premises.

18. "DANGER OF NOT RUNNING IT IS SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO BBC REPUTATION"

18.1 Weds 7th Dec

18.2 Helen Deller from the press office emailed Peter Rippon, myself, Liz Mackean and Liz Gibbons. She said...

*Hi there*

*Had a quick chat with Liz Mackean earlier which reminded me that your Jimmy Savile piece is in the pipeline. Last time I talked with Meirion you were focusing on allegations of abuse with victims willing to speak on the record. Is this still the case?*

18.3 Helen Deller was clear about what we were doing "focusing on allegations of abuse with victims willing to speak on the record" She went on...

*Aside from any promotional efforts, we may well need to do a bit of managing around this - despite such rumours circulating in the media for years....*

18.4 Peter Rippon emailed me...

*What is the latest.. Did the CPS get back?*

*There is a limit to how much time it is sensible to continue chasing this.*

18.5 At the same time he emailed Helen Deller, myself, Liz Mackean, Liz Gibbons and on this occasion additionally Steve Mitchell...

*Hi Helen,*

*We are putting the cart way before the horse here. We have been looking into the story but it is far from clear it will ever be strong enough for us even to run it. At the moment I am not satisfied that it is.*

*So I would not worry about this until we are clearer on where we are with the story.*

18.6 I responded in an email to Peter by saying "As you know I already think story is strong enough and danger of not running it is substantial damage to BBC reputation". Those are very strong words and not ones I've ever had to use before in 24 years in the BBC....

18.7 Peter - still waiting for CPS - files are not electronic so they have had to physically send out for them hope to have them tomorrow. As you know I already think story is strong enough - and danger of not running it is substantial damage to BBC reputation - but no point having that discussion until I have final word from CPS.

18.8 It was obvious there and then that pulling the film and running the tributes would result in dire consequences for the BBC. I thought at the time BBC management were leaning on Peter Rippon in the hope of avoiding the embarrassment of having to pull the Christmas specials. An old friend who is senior in another part of the BBC contacted me that day about another issue. I explained my frustration to that former colleague in an email...

*"I'm dealing with a BBC which doesn't want to put out a piece about Jimmy Savile being investigated by police about sexual offences against 13, 14 and 15 year olds including interviews with victims because it might damage the audience for the Jim'll Fix It Christmas Special. At the moment my opinion of BBC management is... well not quite as high as it usually is shall we say"*

18.9 Friday 9 Dec

18.10 The CPS sent me an email which began...

*Dear Meirion,*

*Here is our statement to be attributed to a CPS spokesperson:  
"Following an investigation by Kent Police,..."*

18.11 I rang the CPS and asked if the mention of Kent police was because there had been another police investigation into Savile or whether they had just got the name wrong. They corrected the name of the force to Surrey. The email went on ...

*...the CPS reviewing lawyer advised the police that no further action should be taken due to lack of evidence."*

*As this is the case, it would not be correct to say that his age and frailty was the reason for no further action being taken.*

*Many thanks,  
Thomas Carter*

18.12 I forwarded the revised statement to Peter and the rest of the team. I said I still didn't understand how the BBC could show tributes to a man who they now knew had been investigated by the police as a paedophile and when we were in possession of an on-camera interview with one of his victims alleging a statutory rape on BBC premises by Gary Glitter as Savile watched.

18.13 As far as I was concerned I believed that someone senior in the BBC did not want the film shown so there was no point trying to take the story elsewhere in the corporation. I didn't send the Red Flag memo but I did ring Editorial Policy to see if there was an anonymous whistleblower system to warn the BBC about what was likely to happen if they pulled the film. I was told there wasn't one but apparently the advisor had been misinformed. When I told David Jordan that on October 4 2012 he said it would be clarified. I assume that's why Lucy Adams sent round an email on October 8th 2012 telling all staff that the BBC does have a whistleblower system.

18.14 By December 9th 2011 we had now been arguing for nine days and I felt I had to decide whether to accept my editor's decision and authority or leave the BBC. After careful thought I very reluctantly decided to accept Peter Rippon's decision.

18.15 To be clear, I thought it was inevitable that our story that Savile was a predatory paedophile would come out elsewhere. I thought that there were a number of ways this might happen. [R1] or another victim might go to the press or other journalists might get to the story. In addition MWT was a former police officer and professional child protection expert. He had seen all our information and was a freelance. He made it clear he would follow up on the information we had gathered and shared with him. In my view there was simply no way a story this big was going to stay under wraps.

#### **18.16 Monday 19 December**

The BBC recorded the Jim'll Fix It special with Shane Ritchie.

#### **18.17 Tuesday 20 December**

BBC foreign correspondent Caroline Hawley, attended a pre-Christmas drinks party with Mark Thompson which Caroline thinks was on December 20. She raised the issue of Newsnight dropping the investigation into Savile and anger on the programme about that. He said he didn't get involved in operational decisions but we now know that he says he then raised the issue with news and was told by Helen Boaden there was nothing to worry about.

### 18.18 Wednesday 21 December

Freelance journalist Miles Goslett claimed in a Spectator article (03/11/12) that the BBC press office had told him on December 21st 2011 that Newsnight had dropped an investigation into Savile for editorial reasons. If Goslett is right the press office must have consulted others before putting out a statement. We already know that the Director General, and the head and deputy head of news all knew that Newsnight had dropped an investigation of Savile just before Christmas. The Head of Vision knew that Newsnight had been investigating Savile. The press office had known since at least December 7th that a "Jimmy Savile piece is in the pipeline ...focusing on allegations of abuse with victims willing to speak on the record" and that it had subsequently been pulled. Now they were dealing with a newspaper reporter [redacted] and who knew that Newsnight had interviewed a victim of abuse by Savile, from Duncroft. He also knew that she was alleging abuse on BBC premises and the film had been pulled while the tributes were going ahead. I find it all the more incredible that apparently no one asked if it was appropriate to screen tributes to Savile that Christmas.

### 18.19 Christmas Day

Hour long tribute to Jimmy Savile on Radio 2.

### 18.20 Boxing Day

Shane Richie presents the kids highlight of Christmas a "Jim'll Fix It" tribute at 5.40pm "what's not to love?" as the listing says, and watched by a quarter of the nation.

### 18.21 Wednesday 28 December

18.22 BBC2 broadcast at 7.00 pm their "How's About That Then?" tribute to Sir Jimmy - including as it said in the blurb "rarely seen footage from Clunk Click" - the show that Duncroft girls were taken to see before being abused. I was convinced that once the tributes had gone out the BBC would not return to the Newsnight investigation. If the investigation was aired after Christmas everyone would ask how it was that the BBC had decided to run the tributes in circumstances where:

18.22.1 it knew that the police had investigated Savile as a paedophile and, indeed, had taken the matter sufficiently seriously that they had passed the file to the CPS;

18.22.2 it had interviewed one of his victims on camera (who had told Newsnight that [redacted] not to mention the other corroborative material we had been able to put together and

18.22.3 it knew there were allegations of abuse at multiple sites, Duncroft, BBC and Stoke Mandeville Hospital as well as possibly Haut de Garenne, and yet still the BBC had run the tributes.

I could not think of any satisfactory answer. I did not watch the tributes.

19. 2012

19.1 Sunday 8 Jan

19.2 The first leak from the BBC on Savile was quoted in a Sunday Mirror piece on 8th January. "BBC axe investigation into Sir Jimmy Savile and schoolgirls" Nick Owens claimed a BBC source told him

*"People are up in arms that they spent so long and committed two months of time and effort only for this to be canned," said the source. "Someone, somewhere should have realised that a report trying to uncover a dark side of one of the BBC's favourite sons was a silly thing to do... It cost thousands of pounds. This is cash, which could have been used on other shows that has been poured down the drain."*

*The official BBC response was "The BBC gathers information on hundreds of stories and not all make it to air. In this case the angle we were pursuing could not be substantiated."*

19.3 For all the reasons I have given I consider this to be a gross misrepresentation of what happened with this film. The 'angle' we were pursuing throughout was very clearly the fact of Savile's wide-spread abuse. There is no doubt in my mind that, in any other circumstances, this film would have been broadcast.

19.4 Following this report a number of people made contact with the BBC. A woman sent an anonymous letter to Peter Rippon claiming Savile attempted to rape her in the 1970s and that in recent years she had reported that to the police. The envelope had a Gatwick postmark. (Subsequently Sussex police have confirmed that a woman reported an assault by Savile from 1970 to them in 2008).

19.5 Monday 9 January

Dan Davies who was researching a biography of Savile contacted Peter Rippon who emailed me

*"Do you want to have a chat with him? I guess we should stick to just public domain help."*

I took this to mean we shouldn't tell him what Newsnight had found out.

19.6 Thursday 9 Feb

The magazine the Oldie published further allegations about BBC bosses spiking Newsnight. It was written by Miles Goslett who established that Mark Thompson knew in December and alleged that the BBC withheld information from the police. Other papers picked up the story but not in a big way.

19.7 Thursday 10 Feb

19.8 Peter Rippon emailed me ...

*Everything we got was from the same women the police spoke to was it not?*

19.9 I told him (again) that we did have more than the police had

*We did have information the police did not have in 2007 because we found another victim [R1] - who did an on-camera interview about being sexually abused while underage by Savile*

19.10 The Oldie also raised the issue of whether the BBC had deliberately withheld useful information from the police. I thought we should invite the police to talk to us about what we had, to be sure, although I didn't think we had anything of evidential value against living people. In any case I expected this story to go public soon. This meant that there was no question of the police being kept in the dark. My strong belief was that it was the transmission of the story itself, which would result in many more victims coming forward who would speak out not only about Savile but about other abusers. In my view this was likely to be critical in terms of helping police to build a clear picture of the nature and extent of the abuse. I also knew that MWT, as a former police officer and child protection expert, was pursuing the story and would be in a better position than me to know what would be useful to the police. In any case standard protocol would require my editor, Peter Rippon, to make the call on whether the matter should be reported to the police.

19.11 I wrote to Peter Rippon that day ...

*If you do issue a statement I think you should end it by saying "we have not withheld any information from the police and we would of course be happy to talk to them about any information we have gathered".*

19.12 Monday 14 February

Ex BBC producer Susie Thomson emailed in response to stories that the Newsnight investigation had been pulled. I talked to her on the phone and she wanted to tell her story in public. I was still convinced that there was a block on the story at the BBC, so I put Susie in touch with Mark Williams Thomas.

19.13 Spring

MWT formally approached ITV with the Savile story ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

19.14 Friday 10 August

We ran a story on the Olympics following up on an investigation I had done with Anna Adams ahead of the games. The story was about allegations that Azerbaijan had paid \$10 million to win two gold medals in the boxing. After an Azeri had been declared the winner of one of the bouts at London 2012, despite being knocked down six times in the final round, the allegations resurfaced. BBC Sport attempted to stop us running the story but both Steve Mitchell and the Newsnight Deputy Editor Liz Gibbons strongly resisted that pressure and we ran that item. I include a reference to these matters both to show that other parts of the BBC do sometimes attempt to influence News output and that on this occasion that pressure was resisted.

20. EXPOSURE

20.1 Friday 7 September

Exposure contacted the BBC to put the allegations about Savile. The BBC told the Independent (03/11/12)...

*"An email from ITV was sent to the BBC corporate press office and on 7 September was forwarded to a number of people, including George Entwistle. Once his office had received the letter from ITV, Entwistle instructed the relevant teams within the corporation to work on a response which he authorised and which was sent to ITV within the agreed timeframe."*



## 20.2 Tuesday 11 Sept

I heard that Exposure were planning to broadcast their Savile film in October and I emailed Peter Rippon and Steve Mitchell to tell them that. Around about that time Steve Mitchell sought me out for a face-to-face conversation about the decision not to run the Newsnight Savile film. He seemed to be aware how strongly I had felt that not broadcasting it would be a serious mistake. He told me there had been no high-up decision to pull the film and that George Entwistle had been informed at the time, which was news to me but that no pressure was put on news from other parts of the corporation.

## 20.3 Friday 28 September

20.4 I emailed Peter Rippon and Steve Mitchell to say papers had been given access to clips from Exposure and would probably run stories on Sunday.

*You've probably seen the Guido/Evening Standard nibs today. I understand that the Sunday Sun, Mirror and Mail on Sunday have been shown some of the interviews with Savile victims from the ITV Exposure doc, which will be broadcast next Wednesday, and they may run something on Sunday.*

20.5 Steve Mitchell responded

*Thanks Meirion we will do what we can, they have been told what did happen and what didn't but will probably write what they want to believe anyway. S*

## 20.6 Sunday 30 September

Big press coverage of upcoming Exposure programme. Peter Rippon was quoted in the Telegraph and Mirror as saying...

*"We have been very clear from the start that the piece was not broadcast because the story we were pursuing could not be substantiated.*

Again this was simply not correct.

## 21. "ATTEMPT TO REWRITE HISTORY"

### 21.1 Monday 1 October

21.2 The output editor Neil Breakwell was in charge of Monday's Newsnight. He asked if we had any material we could use or if the issue was "too toxic". Liz explained to him all the material we had. Peter replied to all of us "I think it would be a bit bizarre for us to jump on ITVs wagon at this point."

21.3 It seemed to me that Peter Rippon was trying to claim that the Exposure story was not connected to the Newsnight investigation. Neil still put Savile on his morning email as a topic of conversation at the morning meeting. Peter Rippon ruled Savile out and I had a conversation with Peter Rippon where I said I could not play along with the BBC line that we hadn't substantiated the story.

21.4 Back in December 2011 our whole team, Liz Mackean, myself, Hanna Livingston and MWT – all believed we had substantiated our story which was that Savile was a predatory paedophile who abused his position as a BBC personality, and we believed we had a duty to broadcast that. This was what the investigation had started out as – it was in the [R1] story which

was my first email to Peter Rippon – and this was essentially the same as the Exposure story, although they had gathered more material and had more people on camera – enough to make a documentary. This was never a film about failings at the CPS. We didn't even get confirmation that Surrey Police had investigated him and handed over a file to the CPS until the end of the investigation on December 5th 2011 and we didn't even get an email from the CPS until December 9th.

21.5 I again told Peter Rippon that we had more information than Surrey Police had in 2007-9. Our whole film was centered around the story of [R1] who had made serious new allegations about Savile and assault on BBC premises and had never been to the police. If there was an investigation into this - and I thought there would be - we would have to be honest. I wrote an email to Peter Rippon...

*...What disturbs me is any attempt to rewrite history. If there is an investigation into this - by the BBC Trust or HoC Culture and Media Committee for instance - we have to be honest. We all know that Mark Williams Thomas was part of the Newsnight team working on the investigation,*

*And I would say that if asked, you made the decision that we had enough to TX once we had confirmation that the police had investigated him - on top of the victim interviews which we had already done. On Friday 25th Nov 2011 when I emailed you to say the police had confirmed the investigation you emailed me back at 14.56 saying "Excellent. We can then pull together the tx plan." For whatever reason you changed your mind the next day\* and then insisted it was only a story that Jimmy Savile was a paedophile if we could show that the CPS had let him off because he was an old sick man.*

(\* "next day" was a mistake by me in the email it should have been "next week". Note added 03/11/12)

21.6 On the same day, BBC News correspondents and producers were told not to contact myself or Liz MacKean for information or material on Savile which meant they had to start from scratch. It was as if the BBC was pretending that our investigation had never taken place. I found it deeply concerning that Liz and I were now being treated as outsiders because we were not prepared to take the BBC line.

## 22. THE PETER RIPPON BLOG

### 22.1 Tuesday 2 October

22.2 At 17.05 Peter Rippon put up a blog on the website which was totally wrong "I decided we should pursue the story because of the nature of the allegations and because the key witness told us the police had investigated the claims but the case had been dropped on the grounds he was too old"

22.3 Peter Rippon's account was wrong and misleading in a number of key respects.

22.3.1 He claimed "the key witness told us the police had investigated the claims but the case had been dropped on the grounds he was too old". The key witness was [R1]. She was the only victim who had given us an on camera interview. She had never been to the police and Peter had repeatedly been told this was the case, both verbally and in writing (see further the 10 February 2012 email). Peter is clearly referring to [R1] here as he quotes from her account in the blog: "Our key witness said she was perfectly certain the BBC had no idea whatsoever of the

goings on". [R1]'s story only emerged after the Surrey police investigation. Her whole significance was that she was making much stronger charges about abuse by Savile, and : [REDACTED] than those which the police had investigated in 2007-9.

22.3.2 "We are confident that all the women we spoke to had contacted the police independently already."

Again this was incorrect. I told him that it was not the case that all the women had spoken to the police.

22.3.3 'Newsnight is not normally interested in celebrity exposé' – This is of course a complete misrepresentation of what the film was actually about. This film was not a celebrity exposé but a revelation of wide-spread abuse of children around the country by a BBC star. I note here that in his evidence to the Parliamentary Select Committee, George Entwistle himself acknowledged that Savile's abuse was a "very, very grave matter indeed"

22.3.4 'what was the public interest in reporting it given he is dead?' – The offences which formed the centre of the film are what clearly established the public interest in the report and Peter was, in my view, plainly aware of this at the time – see further his 25 October email.

22.3.5 'I felt if we could prove the police or the CPS had let the women down in some way we should go ahead' – but as Peter must have known the real story here was not the CPS angle, it was the fact of the abuse itself. In my view, Newsnight and the BBC more widely ended up letting the women down by pulling this story.

22.3.6 'We have no evidence against the BBC' – I do not understand how Peter can have made this comment since we had clear evidence of abuse by personalities and on BBC premises.

22.4 I note that Peter suggests in the blog that he discussed the film with his bosses before killing it. I also note that he goes on to say that he was told in the strongest terms that he should be guided by editorial considerations only and should not let 'any wider considerations about the BBC' affect his judgement. I do not know what was said at the meetings or what the 'wider considerations' were but what I can say is that there was no journalistic reason for pulling the film.

#### 22.5 Wednesday 3 October

22.6 Liz Mackean emailed Peter and Steve Mitchell about the blog...

*It states that "we" are confident the women we'd spoken to had contacted the police already and so we had no new information. This is wrong...*

22.7 I went to see Peter and told him again that he was wrong about all the women going to the police. I tried to get him to change or remove the blog but he wouldn't. I emailed Peter, Steve and Liz Mackean...

*Already talked to Peter about this - it is inaccurate - our on-camera interviewee for instance who talked about oral sex with JS [REDACTED] had never talked to police - we always had more information than Surrey Police passed to CPS.*

22.8 Peter had in the meantime responded to Liz

*That is not what Meirion told me on Monday.*

22.9 I emailed Peter, Steve and Liz

*Just to clarify first half of this is wrong I have always said we had more than the police did on Savile and most of the women we talked to had not talked to the police although some had.*

22.10 I suggested that, if he wouldn't change the blog, to put it right he should at least ask the press office to stop pushing the inaccurate lines. A new interview with our key witness [R1] was broadcast that lunchtime on ITN and Exposure was broadcast that night.

## 23. MEETING WITH DAVID JORDAN

23.1 Thursday 4 October

23.2 I woke up to hear David Jordan on the Today programme saying

*"What they were looking at specifically was allegations that had been made to Surrey police in 2007 and they had themselves received an allegation that the investigation conducted by Surrey police in some way hadn't been done properly. They looked into that allegation and actually it turned out not to be true."*

23.3 This was incorrect. I trusted David and I assumed he had been badly briefed – I was worried that he was not aware of the true picture. I took my timeline with me and went to see him at about 12.00 and explained everything right from the start of the Savile investigation. I then sent him a copy of the script we had had sent to Peter Rippon and the lawyer Roger Law on November 29 2011. Later that day Peter Rippon told me there had been no script for the Savile film. When I showed him the script I had sent him and the lawyer Roger Law in November 2011, which he had not questioned at the time, he said "that is not a script".

## 24. EMAIL TO GEORGE

24.1 Friday 5 October

24.2 George Entwistle sent an email to all staff which again repeated the false statement about our investigation. It said...

*"The BBC Newsnight programme investigated Surrey Police's enquiry into Jimmy Savile towards the end of 2011."*

24.3 I immediately emailed George taking issue with that account. I wrote:

*"George - one note - the investigation was into whether Jimmy Savile was a paedophile - I know because it was my investigation. We didn't know that Surrey Police had investigated Jimmy Savile - no-one did - that was what we found when we investigated and interviewed his victims."*

24.4 Newsnight still had not covered the Savile affair despite it being front page news all week and the blog was still up giving a misleading account of what had happened. I decided that it would not be possible to cover the story straightforwardly on the programme so that weekend I moved to Panorama on attachment. I also sent an email to Steve Mitchell which included the phrases "the BBC was trying to pretend that Newsnight didn't have the Savile story" and "the BBC was not telling the truth".

24.5 Monday 8 October

24.6 I had a further email exchange with Steve Mitchell on 8 December. Rather than addressing my points about the misleading position taken by BBC management it appeared to me that he wanted me to shut up. There seemed to me to be an implicit threat...

*What I am more concerned about is your view that last week...."the BBC was trying to pretend ...." or that "the BBC was not telling the truth" .. these are clearly serious allegations and as the BBC is not an anonymous entity but staffed by people you presumably feel individuals who work here are guilty of these things and I now need to decide how best to deal with what you have alleged.....Steve*

24.7 I still had had no response from George so I replied to Steve Mitchell...

*24.7.1 Steve - I don't think any individuals are "guilty" except Jimmy Savile and those who protected him while he was alive. The line which the BBC has been putting out all year is wrong but I'm not calling anyone a liar or accusing any individual of dishonesty. Everyone is having a hard time including you and me and Peter.*

*24.7.2 People try to persuade themselves that things were as they remember them, or how they'd like them to be, and large bureaucracies filter messages bit by bit before they put them out, to make them fit the line. The end product can be a million miles from the truth without any individual consciously lying. We see that every day when we make programmes about other organisations and see their responses.*

*24.7.3 It is 40 years since I first watched Jimmy Savile taking underage girls out unsupervised in his Rolls Royce convertible from the approved school at Duncroft which my aunt ran. I was always deeply suspicious. That's why I was so open to hearing what the victims had to say and giving them a voice so they could expose Savile as a paedophile. The victims had been repeatedly betrayed by the establishment, the authorities. When we interviewed them they said "The BBC will cover this up again" and we said "no we won't".*

*24.7.4 George should not have been briefed to say "As is now well known, the BBC Newsnight programme investigated Surrey Police's enquiry into Jimmy Savile towards the end of 2011 but decided not to go ahead with the broadcast" in his email on Friday. No-one knew Savile had been investigated by Surrey Police until we discovered it in the course of our investigation. We weren't investigating Surrey Police's enquiry into Jimmy Savile but whether Savile was a paedophile. We had the first ever on-camera interview with one of Savile's victims, and a string of others who were prepared to have their stories told anonymously. And we'd been told that Surrey Police had taken those claims seriously enough to investigate. When I told Peter that Surrey Police had confirmed that they had investigated Savile his reaction was that it was "Excellent" and we should prepare to broadcast. It was scheduled for TX on the 7th of December. When the Impact team were shown what we had, they responded that there would be a "huge amount of interest in the story" and that "all domestic outlets" would want versions of it. It was abundantly clear that we had a story we should broadcast. The CPS line would have been nice to prove but it wouldn't have made much difference to the weight of the story - as we've seen in the last ten days. This was a story which involved abuse by one of the BBC's biggest stars and abuse on BBC premises and the least we owed the BBC's victims was to broadcast it. It was also*

*abundantly clear that if we didn't broadcast, the victims would accuse us of a cover-up - whether there was one or not. I genuinely don't know anything about the process which led to the change of decision to broadcast and I'm not accusing anyone of a cover-up but I do know that the decision was changed, with predictably disastrous consequences.*

24.8 Later in the day George Entwistle emailed me to say he had asked Ken MacQuarrie from BBC Scotland to meet me and discuss my email to him.

## **25. MACQUARRIE MEETING**

### **25.1 Tuesday 9 October**

I met with Ken MacQuarrie at 2.00 pm and spent an hour going through the timeline with him. I took him through the timeline and I told him about my meeting with David Jordan the previous week. I was clear that Ken MacQuarrie understood what the problems were with the official BBC management account.

### **25.2 Thursday 10 October**

I had to pick up a DVD for a contributor from the Newsnight office on Thursday when I was called into a meeting. Up to that point, Newsnight had not covered Savile and there was considerable dissent about this on the programme. There were half a dozen people in the soft area of the office including Liz Gibbons, the producer Sara Afshar and Liz Mackean. They wanted to know what material was available. Peter Rippon was on the edge of the area saying "my judgement must not be questioned". Peter Rippon ruled out using the Newsnight [R1] interview or the anonymous interviews on the grounds that they were already out there because of ITV, at which point we suggested using the [R3] interview as she hadn't been on ITV and I sent a copy of the interview and full transcript to Sara Afshar and Liz Mackean. A clip of [R3]'s interview was broadcast on that night's Newsnight.

## **26. SECOND EMAIL TO GEORGE**

### **26.1 Friday 12 October**

26.2 George announced two independent inquiries and gave a press conference in which he said that there was only one woman interviewed on camera and he didn't know what was going to be in the Newsnight film. I thought this was extraordinary at this point so I sent him the script.

*George you are still not being accurately briefed. I'm sending you a copy of the script as it was on Wednesday 30th - by Monday 5th December when we started editing we had a second oncamera interview in the can, part of which was shown last night.*

### **26.3 Saturday 13 October**

I copied the George email to Ken MacQuarrie because I remembered that George's emails can take a couple of days to get to him over the weekend.

### **26.4 Monday 15 October**

Culture Secretary Maria Miller MP said BBC "inappropriately pulled" the Newsnight investigation. George offered to go in front of the media select committee. I was now seriously concerned that unless George realised that the official BBC management line was wrong he might inadvertently mislead parliament.

## 27. TALK TO GEORGE

### 27.1 Tuesday 16 October

I waited for George at the fourth floor lifts and went up to him and asked for a ten minute conversation to explain why the BBC line was wrong. He said "I'm sorry I can't do that". What I took from George's response was that he was endorsing the management culture within the BBC which frowns upon individuals who seek to take matters directly to senior executives. I was nonetheless taken aback by George's response given the seriousness of the issues at stake.

## 28. [R3] STORY

### 28.1 Wednesday 17 October

28.2 I think there was an effort to smear me to damage my credibility. I believe that someone in BBC management tried to get Newsnight to run a story which was untrue about me and, when that failed, the story was leaked to the newspapers. The story was that I had concealed the [R3] interview to protect my aunt at Duncroft. No-one checked the facts with me. I firmly believe that this story could only have come from within the BBC. There were two obvious problems with the story...

28.2.1 That I hadn't concealed the interview at any point. I was the person who made it available to Newsnight in 2011 and a clip of it would have been in the original Newsnight film if it had not been pulled. The script which was sent to Peter Rippon on November 29th 2011 says "still to come one more girl on camera". The [R3] interview was done on December 1st and was ingested into the Newsnight edit suite on December 5th just before the edit was pulled. I then kept the interview safe for nearly a year and made it available again to Newsnight and Panorama along with a full transcript this October. I provided the copy of the full interview to Newsnight again with a full transcript after I had moved to Panorama so that they could broadcast a clip on October 11th.

28.2.2 If I was trying to protect my aunt I would hardly have fought so hard to run the Duncroft story in the first place.

## 29. PETER HORROCKS

### 29.1 Friday 19 October

Jessica Cecil in George Entwistle's office emailed me to say that my email to George on 12 October had been passed to the Pollard Inquiry but did not say whether George had read the script. Peter Horrocks had a discussion with me where I raised my concerns that if George Entwistle appeared in front of Parliament and delivered the official BBC management line he would be misleading parliament. Peter Horrocks asked me to write a brief for George "Problems with perceived current BBC position" which I was happy to do.

### 29.2 Saturday 20 October

The untrue [R3] story had been given to the Sundays. I was rung by the Mail on Sunday and I had to issue a statement denying the absurd allegations but they still ran the story. I didn't respond to a message from the Sunday Times and as a result they sent a reporter round to my house while I was out who made a nuisance of himself to my 19 year old

daughter. I felt angry that I – and my family - were being harassed and treated as an enemy. I felt I was being targeted by elements in BBC management because I would not go along with the misleading BBC management line.

### 29.3 Sunday 21 October – brief for George

I sent the brief for George Entwistle to Peter Horrocks.

### BBC ADMITS BLOG MISLEADING

#### 29.4 Monday 22 October

The BBC admitted that the blog was misleading but did not correct the impression that the key witness had gone to the police. Later in the day they went further in a statement to Panorama.

*"We should also make it clear we now accept that the Newsnight investigation did not start out as an investigation into the Surrey police's handling of the case against Mr Savile."*

That night Panorama was broadcast.

#### 29.5 Tuesday 23 October

George Entwistle appeared in front of the House of Commons Media select committee. He told the committee that Peter Rippon "commissioned the investigation" but David Jordan told the committee "Preparations were made, but it was not actually commissioned".

### 30. DAVID JORDAN

#### 30.1 Wednesday 24 October

30.2 I was sitting at my desk in the Panorama office at about 17.00 when I heard shouting behind me. David Jordan (Director of Editorial Policy and Standards) had marched into the Panorama office after his interview with Steve Hewlett on the Media Show. Steve Hewlett had asked him when he was first aware that the official BBC line was misleading and why he had persisted in endorsing that version of events, when he knew from a meeting with me on October 4 that it was wrong.

30.3 David Jordan started shouting at the top of his voice at me *"You are a despicable person, you are a despicable person"*. I said to him *"you've been lying on behalf of the BBC for three weeks"*. He said *"a confidence is a confidence to me"*. There were about ten people listening to all this. He then said...

*"You knew Jimmy Savile was a paedophile for 30 years and did nothing about it"*.

I felt that was one of the most offensive things anyone had ever said about me.

There has been no apology.

30.4 For the record, I have not known Savile was a paedophile for 30 years. If I had evidence I would have used it as I have in other paedophile cases. As a responsible journalist I could not expose Savile in the absence of robust evidence. David Jordan of all people would have known that. I did not have that evidence prior to late 2011. The irony that I was at one and the same time being accused by BBC management of pushing a film which lacked a firm factual foundation and failing to bring Savile's abuse to light was by no means lost on me.



### 31. PANORAMA

31.1 On the same day another incorrect story was circulated around the BBC that Panorama had been offered the Savile story first but had turned it down. It was obviously meant to embarrass Panorama's editor Tom Giles. It was fed to a Newsnight reporter and time was wasted on this without checking the basic facts. I chatted to the Newsnight Deputy Editor Dan Kelly and then sent this email to all concerned.

*31.1.1 "I've only just heard about this story going the rounds since yesterday and nobody's bothered to ask me – which is weird because that would be the first call I would make in a similar situation if I wanted to know what really happened – although I've now had a quick chat with Dan. I'm happy to talk to anyone about that. The truth is that although I'd discussed the "Jimmy Savile was a Paedophile" story with Mark Williams Thomas and Liz Mackean back in July 2011 as a possible Newsnight, it was only when Savile died on Saturday October 29th 2011 that I thought the story was feasible for legal reasons.*

*31.1.2 I thought about whether it would be better to do a 30-minute Panorama or a tenminute Newsnight piece – Tom had approached me the week before Savile died to ask if I was interested in having a chat about working for Panorama but on the other hand someone might get to the story before me if I didn't get it on air as soon as possible. I came into Newsnight on the morning of Monday 31st. I talked to Liz Mackean. She was keen we should do it as a Newsnight piece but I then also sent a six-line email about the story to Tom to keep my options open.*

*31.1.3 I couldn't talk to Peter until he came out of the 11.00 about 11.30 ish or a little later. Peter was keen and I sent him the outline of [R1]'s story and then he was keener still having read that so I went down the Newsnight route. I was mainly busy finishing another film involving editing in New York and at the Guardian but I persuaded [R1] to do an on-camera interview while Hanna Livingston and Liz Mackean did the hard work of tracking down and contacting 60 ex-Duncroft girls – 10 of whom turned out to be victims or witnesses. As I understand it Tom heard that I was doing Savile for Newsnight and didn't pursue it and we didn't end up having that chat till the week of the Exposure doc."*

31.2 The story then appeared in toned down form in a Kevin Marsh blog including a quote from my email.

### 32. CONCLUSIONS

There are a number of points I want to make in conclusion.

32.1 First, I strongly believe that, from 25 November 2011, we had all the necessary material to broadcast a film revealing that Savile was a predatory paedophile and that he had taken advantage of his BBC celebrity to facilitate the abuse and to shield himself from exposure.

32.2 Second, for all the reasons I've given, I do not believe that, even arguably, there were sound journalistic reasons preventing the film being broadcast on Wednesday 7 December, as planned.

32.3 Third, I cannot accept that Peter Rippon genuinely thought that the story would be too weak unless the CPS said they dropped the prosecution because Savile was too old. This was at best a relatively small detail in a much wider picture. The fact that Peter never reviewed the rushes,

or the other evidence, or asked MWT for his expert assessment only reinforced in my mind that this decision was not taken for journalistic reasons and a blind eye was being deliberately turned towards the actual material we had.

32.4 Fourth, I have very serious concerns about the way in which BBC management accounted to the public for the decision to kill the film. There is no question in my mind that the public were seriously misled and I have real concerns that these events are going to undermine public trust in the BBC. In effect, the BBC seriously compounded its wrongdoing by not only suppressing the film and broadcasting the tributes but also misleading the public about how this situation came about. The net result has been that the BBC, instead of reporting the story, has now become the story in a way that can only damage the organisation.

32.5 Fifth, ever since I refused to go along with the BBC line, on the basis that it was a rewriting of history, I feel I have been pressured, harassed and treated as an enemy by certain elements within BBC management. I am very troubled by the fact that an organisation, which prides itself on its core value of trust, has sought to target me rather than focussing on discovering the truth. I would hope that, in future, any 'whistleblowers' would be listened to rather than attacked and undermined in this way.

32.6 Sixthly, I was concerned that my worries about the line being put out by BBC management could not be conveyed to the top of the organisation.

**MEIRION JONES (2):  
SUPPLEMENT TO  
WRITTEN STATEMENT**

Supplement to Statement of Meirion Jones- 19/11/2012

Richard,

I've been reviewing the transcripts. There are a number of small errors and omissions but I'd like to highlight one interchange between Mr Maclean and myself at Page 318 line 12 where Mr Maclean quotes an email from me as saying that I believed another girl had told the police about [REDACTED] and my reply that I couldn't now see where I had got that from.

I thought it was something to do with [REDACTED] so I subsequently have been through the records of Liz and Hannah's phone calls with [REDACTED] and I see that they were of the belief that she had been to see [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] of course had talked to the police so this is why I thought that another girl had told the police about [REDACTED] although of course I don't know that - but I can now at least see where I got that impression in the back of my mind.

Meirion

**MEIRION JONES (3):  
EMAIL RE PETER RIPPON  
'FLAKEY' REMARK**

**From:** Meirion Jones [mailto: [REDACTED]@bbc.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 27 November 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** Spafford, Richard A.  
**Subject:** Additional submission on Peter Rippon 'flakey' email PR4/078

Richard - I'm writing on advice because of the reasons stated. This email was released to me but was not put to me in the Inquiry.

am concerned in case Peter Rippon's email PR4/078 of 12 October 2012 11.03 to Steve Mitchell and Helen Boaden is taken as fact. Peter Rippon says about [REDACTED]

"Meirion then spoke to her and said we needed to interview her on tape because she was 'flakey' and she might change her mind if we delayed"

I need to state for the record that I never said [REDACTED] was 'flakey' and in fact did not think she was 'flakey'. It sounds to me more like the sort of term Peter Rippon uses to describe the women. The reason we needed to interview [REDACTED] on tape was not because she was 'flakey' but simply because Newsnight is a television programme and we record interviews. This again seems to hark back to Peter's idea that if we hadn't interviewed her on tape everything would have been alright.

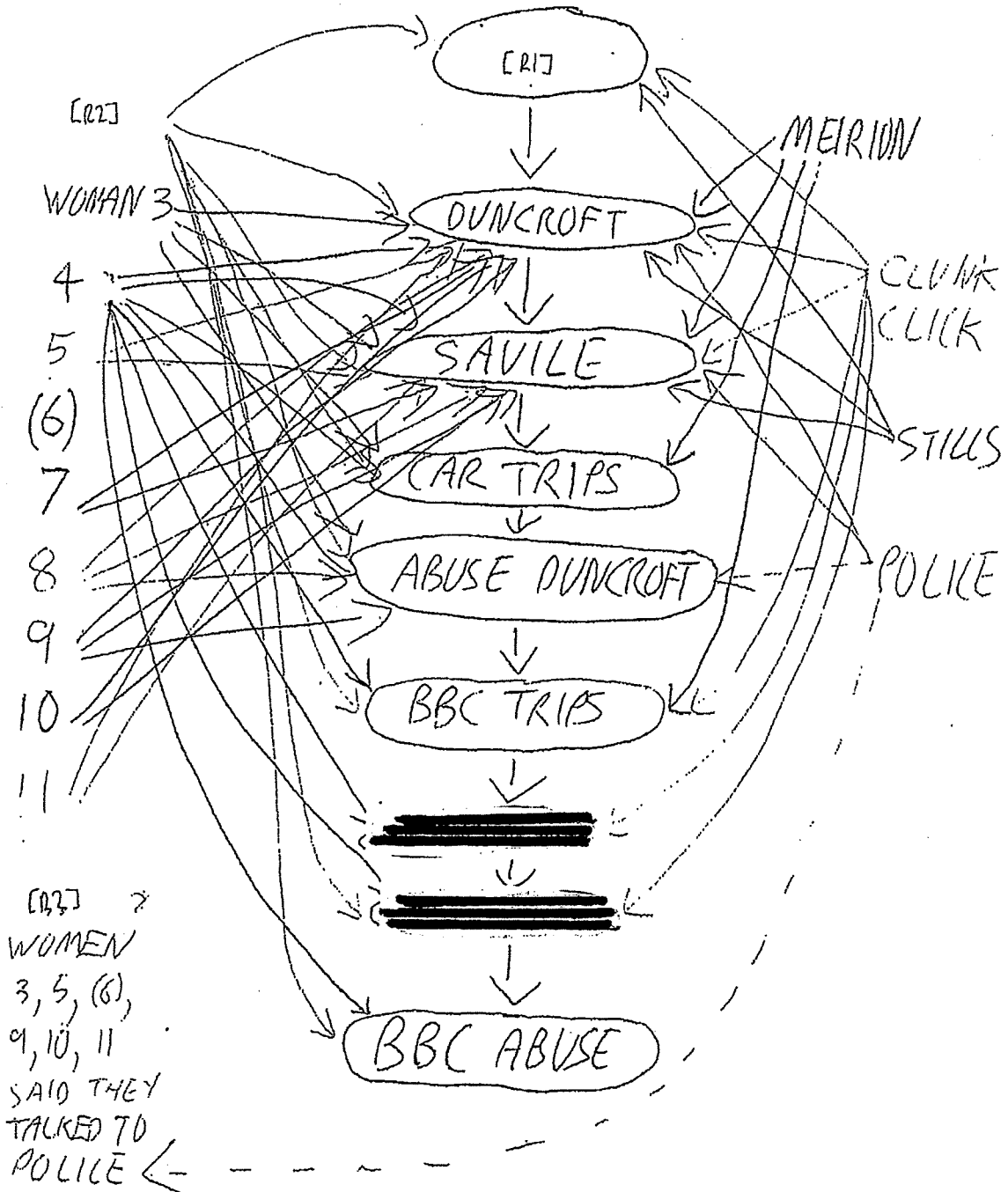
The idea that we rushed to interview her because "she might change her mind if we delayed" is also demonstrably false. I talked to her on the phone on November 3rd or 4th and booked an interview not for the next day or the day after but for November 14th. There was no undue rush.

The email goes on to quote me as saying "basically all the women we spoke to had spoken to the police". This again is wrong. I never told Peter that. I told him that our key witness [REDACTED] had not gone to the police. Both myself and Liz had repeatedly told Peter that that was the case, and that not all the women had gone to the police, both verbally in October, November and December 2011 and in writing in the February 2012 email from myself to Peter when he had asked that specific question after the Oldie article.

Meirion Jones

**MEIRION JONES (4):  
DIAGRAM RE:  
CORROBORATION  
FOR [R1]**

CORROBORATION OF [R1] BY 5 DEC 2011



IN ADDITION STILLS & NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS & CLUNK CLICK CORROBORATED CLAIMS MADE BY MANY OF THE WOMEN THAT THEY HAD BEEN AT DUNCROFT & MET SAVILE



**LIZ MACKEAN (1):  
WRITTEN STATEMENT  
22 OCTOBER 2012**

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012 – Liz MacKean

I have been asked to write this statement ahead of George Entwistle's appearance before members of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. This is purely to assist him with the accuracy of statements. I am aware a copy of this will be handed over to the independent inquiry, although it does not represent my full and final account of events.

31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2011:

Meirion Jones copies me into an email to Peter Rippon outlining allegations that Jimmy Savile abused vulnerable teenage girls at a Home Office-run approved school in Surrey during the 1970's.

-Working with a BBC trainee, Hannah Livingston, I begin finding and contacting former pupils.

-We build up a picture of a pattern of abusive behaviour. We also hear that a police force had recently (2007) investigated allegations against Savile and contacted a number of past Duncroft School pupils.

14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011:

We travel to Shropshire to interview on camera ' [R1] ' who had previously published an e-book detailing abuse at Duncroft by 'JS'. Her interview includes details of abuse at BBC Television Centre, involving not just Savile, but [REDACTED]

-We hear that the BBC is preparing to run tribute programmes to Savile over the Christmas period. The general celebration of his life and good works is cited to us as a big reason why Duncroft pupils are willing to speak out.

-We gain further testimonies for use in the form of anonymous quotes. In all, three relate to BBC Television Centre. We have five victims claiming they were abused by Savile.

Our other testimonies offer broad corroboration.

-I contact [R3] , another ex Duncroft pupil, who is also willing to go on the record to describe what she saw and heard at the school.

18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER:

Hannah Livingston finds archive footage of 'Clunk Click' showing former pupils in the studio with, variously, Savile, [REDACTED]

25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011:

We have traced the 2007 police investigation to Staines Police station in Surrey: they now confirm off the record that they did investigate Savile.

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-Peter Rippon replies positively to Meirion in an email: "Excellent – we can then pull together the tx plan."

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012 – Liz MacKean

Statement for George Entwistle, ahead of CMS Committee appearance; not a full and final account of events.

28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011:

We are given a date for transmission: 7<sup>th</sup> December.

-I draft a script which I send to Meirion, who adds details including the fact we will be interviewing a second woman on the record. This version is sent to Peter Rippon the following day.

29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011:

The BBC's Impact Team get in touch, anticipating "huge interest" in our story with a detailed list of versions I will need to turn around for "all domestic outlets".

30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011:

Peter Rippon has changed his mind about the story, emailing Meirion that we are relying on the women and 'second hand briefing' (from Surrey police). He asks that we get the CPS to confirm what some of the women claim to have been told – that the investigation against Savile was dropped because of his 'age and infirmity'.

-There are now many conversations between Meirion and myself and Peter during which we try to make sure our story is run.

-I use the following arguments:

- we believe the testimony;
- we have information from witnesses not contacted by Surrey police, raising questions about their investigation;
- the women were effectively in care at Duncroft, raising questions for the Home Office;
- there were also questions for the BBC, given the allegations about TV Centre;
- if we had found and spoken to the women, there was a high chance other journalists would do, and they would discover that Newsnight had got their first but not run the story;
- this would leave us open to accusations of a cover up, especially in light of the planned Christmas tribute programmes.

-I can see the arguments are not working and I write two short emails to a friend.

- I quote Peter: "If my bosses aren't happy, I can't go to the wall on this one."
- (around two hours later) "Liz, internally this is a very long political chain."

~~Also on this day, I write what is tagged 'ROUGHSAVILES' – this would have been the script we would take into the edit.~~

22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2012 – Liz MacKean

Statement for George Entwistle, ahead of CMS Committee appearance; not a full and final account of events.

What we had:

- two on the record interviews detailing allegations of abuse
- archive footage showing Duncroft pupils in the studio with Savile, [REDACTED]
- reconstruction footage filmed around the old school in Surrey with a hired convertible Rolls Royce
- a detailed script for the edit
- confirmation from Surrey police that they'd investigated Savile in 2007

What we had to do:

- film an interview with Mark Williams Thomas, the former child protection officer, into the credibility of our witnesses' accounts and the culture of the BBC during the 1970's
- record my pieces to camera outside the former Duncroft school
- get right of replies from the Home Office and the BBC

6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2011:

I give a brief overview to the same friend as before in an email, briefly recounting a conversation with Peter Rippon the previous day. He says that the events had taken place forty years ago, the women weren't the "youngest victims" and "it wasn't the worst kind of abuse."

-Peter had also said he wished he'd never let Meirion talk him into running the story. He appeared deaf to all entreaties as outlined above on Page 2.

7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2011:

Helen Deller of the Press Office gets in touch with a first stab and the Q and A that she anticipates will be needed when the Savile abuse allegations are broadcast.

-Peter's reply that "we are putting the cart way before the horse" tells me that he is not going to run our story.

12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2011:

I write a final email to [R2], one of the ex Duncroft pupils, asking again for the email she claims she has from Surrey police that refers to Savile's age as being behind the decision not to press charges. I know the story has been killed off, and this is a last ditch attempt to revive it. I never saw her letter, later reported by the Mail to be a hoax.

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22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2012 – Liz MacKean

Statement for George Entwistle, ahead of CMS Committee appearance; not a full and final account of events.

2012:

Every time reports circulate in the newspapers that Newsnight's investigation was 'spiked', misleading statements are put out by the BBC.

When the Sunday Mirror reported on this in January, I complained to Peter that the BBC's account was not an accurate reflection of our investigation.

I did the same after the Oldie reported the same story in February.

Since the story generated negative headlines, ahead of ITV's documentary, there have been repeated further misleading statements from various senior BBC figures, including: George Entwistle, David Jordan and Peter Rippon. My view, in an email sent on 8<sup>th</sup> October to George, is that these have collectively added to accusations of a cover-up.

19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2012

In conversation with Peter Horrocks, I urge that the BBC stops relying on Peter Rippon's blog and that the credibility of our witnesses should not be questioned in briefing to newspapers.

**LIZ MACKEAN (2):  
WRITTEN STATEMENT  
02 NOVEMBER 2012**

Statement of Liz MacKean to the Pollard Review

All emails referenced were provided to the Review as requested.

**2011 – The Newsnight Investigation**

1. **29 October 2011** – the day Jimmy Savile died – was the starting point for the investigation into allegations that he had molested vulnerable teenage girls at Duncroft school in Surrey. My colleague Meirion Jones had a family connection to the school, which was run by the Home Office before it was handed over to the local authority. He had long harboured suspicions about the visits there during the 70's by Savile and his unfettered access to girls.
2. **31 October**: Meirion copied me into an email with Peter Rippon outlining the allegations<sup>1</sup>. He included a section from an online book by [R1], an ex Duncroft pupil. She refers to JS and describes abuse by him including at BBC Television Centre. [R1]'s online book did not mention a failure by the CPS or police to investigate or press charges, because she had never contacted the police. From the outset the primary focus of our investigation was into the allegations against Savile, and not into the police investigation.
3. I started work with a BBC trainee, Hannah Livingston, now a producer for Channel 4 on Dispatches. Her role was to help find and begin contacting former Duncroft pupils. She and I worked closely together. Where she had initial contact with some of the women, I followed up conversations with key witnesses and victims. During this time my contact with Peter Rippon was minimal. If there were problems or the story wasn't standing up, I would have spoken to him about that. As it was, I made positive comments on our progress when I saw him (see extract of email below at 7). This was typical of how we worked on the programme; Peter tended to be a hands-off editor and trusted us to get on with our jobs.
4. The website Friends Reunited was our starting point. Savile's death had prompted chatter among the women and it was clear some of them did not have happy memories. As we started to make contact, there was a striking mismatch between their experiences and recollections and the general public atmosphere of admiration and celebration for Savile.
5. Most of the people we spoke to insisted on anonymity, and they shared common reasons for talking to us:

- a. to set the record straight at last; and

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<sup>1</sup> Email - 31 October 2011 12:33 – From: Meirion Jones. To: Peter Rippon; Liz MacKean. Subject: Jimmy Saville [sic] – paedophile.

b. that they were less afraid because he was dead, and wouldn't be able to sue them.

6. 2 November 2011: I emailed Peter Rippon with suggestions of future stories to work on<sup>2</sup>. He replied on 3 November:

'Lets do the JS story with Mei first'.<sup>3</sup>

7. On the same day I told him:

'On JS - it sounds really strong! I'll aim to talk to some of the other women affected next week, to gather testimonies'.<sup>4</sup>

8. Over the next ten days, Hannah and I continued contacting Duncroft pupils. Between us we attempted to contact 60. I left messages on Friends Reunited for 45 pupils who lived there during the relevant time period.

9. We built up a pattern of abusive behaviour, where Savile made promises and offered inducements including trips to BBC Television Centre to watch his shows being recorded, in return for sexual activity. These range from oral sex, known to some pupils as 'Jimmy Specials', to violent groping. He was said to enjoy sticking his tongue down people's throats.

10. A number of pupils told us they had been contacted a few years earlier by police investigating a claim against Savile. They'd later been informed by letter that the inquiry wouldn't continue because of Savile's age. Finding out which force had investigated and what had happened became an important secondary focus of our investigation.

11. By 14 November, when we went to interview [R1] on camera, we had the following:

- a. five accounts of abuse by Jimmy Savile;
- b. three accounts of abuse at BBC Television Centre;
- c. one account of abuse at Stoke Mandeville Hospital;
- d. a further four accounts that offer broad corroboration of what we had been told; and
- e. one of these, [R3], agreed to go on the record too. She told me how Savile abused his position at the school.

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<sup>2</sup> Email - 2 November 2011 16:24 - From: Liz MacKean. To: Peter Rippon. Subject: stories.

<sup>3</sup> Email - 3 November 2011 3:01:13PM - From: Peter Rippon. To: Liz MacKean. Cc: Liz Gibbons. Subject: RE: stories.

<sup>4</sup> Email - 3 November 2011 17:13 - From: Liz MacKean. To: Peter Rippon. Subject: Fwd: stories.



12. When I interviewed [R1], Meirion and Hannah were there too, as was an experienced cameraman, Simon Monk. [R1]'s interview included details about abuse at Television Centre involving [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. She also told us that she had no contact with police and was not part of their 2007 investigation.<sup>5</sup>

13. We left [R1] in general agreement that her interview was very strong, and she herself was very credible. As we returned to London, we heard that the BBC was planning to run tribute programmes to Savile in the Christmas schedule. We assumed they would have to be canned in light of our investigation.

14. **18 November:** Hannah found archive footage of the 'Clunk Click' programme. It showed former Duncroft pupils, including [R1], with Savile, [REDACTED]

15. When Staines Police Station in Surrey confirmed, initially off the record, that they investigated Savile in 2007, we believed we had enough to run the story. Peter Rippon agreed, emailing Meirion on 25 November:

'Excellent – we can then pull together the tx plan'.<sup>6</sup>

16. On 27 November, Meirion Jones notified Newsnight's lawyer, Roger Law, of the planned line of the programme.<sup>7</sup> I drafted a rough script which I sent to Meirion.<sup>8</sup> He added details including the fact that we would be interviewing a second woman, [R3], on camera. This script, ROUGHSAVILE2, was sent to Peter Rippon, Deputy Editor Liz Gibbons, Roger Law and the Impact Team.

17. In an email on 29 November the Impact Team anticipated 'huge interest' 'across all domestic outlets' and created a long list of versions of the story that I would need to turn around for different radio and television programmes.<sup>9</sup>

18. On the same day, a budget for the film, called 'Jimmy', was approved and sent round to key staff including the deputy editor, Liz Gibbons.<sup>10</sup> This included a payment for former detective Mark Williams Thomas, a child protection expert. The budget records that he

<sup>5</sup> Email – 28 November 2011 14:53 – From: Meirion Jones. To: Liz MacKean; Hannah Livingston; Meirion Jones. Subject: [R1] sync pull.

<sup>6</sup> Email – 25 November 2011 2:56 PM – From: Peter Rippon. To: Meirion Jones. Cc: Liz Gibbons. Subject: Re: CONFIDENTIAL.

<sup>7</sup> Email – 27 November 2011 5:18PM – From: Meirion Jones. To: Roger Law. Cc: Liz MacKean. Subject: Sir Jimmy Savile – don't bother looking at this till Monday morning.

<sup>8</sup> Email – 28 November 2011 17:57 – From: Liz MacKean. To: Meirion Jones. Subject: JS –script.doc.

<sup>9</sup> Email – 29 November 2012 12:56AM – From: Jo Mathys. To: Peter Rippon. Cc: Liz Gibbons; Meirion Jones; Helen Weaver. Subject: Jimmy Saville [sic] – impact.

<sup>10</sup> Email – 29 November 2011 17:03 – From: Carly Wallis. To: Liz Gibbons; Emily Samson; Meirion Jones. Cc: Newsnight Assignments Desk. Subject: BUDGET: JIMMY.

was to review all of our evidence. The transmission date was put at 7th December.<sup>11</sup>  
Editing was booked.

19. 30 November: Everything looked to be on course which was why the email from Peter Rippon to Meirion on this date came as a shock. Peter wrote at 9:37 AM:

‘Having pondered this overnight I think the key is whether we can establish the CPS did drop the case for the reasons the women say. That makes it a much better story. Our sources so far are just the women and a second hand briefing. Have we exhausted all chance of getting the letter?’<sup>12</sup>

20. He was clearly having second thoughts about the story, saying we were relying on ‘just the women and a second hand briefing’ (from Surrey police).

21. Peter now introduced new editorial conditions for the story, asking that we get the CPS to confirm what some of the women claim they’d been told: that no charges were brought against Savile because of his ‘age and infirmity’. Given what we had, this seemed to us an irrelevant detail, not least because we had new evidence not put to the CPS. Peter did not ask to see our evidence (beyond what we put in the ROUHGSVILE2 script of 29 November) or to view the interview with [R1]. This led me to question whether the decision to pull our story was taken for journalistic reasons. How could it have been, unless he’d gone through all our material and decided we didn’t have enough evidence?

22. That same morning I emailed a friend who has worked on the programme, quoting Peter from a conversation Meirion and I had with him in his office:

‘If my bosses aren’t happy, I can’t go to the wall on this one.’<sup>13</sup>

23. During that conversation, Peter also threw his hands up in surrender, as if it was not his decision to make. At no point did Peter ask to see [R1]’s interview or go through the material we’d gathered.

24. I began to form the impression that Peter was feeling under pressure from his managers. Given his lack of attention to our evidence, I felt his cooling off had nothing to do with the strength of our story. About two hours later, I had another conversation with him in his office. I remember asking if he’d spoken to the Head of News, Helen Boaden about the story and he said he had. I contacted my friend again, this time quoting Peter as saying:

<sup>11</sup> Excel Spreadsheet – BBC NEWSNIGHT FILM BUDGET for ‘Jimmy’.

<sup>12</sup> Email – 30 November 2011 09:37 – From Peter Rippon. To: Meirion Jones. Subject: Saville [sic].

<sup>13</sup> Email – 30 November 2011 10:30AM – From: Liz MacKean. To: Jackie Long. Subject: RE:.

'Liz, internally, this is a very long political chain.'<sup>14</sup>

25. Later on that day (30 November), I wrote what is tagged 'ROUGHSAVILLES': this is the script that I planned to take into the edit.

26. Over the next week (30 November- 5 December 2011) there were many conversations between Meirion and myself and Peter Rippon, some together and some separate, when we tried to persuade him to keep our story on track.

27. These are the arguments we used:

- a. the collective strength of our victims' and witnesses' accounts, which we believed;
- b. we had information from women, notably [R1], who had never been contacted by Surrey police, raising questions about the quality of their investigation;
- c. the women were effectively in care at Duncroft School, raising questions for the Home Office;
- d. there were also serious questions for the BBC, given the allegations about TV Centre;
- e. if we had found and spoken to the women, it was only a matter of time before other journalists did the same, and they would discover that Newsnight had got there first but not run the story; and
- f. this would leave the BBC open to accusations of a cover-up especially in light of the planned tribute programmes.

28. Peter was unresponsive, as though his mind was already made up. By now, a lot of our colleagues in the wider newsroom were aware of the story, because of the involvement of the Impact Team. I thought this might make it harder for Peter not to run the story and for the tribute programmes to go ahead.

29. As the scheduled transmission date of December 7 approached, Meirion and I continued to believe the story was strong enough to run without further delay, and continued to work on it in the hope that we might still be able to persuade Peter of this. We had:

- a. two on the record interviews detailing allegations of abuse by Jimmy Savile;
- b. eight anonymous statements detailing abuse or corroborating it;

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<sup>14</sup> Email - 30 November 2011 12:17PM - From: Liz MacKean. To: Jackie Long. Subject: RE:.

- c. archive footage showing Duncroft pupils in the studio with Savile, [REDACTED]
- d. reconstruction footage filmed around the old school with a hired convertible Rolls Royce (filmed at the end of this week, ahead of the planned edit);
- e. a script; and
- f. confirmation from Surrey Police that they'd investigated Savile in 2007 following a complaint.

30. What we still had to do:

- a. film an interview with Mark Williams Thomas, the former child protection officer, into the credibility of our witnesses' accounts and the culture of the BBC during the 1970's;
- b. record my pieces to camera outside the former Duncroft School; and
- c. obtain right of replies from the Home Office and the BBC, or offer them the chance of a live interview.

31. **5 December:** This was to be the first edit day. In the morning, Peter and I spoke in the production office. He told me he wished he'd never let Meirion talk him into running the story. I rehearsed the arguments, stressing that we had more than the police had. It made no difference and there seemed to be a gulf between us in the way we saw the story. Peter told me that the things had happened 40 years ago, adding that 'they weren't the youngest victims' and 'it wasn't the worst kind of abuse'. I was shocked to hear this, particularly given that I had spoken to the women and they had trusted me to tell their stories. I felt that I owed them and they deserved to be heard. I told Peter his attitude explained why abuse victims are so reluctant to come forward. I also reminded him the girls had been in care. I hoped this would register because he had been a big supporter of a series I'd done involving teenagers leaving the care system. At some point during the day I asked Peter if he had contacted the controller of BBC 1 (about the possible conflict between our programme and the Savile tributes) and he said he hadn't.

32. **6 December:** The editing was pulled. I emailed the same friend, recounting the conversation of the previous day:

'Having commissioned the story, PR keeps saying he's lukewarm about it and is trying to kill it by making impossible editorial demands. When we rebut his points, he resorts to saying: well, it was forty years ago...the girls were

teenagers, not too young.....they weren't the worst kind of sexual offences etc.'<sup>15</sup>

The phrase that has stayed with me is about the age of the victims and the type of abuse.

33. 7 December: Helen Deller from the press office got in touch, anticipating a lot of press interest in the story that Jimmy Savile was a child abuser.<sup>16</sup> She included a Q and A in which she was expecting to have to justify the story on the grounds of public interest. It was Peter's reply to that email that finally brought it home to me, that it was very unlikely the story is ever going to run:

'We are putting the cart way before the horse here. We have been looking into the story but it is far from clear it will ever be strong enough for us even to run it.'<sup>17</sup>

34. On 12 December, as a last resort, I wrote a final email to [R2], one of the Duncroft girls, and asked again to see the letter she claimed she had from Surrey Police that refers to Savile's age as being behind the decision not to prosecute.<sup>18</sup> I knew the story had been killed off, and this was a last ditch attempt to revive it. I never saw her letter and it was later reported by the Mail on Sunday to be a hoax.

35. In a private email on the same day, I shared my view that the story had been 'supressed' and 'instead of revealing all', the BBC was instead preparing a 'double celebration' of the Savile:

'They've just suppressed the story Mei and I were doing about Jimmy Saville [sic] (we'd spoken to his former victims). Instead of revealing all, the BBC will have a double celebration of his life and career on BBC 1 and BBC 2... can you believe it! PR said to me and Mei: I'm not going to the wall on this one... Liz G[ibbons] said: I'm having nothing to do with this story, it's up to [sic] Peter...'<sup>19</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Email - 6 December 2011 14:26 - From: Liz MacKean. To: Jackie Long. Subject: Ma'am.

<sup>16</sup> Email - 7 December 2011 17:02 - From: Helen Deller. To: Peter Rippon; Meirion Jones. Cc: Liz MacKean; Liz Gibbons; Karen Rosine. Subject: Jimmy Savile story - Q&A etc.

<sup>17</sup> Email - 7 December 2011 17:25 - From: Peter Rippon. To: Helen Deller; Meirion Jones. Cc: Liz MacKean; Liz Gibbons; [R1]e Rosine; Stephen Mitchell.

<sup>18</sup> Email - 12 December 2011 11:21 - From Liz MacKean. To: [R2]. Subject: newsnight story.

<sup>19</sup> Email - 12 December 2011 10:48AM - From Liz MacKean. To: Stuart Denman. Subject: RE:.

**2012 – Events relating to the 'shelved' Newsnight Investigation**

36. In the New Year, press reports began circulating that Newsnight had shelved an investigation into abuse allegations against Jimmy Savile. In every case, statements from the BBC were misleading, suggesting the story we were pursuing had been an angle about the CPS which 'couldn't be substantiated'.

37. I went to see Peter Rippon after a story appeared in the Sunday Mirror on 8 January 2012 to complain that the BBC was misrepresenting the nature of our story. I did the same again in February when the Oldie magazine reported the same comments. On both occasions I found Peter to be disengaged and not inclined to discuss further. Meirion and I did discuss trying to give the story another go, but we decided it was pointless - that there was no appetite in the BBC to run it. We also felt the fact the tribute programmes had been broadcast would make it very difficult for the BBC to run such allegations. At around this time, Meirion heard from Mark Williams Thomas that he'd approached ITV and they were interested in the story.

38. On Sunday 30 September 2012, it was widely reported that ITV were about to broadcast an Exposure documentary into Jimmy Savile and that Newsnight had had the story but not run it. The main BBC news outlets were also reporting the allegations, but they were not given access to the material we had on Newsnight. Meirion told me that this was decided by Peter Rippon.

39. The following morning, 1 October 2012, with Newsnight still part of the story, I went into work and urged that day's editor, Neil Breakwell, to use our material. It would allow us to get ahead of ITV. We would of course have to explain why we hadn't run the allegations last year, but it seemed the best option. Neil had been in touch with Peter Rippon and suggested it. He emailed back the view that 'it would be bizarre to look as if we're jumping on ITV's wagon.'<sup>20</sup>

40. On the evening of Tuesday 2 October, Peter published his blog. He did not check any of it with me or Meirion. I became aware of it the following morning when I saw an email he had sent to Newsnight staff on the previous evening, one minute before the blog was published on the Internet. The most obvious inaccuracy was that:

'We are confident that all the women we spoke to had contacted the police independently already'.<sup>21</sup>

This was false. I emailed Peter straightaway, on Wednesday 3 October and, given that I

<sup>20</sup> Email – 1 October 2012 09:16 – From: Peter Rippon. To: Neil Breakwell. Cc: Meirion Jones; Liz Gibbons. Subject: Re: Jimmy Saville [sic].

<sup>21</sup> Blog – 'Newsnight and Jimmy Savile', George Rippon, 17:05 Tuesday, 2 October 2012 on BBC News 'Editors' page.

regarded the blog to be wrong in virtually all respects, I copied in Steve Mitchell, warning that it would soon be obvious the blog was inaccurate.<sup>22</sup> Steve replied that we should get together and agree on it.<sup>23</sup> Meirion and I met Peter in his office and it was agreed that we didn't have any material that should have gone to the police. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] we had been given a possible name by [R1], but we had been unable to contact her. I said, once again, that the presentation of our story in the blog was inaccurate. Peter said he knew we didn't agree with him.

41. The inaccuracies in the blog were as follows:

a. 'the key witness told us the police had investigated the claims'

No, she did not - [R1] made it clear she had never been to the police and this is something I had repeatedly told Peter last year.

b. 'If we could establish some sort of institutional failure we would have a much stronger story.'

Our story had suggested multiple institutional failures: at the BBC, the Home Office, Stoke Mandeville and Surrey Police.

c. The characterisation of the story as 'celebrity expose...what was the public interest served by reporting it given he is dead?'

I find this a disturbing way to look at allegations that a man lauded by the BBC last Christmas might in fact have abused vulnerable children. Ditto: 'the incidents were 40 years ago'. To the women we'd spoken to, the events seemed very fresh.

d. '...if we could prove the police or the CPS had let the women down in some way we should go ahead.'

We had shown last year that we had more evidence than the police had and therefore more information than the CPS held when it decided not to prosecute, which means they had 'let the women down', and Peter had still not run the story. Peter implied the CPS' statement to us last December was some kind of authoritative document. But, that statement had referred to the investigation by 'Kent Police', when it had actually been an investigation by Surrey Police.

42. The inaccuracies listed above have never been corrected by the BBC.

<sup>22</sup> Email - 3 October 2012 09:53 - From: Liz MacKean. To: Peter Rippon; Stephen Mitchell. Cc: Meirion Jones. Subject: Savile blog.

<sup>23</sup> Email - 03 October 2012 10:43 - From: Stephen Mitchell. To: Peter Rippon; Liz MacKean. Subject: Re: Savile blog.

43. However, twenty days later, three further inaccuracies in the blog were corrected in a public statement by the BBC:

- a. that we had no evidence any staff member at Duncroft had been aware of what was happening;
- b. that we had no evidence against the BBC; and
- c. that everyone we'd been in contact with had previously spoken to police.

44. Later the same morning, 3 October, Meirion and I told Peter that [R1], our main witness, had finally agreed to be interviewed by ITV. We'd been told she'd appear on their lunchtime bulletins. She criticised Newsnight in strong terms for not running her interview. Afterwards Peter came up to me and Meirion and said he felt much better, 'having seen her', because she hadn't seemed 'credible'. I was too surprised to comment.

45. Still on 3 October and concerned the blog was misleading the public and colleagues, I went to see Steve Mitchell. He attempted to justify the blog, talking about how 'in Peter's mind' the story had come to be about the CPS. He conceded that if he and Peter had shown 'more imagination' they might have grasped that the story was an important one. Twice he told me orally, in relation to press charges of a cover-up ahead of the tribute programmes:

'Liz, it's important you are aware that corporately the BBC is all right on this.'

46. I told Steve how uncomfortable I felt at what seemed like an attempt to 'rewrite history'. Steve said that no one felt comfortable and 'Peter's not having a comfortable time as editor right now.'

47. The conversation turned to me leaving the BBC (in the wake of the decision not to run the Savile story, I had after much thought decided to take voluntary redundancy scheduled to start March 2013). Steve noted that, as a freelance, I 'would want to maintain good relations with the BBC.' I had to agree with this, and his bringing this up in this context made me wonder whether I might be ostracized during my planned freelance career by the BBC, which I had expected to be a crucial source of work, if I continued to point out the inaccuracies in the BBC's public line on our investigation.

48. On Friday 5 October, George Entwistle sent an email to all staff on the growing volume of allegations against Jimmy Savile.<sup>24</sup> He referred to the Newsnight story 'into the Surrey police investigation' of Jimmy Savile. I realised that concerns expressed to Steve clearly

<sup>24</sup> Email – 5 October 2012 17:40 – From: George Entwistle. To: BBC Staff. Subject: A message from George.



hadn't impacted on senior management. On Monday morning, 8 October, I emailed George directly to challenge his account of our story, to criticise the blog and to warn that the repeated and misleading statements by senior BBC managers, including David Jordan and the Trust Chairman Chris Patten, were fuelling the allegations of a corporate cover up.<sup>25</sup>

49. George responded briefly that he would send Ken MacQuarrie from BBC Scotland to talk to me.<sup>26</sup>

50. I met Ken on Tuesday 9 October. We spoke for 55 minutes about my email to George. I told him about events last year and the ways in which senior management was misleading the public about the nature of Newsnight's story. He told me he'd report back to George within 24 hours. Whatever happened to his report, the misleading statements continued.

51. On Friday 12 October when George was announcing two independent reviews in a press conference, he said that Newsnight had spoken to one woman on camera (which was wrong) and he admitted that he didn't know what we had in our investigation. He also implied that we hadn't yet spoken to Ken MacQuarrie.

52. Throughout this period, I was being cold shouldered by many of my colleagues on Newsnight, who appeared to hold Meirion and me responsible for the continuing negative publicity.

53. Overall, the period since the ITV Exposure broadcast has been an extremely stressful and difficult time during which I have felt badly let down by my employer. The BBC chose to ignore reasonable attempts to correct public statements, and showed a repeated disregard for their duty to tell the public the truth, as well as to treat staff fairly. Both Meirion Jones and I have been subject to negative briefing by the BBC as they tried to cling to the blog's version of events. The negative comments include:

- a. that there had been a breakdown of communication between ourselves and Peter Rippon;
- b. we withheld details of the story from him;
- c. we ran a chaotic investigation; and
- d. we relied on someone on work experience for a major portion of the investigation.

<sup>25</sup> Email – 8 October 2012 09:38 – From: Liz MacKean. To: George Entwistle and PA. Subject: Newsnight and Savile.

<sup>26</sup> Email – 8 October 2012 13:20 – From: George Entwistle and PA. To: Liz MacKean. Subject: Newsnight and Savile.

54. On Wednesday 10 October, it was clear that there was disquiet on the programme over the fact that this major story had not been reported in any shape or form since the scandal broke. I was asked if I'd be willing to report on it the following day. I said yes. I saw this as an opportunity to say on the record that our original investigation had been into allegations of sexual abuse by Jimmy Savile. We included a clip from [R3] (who had given me her permission to use it). After this the attitude of some of my colleagues changed for the better. They said they hadn't realised, from what Peter had told them, how much material we had or how strong it was.

55. My report was followed up by a studio discussion in which Kevin Marsh, the former editor of the Today programme who seemed, [REDACTED] Kevin repeated that our investigation had been into the failings of the Surrey police. [REDACTED]

56. Kevin published his own blog,<sup>27</sup> [REDACTED] in which he said that:

- a. our investigation started out as an enquiry into claims that Surrey police had dropped an investigation into Savile because of his age;
- b. we didn't have a script, we had a 'wishlist';
- c. we had little more to show for our investigation than one interview on camera; and
- d. there were questions about the women's testimony because they'd been communicating on social media.

57. [REDACTED] why I agreed to be interviewed by Panorama on Thursday 18 October. I gave them all my emails relating to the investigation and the blog. It was a huge decision: I was well aware that this would likely have a significant and damaging effect on my relationship with the BBC in the future, but I felt I had no choice and I was determined to tell the truth about what had happened.

58. 19 October: The day after I'd recorded the interview, in a phone call with Peter Horrocks, who was drafted in to handle the crisis, I told him the BBC had to abandon the blog and that ongoing attempts to denigrate the women we'd spoken to (including the suggestion briefed to the Guardian newspaper and repeated by Kevin Marsh that, given they had communicated on social media, they were more likely to be unreliable) had to stop to prevent further damage to the corporation's reputation.

<sup>27</sup> Blog – 'Newsnight, Savile and the DG's real and present danger', Kevin Marsh. Sunday, 14 October 2012 on [www.storycurve.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.storycurve.blogspot.co.uk).

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59. 22 October: On the day of the Panorama screening, the BBC finally issued partial corrections to the blog (set out above at 43), 20 days after it had been posted. That evening, they also accepted that our original story had been into Jimmy Savile and not Surrey police or the CPS.

60. I note that on Sunday 28th October, Chris Patten finally apologised to the women we had spoken to last year.

Liz MacKean  
2 November 2012

**STEPHEN MITCHELL (1):  
WRITTEN STATEMENT**

## Statement of Stephen Mitchell

### INTRODUCTION

Given that some of the events that form the subject of this statement happened over a year ago I have prepared this statement by referring to what emails I have been able to discover, and by seeking to recollect conversations which at the time may have been brief, informal or hurried. I have sought to reflect my state of mind as it was when events happened and have consciously sought to avoid hindsight and the impact of what has happened subsequently.

### BACKGROUND

1. As Head of News Programmes I am responsible for a wide range of national radio and television news and current affairs programmes. In 2011 these programmes amounted to more than 200 hours of original journalistic output in a typical week. I oversaw a budget of £80m and the work of some 1,000 members of staff and freelancers of whom 19 were my direct reports. There has been a restructuring of News since these events and I am now not directly responsible for World Service Daily News Programmes though I do retain responsibility for the long form current affairs programming on World Service, and I have handed over responsibility for the technical staff who work in Radio studios to a new Operations Department.
2. As Deputy Director of BBC News I am involved in dealing with a range of strategic issues affecting the whole of the BBC News. In addition I deputise for the Director Helen Boaden in her absence on holiday and when she is on duty overseas. Helen is my immediate line manager; I have worked with Helen over many years, particularly when she was Controller of Radio 4, and for the past eight years when she has been Director of BBC News, and more recently, Director of the BBC News Group. As her Deputy and Head of her Programmes Department, our relationship is based on trust and informality, our offices are directly adjacent and we discuss matters of shared concern all the time.
3. The breadth of my duties does not diminish my responsibility for the quality of journalism in our news programmes, but it does mean that programme editors deal with decision making on a day-to-day basis without reference to me

unless there is a specific issue or concern, in which case it is their responsibility to flag it. This may be because they want advice or wish to highlight a particular story, for example because it carries legal risks or may have significant public impact. The Newsnight investigation into allegations concerning sexual abuse by Jimmy Savile was such a story. One of my Direct Reports was the Editor of Newsnight, Peter Rippon, with whom I have worked for many years, for the past four years he has been Editor of Newsnight, and prior to that four years he was Editor of the PM programme on Radio 4. Peter is a long time trusted colleague. Before recent events I had had no reason to question his editorial or managerial judgement.

#### THE NEWSNIGHT INVESTIGATION INTO JIMMY SAVILE

4. Jimmy Savile died at the end of October 2011 and was buried on 9 November. The obituaries and funeral coverage in the UK press and broadcast media were universally positive. However it is now clear that well before he died some journalists and others suspected he was a paedophile and Savile had acknowledged as much (although he rejected the accusation) in a television interview. Having said that, at the time Savile died I was unaware of these allegations. I simply regarded him as a somewhat unusual but clearly popular entertainer.
5. Some days after Savile's funeral, the editor of Newsnight, Peter Rippon, mentioned to me that the programme had begun looking into allegations that Savile had abused female pupils at the Duncroft Approved School in Surrey. He said the pupils involved were under 16 and the alleged assaults had taken place in Savile's car.
6. Peter did not appear completely convinced this was a "Newsnight story". However he was content to pursue it. By this I understood him to mean that the exposure of celebrities wasn't the normal business of Newsnight which is more usually involved in issues of public policy. At this stage Peter may have mentioned the fact that any revelations about Savile might have a reputational effect on the BBC given his role as a BBC star talent. I encouraged him to ignore any possible implications for the BBC but I believe I pointed out at this time that given the gravity of the allegations he needed to apply our usual standards of proof and fairness. I believe I also discussed the project briefly with Helen Boaden as it was potentially a significant piece of journalism. This would have been in an informal conversation.

7. On 29 November Peter Rippon emailed me to say the investigation had made progress. The email stated that the victims had complained to the police but the Crown Prosecution Service had elected not to prosecute.
8. From this point on Peter appeared keener on the story, he saw it was potentially a story about the failure of the police or CPS process. In a subsequent conversation he told me that although he had some doubts about the strength of the evidence from the women, ( he was, I think, worried about collusion and about at least one of them [REDACTED] and about the fact that only one victim was prepared to go on camera), he was pursuing their claims that the police or CPS had not prosecuted because of Savile's age.
9. In a conversation, which I think took place in early December he told me that Newsnight had established that the CPS and police had decided not to take action because of a "lack of evidence". Peter continued to be concerned about the strength of the women's evidence. He told me that not all of the women who had come forward were alleging they were victims and only one had agreed to be recorded. Peter specifically mentioned that she did not believe the BBC knew about what had been going on. I took this to refer to Savile's behaviour towards the girls at Duncroft as at that point I was aware of no other allegations.
10. In the circumstances, Peter told me, he had decided to drop the investigation, I put no pressure on him to do so. It was his decision which I accepted at face value. I was not aware that Newsnight had any more information than was available to the police and quite possibly rather less. I think Peter said all the women had spoken to the police. Therefore it did not seem unreasonable for the programme to have come to a similar conclusion.
11. Savile was of course now dead and could no longer sue for defamation, but there was no doubt in my mind that for Newsnight to have accused him of such serious offences without adequate evidence would have been a grave

mistake, particularly given Savile's reputation and the potential distress to his family after his recent death. It was Peter's job to consider the evidence and make a decision. He made the decision and I did not quarrel with it – and if, at the time, others did, then they did not complain to me.

12. At the time the project was dropped I was not aware how far the film had progressed. From what Peter told me I knew that some recording had been done but it was never suggested that we had reached a rough cut. In my mind Newsnight was dropping an investigation not a finished film.

13. On 15 December I went on holiday to Australia. Before doing so I briefed Helen Boden on a range of issues including the Newsnight investigation. I explained that Peter Rippon had dropped the investigation because the allegation that the CPS did not prosecute because of Savile's age had not stood up and because he was not confident of the evidence from the women who had been at Duncroft.

14. I now know that during December a freelance journalist, Miles Goslett, became aware of both the allegations about Savile made by the women who had been pupils at Duncroft and Newsnight's decision to discontinue its investigation.

15. After I went on leave Goslett contacted the BBC to make inquiries. His inquiries were dealt with in my absence and the press office confirmed that an investigation had been undertaken but had been discontinued.

16. According to an account by Goslett in The Spectator recently he attempted to sell the story to six national news outlets but was turned down by all of them. Among the reasons given, according to Goslett, were that the story was in 'bad taste' given Savile's recent death, or that it was 'best avoided' for the time being. Some newspapers said that if the police had not prosecuted Savile in his lifetime it was no longer worth pursuing him. From this it can be seen that Peter Rippon was far from alone in adopting a cautious approach to the allegations.



17. The allegations said to have been put to Newsnight finally appeared in the February 2012 edition of The Oldie magazine and were subsequently taken up elsewhere in the press including the allegation that abuse may have happened inside BBC buildings and the claim that the BBC had not proceeded with the Newsnight report in order to protect its reputation.

#### THE BLOG

18. Throughout my discussions with Peter Rippon on the Savile story he had been clear that he dropped the investigation because a) the police and/or CPS had confirmed that their own investigation did not proceed for lack of evidence and b) he had doubts about the credibility of the witnesses. I did not take it that he thought that they were lying, but that he was concerned that their word and motives in coming forward might not stand up under challenge.

19. During the latter part of September 2012, in the run up to publication of the ITV documentary, the press were again reporting that Savile had been guilty of sex crimes and again suggested that Newsnight had dropped its investigation because pressure had been put on Peter Rippon to do so by his managers. This was untrue and a serious slur on both Peter and the managers above him in BBC News. It was also suggested that the motive in dropping the investigation was the protection of television programmes about Savile which were due to be transmitted that Christmas. Again the allegation was untrue.

20. By the beginning of October the press speculation was intense. On 1 October I asked Peter Rippon to draft a briefing note for me and the Director of News laying out his decision making.

21. I received Peter's note on 2 October. Given the public criticism he also decided to write a blog which would be published on the BBC Editors blog site in order to make it clear that he entirely rejected the allegation that pressure had been put on him to drop the Savile investigation.

22. The Editors' Blog is a site where editors from across BBC News explain stories and share their dilemmas and other issues with the public. Their blogs are not always overseen or checked by management, and I do not believe that the detailed supervision of a blog lies within my responsibilities. Editors do liaise with the Press Office on publishing their blogs.
23. To the best of my recollection I saw Peter Rippon's blog when or perhaps shortly before it was published. It seemed to me to deal effectively with the inaccurate allegations in the press about the reasons for dropping the investigation.
24. On 3 October I was on leave and out of London. On my BlackBerry I became aware of a dispute between Peter Rippon and the team who had been responsible for the original investigation over whether all the witnesses had been seen by the police.
25. That afternoon I received an email from Peter Rippon with a revised and what appeared to be an agreed line. I could see that the producer, Meirion Jones, the reporter, Liz MacKean and the press office, Helen Deller, were copied in and Peter undertook to brief the Press Office on the correct line to take.
26. So far as I was concerned the Blog had addressed the main issue, that is the reasons why Peter dropped the investigation and any dispute over other details in the blog was being addressed with Press Office involvement. That continued to be my view for the rest of the week. I did not hear any more of the subject and on Friday 5 October I asked that my weekly email message to staff include a link to the Blog. I remained concerned, however, about what I now realised was a fractured relationship between Peter Rippon and the producer and reporter. At this time and in the following days my main concern was the argument over why Peter Rippon had dropped the investigation.
27. On Monday 8 October I meet Liz MacKean. She talked largely about the continued belief that the BBC, and Peter, were not being honest about why the investigation had been dropped – she said she felt Peter had been

"running scared" I did my best to persuade her that no pressure had been put on Peter to drop the Savile investigation. She remained unhappy about the original decision and said Peter Rippon's narrative did not account for why he had dropped the project. However I do not recollect that she raised her earlier concerns about the blog or complain that it had not been corrected.

28. On Tuesday 9 October the BBC's Director of People, Lucy Adams, informed me that the Director General had asked the Director of BBC Scotland, Ken MacQuarrie, to investigate complaints made by Liz MacKean and/or Meirion Jones to the Director General alleging that the account of events given by Peter Rippon was incorrect.

29. Ken MacQuarrie is a member of the Management Board of the BBC and was interviewing at the behest of the Director General. It appeared to me that the attempts I was making to understand the differences between the members of the Newsnight team had been over taken by a Corporate process involving the DG I contacted Peter Rippon, Liz MacKean and Meirion Jones to make this clear.

30. On 11 October my attention was drawn to an article in The Guardian which questioned the accuracy of the blog. I agreed a response which said that the blog had been written in good faith and following conversations between those involved with the investigation.

31. That continued to be the position through the following week and to the best of my knowledge it remained Peter Rippon's view that he wrote the blog based on what he knew at the time. Although he expressed a willingness to change the blog if it was inaccurate I am not aware that he was asked to do so, either by the PR Office or as a result of the inquiry conducted by Ken MacQuarrie.

32. By that time, I was no longer directly involved in the BBC's reporting or news management of the controversy surrounding Savile and Newsnight having

recused myself from the editorial role on the story on 12 October and having informed my Editors of this.

33. On 20 October the Director of Editorial Standards let me know that he intended to speak to Peter Rippon with a view to clarifying some points in the blog.

34. On 21 October I was told by the Director of News, Helen Boaden that the Director General wanted the blog changed. Following various exchanges involving the Press Office, HR and the Director of Editorial Standards I spoke to the Director General.

35. The Director General told me the blog was inaccurate, needed to be corrected and Peter Rippon was to stand aside, in other words to accept suspension from his duties.

36. That evening the Director General called me again and said it had been decided not to correct the Blog but to publish a corporate statement alongside the blog explaining that it contained inaccuracies. He said he wanted me or the Director of News to put our names to the statement. I said that would not be appropriate as neither of us had been given the evidence of the inaccuracies he said existed, nor had we been asked to discuss them with Peter Rippon. The Director General accepted the point and said he would discuss it with the Director of Communications. I did not hear from him again.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

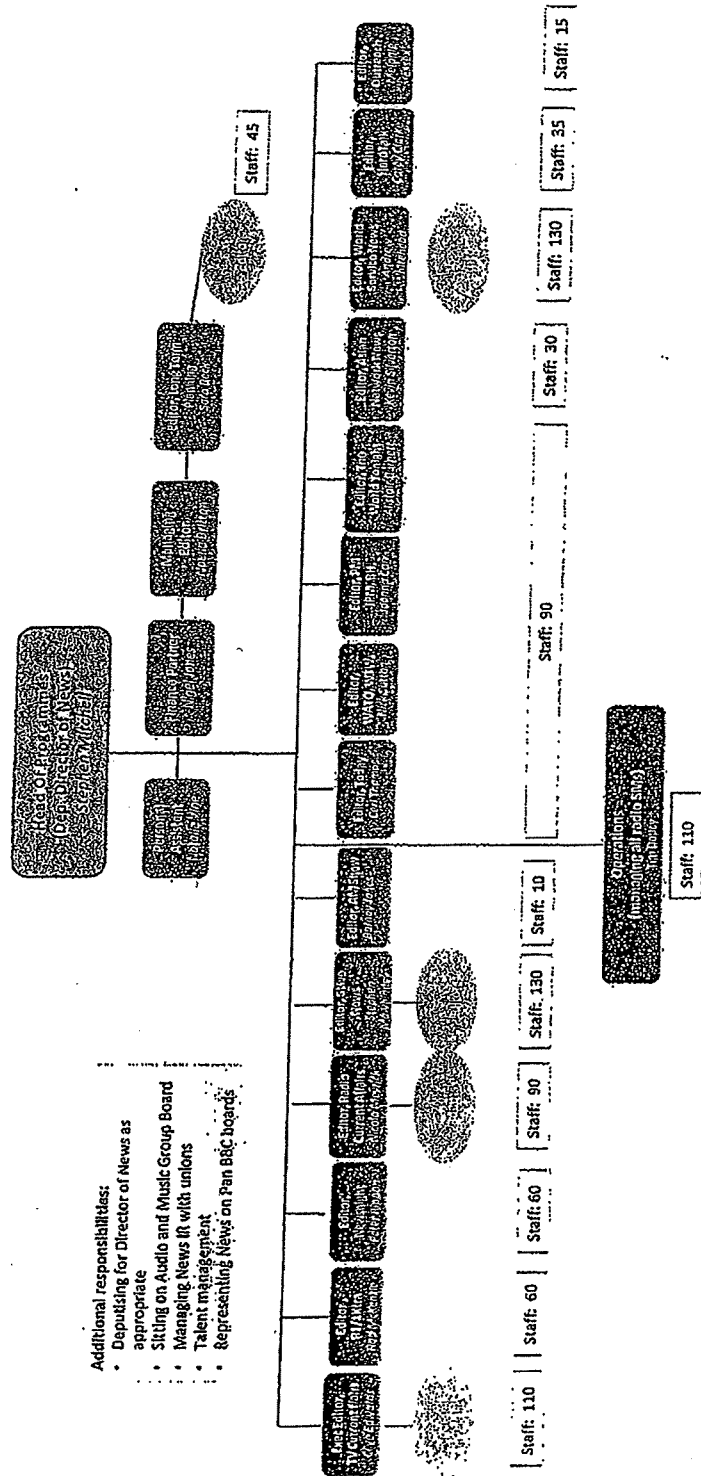
Signed ....

**STEPHEN MITCHELL**

Dated 16 November 2012

**STEPHEN MITCHELL (2):  
BBC NEWS ORGANOGRAM**

# Programmes Dept, BBC News – as at December 2011



**PETER RIPPON:  
WRITTEN STATEMENT**

Peter Rippon Witness Statement.

The Savile Investigation

1. I have been Editor of Newsnight for four years. Part of Newsnight's remit is to hold people in power to account on behalf of the licence fee payer. Carrying out investigations into wrongdoing and discovering things people do not want discovered is part of the programme's moral purpose. It is at the heart of the BBC's contract with its audiences. As Editor I decide which investigations my team pursue and whether to publish. I do this based on more than twenty years' experience of the BBC's core editorial values, guidelines and principles. I am challenged and criticised for things I publish in nearly every programme I make. This is the first case where my judgment has been questioned over something I did not publish.
2. The Savile investigation was a potentially important story, however the wider context is important. It was one of dozens of stories I was responsible for at the time. Many are high profile and legally fraught. For example, in this same period I ran a major world exclusive with a former News of the World investigator revealing the industrial scale surveillance he had done. I ran, with Meirion Jones, a film on Vulture Funds which carried significant legal risk. I was also developing a story into the use of Personal Service Companies for tax reasons which potentially, and eventually did, cause big issues for the BBC. I also manage and am responsible for up to fifty staff, some of whom regularly work in life threatening hostile environments. I was also in this period occupied with delivering a difficult business plan for the programme.
3. For all these reasons I focus hard on stories when they are close to transmission rather than throughout the entire lifecycle. Whilst a story is in development I give my reporters and senior producers significant license to follow the stories they want, in the way they want, and to follow the evidence as they find it.
4. I am responsible for the Editorial content of Newsnight. However, with potentially contentious stories like the Savile investigation, there is a system for ensuring my managers are aware of what is being worked on. There is a Managed Programmes Risk List (MPRL) where a record of all contentious stories in development is kept. I will also routinely consult and discuss with my managers contentious stories we are working on as I did in this case.
5. Meirion pitched the story from an anonymous blog of a woman from Duncroft a few days after Savile's death on 29th October. He had a family connection with Duncroft. His Aunt, Margaret Jones, had been the head there. He argued because Savile was now dead and could not sue we should pursue it. I told him initially that we should not prioritise it because it was not an obvious Newsnight story. Editorially these cases are often very hard to prove and I felt we would still have an obligation to be satisfied our evidence was sufficiently strong. There were issues with the blog testimony that concerned me too. [R1]  
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Duncroft was a school for girls with a history of anti-social behaviour and having been in trouble with the police so I was concerned her reliability as a witness could be attacked if we were to rely on it too heavily. It meant the more corroboration or additional evidence we could unearth the stronger the case to publish would be. [R1]'s blog also said she had "very little



recollection" of the alleged incident when she gave him oral sex because of the lithium dose she was on at the time.

6. Meirion then said that he and Liz McKean had established there was more than one woman and they were alleging that the police had investigated it but had dropped it on the grounds that Savile was too old. I felt this was really significant because, if true, it implied the police thought the claims were credible but still did not deem them worth pursuing. So from the alleged victim's point of view a potential failure of the system to take them seriously. I do not have the precise date he discovered the allegations about the police. From memory it was just a few days later. At this point I was more interested. However, I was still concerned that what we had would have to stand up to the intense scrutiny it would get. Savile's funeral was 9th November and hundreds of people had lined the streets eulogising him. However, on balance because of the seriousness of the allegations and the alleged police failings, I did think it worth trying to explore the story further. As often with controversial stories we investigate, I discussed it with my two Deputy Editors, Liz Gibbons and Shaminder Nahal. Liz was very concerned about it and counselled against doing it so soon after his funeral. Shaminder was on balance in favour of going ahead.
7. Meirion then told me he was planning to interview [R1] on tape. I suggested this was not a good idea as we needed to establish the full strength of the story before doing any interviews that we may not be able to use. He insisted we had to interview her because she was "flaky", and may pull out of doing an interview if we delayed. This chipped away at my confidence in relying on her testimony even more but in order to keep the investigation going I agreed to doing the interview and it was filmed around 14th November.
8. You will note an email of 14th November in which I ask if we have any corroboration of the wider story at this stage.
9. At this point I felt the investigation was sufficiently advanced to brief my line manager, Stephen Mitchell. As Head of News Programmes he is the manager I discuss all contentious stories with. I do not have a record of the precise date of the meeting but it would have been sometime between 14th and 25th November. My recollection is that it was towards the front of this period. 25th November was the date we confirmed the Surrey Police investigation had taken place and I can recall this had not been established when I met with Stephen.
10. The meeting took place face to face in his office. No notes were taken. This is normal practice. I recall telling him we had one alleged victim on tape and we had some other anonymous testimony. At that point Meirion and Liz were telling me it was seven in all, a mix of alleged witnesses and victims. I talked Stephen through what allegations were being made, issues with witness testimony and some of the specific concerns I had about the testimony of [R1] the main witness. I said we were still trying to establish if there had been a police investigation as recently as 2007 and whether the claim that it was not pursued because Savile was too old stood up and how, if we could establish this, it would make our story stronger. Meirion had told me the BBC was planning Xmas programmes about Savile, so I recall telling Stephen about this in this meeting. I got the impression this was the first time he became aware of these plans. Stephen said I need not concern myself with it and it should not have any bearing on our investigation and that we must be guided by editorial

considerations only. I had two meetings with Stephen. I also recall saying that if we were to publish we would need to get a comment from the BBC as some of the incidents were alleged to have been on BBC property. He noted this but did not comment on it. I cannot recall if this was in the first meeting or the second.

11. After this meeting I recall having a conversation with Helen Boaden. I cannot recall the date but from memory it was a few days after my meeting with Stephen. I do not have a record but it was probably in the week beginning 21st November. It was an ad hoc meeting in my office as part of a wider discussion about a number of issues. She will often drop in to the Newsnight office to catch up on issues. I cannot recall the level of detail I set out the story to her. My referral chain on difficult stories is Stephen so that is where I went through it in detail. Savile's funeral was still fresh in the memory and I can recall us discussing the need to make sure anything we put on air would stand up to the intense scrutiny it would get because of huge numbers of our audiences who revered and were still mourning him. We agreed on this point. It has been reported that Helen said in this meeting that the evidence threshold needed to be as high as if he were alive and able to sue. She did not say this and I am confident I would have remembered if she had. This would have been to set the threshold too high in my view. In reality the level of certainty I was wrestling with was being dictated by my assessment of the public mood at the time not by any legal test. The potential scheduling issues for Vision were raised on the same terms as they were with Stephen. I cannot remember if it was by me or her. I can recall her very clearly telling me to be guided by the evidence only and that the implications for other parts of the BBC were irrelevant.
12. The next major development was on 25th November when Meirion confirmed that Surrey Police had investigated the claims. This was the first corroborative evidence we had and made me much more confident that we had a stronger and more current story. That is why within 8 minutes of Meirion emailing me with the confirmation I replied. "Excellent, we can then pull together the tx plan." I sent this as a spontaneous expression of congratulations that we had established a crucial fact as far as I was concerned. It made it much more likely we would broadcast. However, it was not a total commitment to doing so as I had not even seen or reviewed all the evidence we had yet. And it should also be seen in the context of me having been told that a prosecution had not been pursued because Savile was too old.
13. The first "draft script" of the story was sent to me on 29th November. As well as being far from a complete document, with interviews we had not done, facts we had not established, and things we had not filmed, this script crystallised some key concerns I had about our investigation.
14. The extent to which we had to rely on the testimony from [R1] was stark. She was the only victim in vision we had and would be the face of our allegations and I remained concerned about how well her testimony would stand up to the scrutiny it would get.
15. I was also concerned with the way we had collected the additional evidence from other victims and witnesses. The women were to remain anonymous. The interviews had all been done on the telephone. Some of them were done by a junior researcher who was with us on work experience who I had never worked with. I was also concerned that the evidence could potentially be undermined because some of the

women had already discussed the claims amongst themselves via a social networking site. In my personal experience the strongest testimony from victims of alleged child sexual abuse has to be collected individually, face to face, on neutral territory, with trained interviewers used to not asking leading questions. This was a long way from what we had done.

16. For these reasons I emailed Meirion on 30th November saying I wanted to pursue the CPS angle on the story to its end before finally deciding on publishing. One of the alleged victims had been promising to produce a letter from the police admitting they dropped the investigation because Savile was too old. If we could get this, or get the CPS to admit that was the reason, I would have felt more comfortable about publishing. I did not consider this an impossible hurdle. I cannot recall Meirion or Liz suggesting they thought it was at the time either.
17. I was also growing concerned that Meirion was pushing unusually hard to get the story done. The script he had sent me was unusually under-prepared. It included sync from an interview we had not done where he was guessing what the interviewee would say. It included as yet unsubstantiated facts. I cannot recall ever having been sent a script in this form before. He had contacted the BBC's Impact unit to get them interested in the story. This is normally done much closer to transmission. He had insisted on interviewing [R1] before I was satisfied we would have a story to run. Also later that week I noticed he had hired a Rolls Royce to film reconstructions. When I put it to him that we still needed to make sure we had a story to run before spending money on filming such sequences he insisted on going ahead arguing it would cost more to cancel the booking than to go ahead.
18. In the end, on 1st December I said we should stop working on other aspects of the project until we had exhausted the CPS route.
19. On December 2nd I attended a "Women in Film and Television Awards" lunch at the Park Lane Hilton. It was a noisy event and I was sitting next to Helen Boaden. It was a large table and George Entwistle was sitting on the other side. I do recall Helen going round the table and talking briefly to George. I could not hear what she said but she did come back round the table and tell me she had just mentioned the Savile story to George. I cannot recall the precise words she used to me. I cannot recall discussing the Savile story at all with anyone else at this event.
20. Around this time I met again with Stephen Mitchell to keep him informed of the investigation. I cannot recall the precise date although it may have been during our routine meeting in my diary on 8th December at 15.30. I have a regular monthly routine meeting with him to discuss all issues to do with the programme. I told him we were still pursuing the line that the case had been dropped because Savile was too old and that one of the women was promising to produce a letter confirming this. The impression I got from this meeting was his attitude was neutral.
21. The statement and guidance note we got from the CPS arrived on 9th December. As the statement specifically denied the allegation the women were making, it further undermined my confidence in the overall story we had. The letter we had been promised had also failed to materialise. At this point it was clear that we had failed to get the story into a place where I was happy to publish. Meirion told me he accepted my decision. I asked him if he was willing to let [R1] know and he agreed to do so.

22. I was not aware that [R1] was informed by text message until she said so in an ITV interview ahead of the Exposure documentary. Normal practice would be that it would be done either face to face or at least as a conversation.
23. As I hope the above account shows, I did not suddenly change my mind about this story. I had concerns throughout, but I was also trying to get it to air throughout.
24. A number of other allegations have been made against me in recent weeks I should address.
25. I have been accused of not wanting to do the story because the victims were not young enough or the offences not serious enough. This is untrue. I commissioned the story and was trying to get it on air. The allegation is made in a leaked email from Liz McKean to a friend. It is probable that we did have conversations within the team about where the public would place these allegations on the spectrum of sexual offences especially given the Savile had so recently been buried. However, anything that I may have said in that context was not a justification for not publishing or an indication that I did not regard the allegations to be serious.
26. It has also been suggested that my reference to "just the women" in an email is somehow indicative of a wider cultural problem in the BBC that allowed Savile to do what he did. We were looking at two strands of evidence, the testimony itself and the position taken by the police and CPS. I was simply stressing that the story would be weaker if the police/CPS element of the story could not be established. We have a proud record on Newsnight of investigating institutional failings in child abuse cases. Under my editorship Newsnight got the law changed to make sure Serious Case Reviews are more transparent through of our coverage of the Edlington case, unearthed an Irish paedophile priest severely criticised in the Irish Government's Murphy report but allowed to live freely in the UK and was the first programme to report into the Rochdale grooming case. More recently we have uncovered failings in the way local authorities house vulnerable children.
27. It has also been alleged that I said at one point "If the bosses aren't happy (they won't be) I can't go to the wall on this one..." and later, "Internally this a very long political chain." I cannot recall such a conversation. The only criteria my bosses were interested in were editorial. Both Helen Boaden and Stephen Mitchell made this clear to me in the meetings I had with them. I can recall telling my team this at the time. There were disagreements within the team about whether an appropriate editorial threshold had been reached. So although I cannot recall it, I can imagine in this context conveying that my bosses would not be happy and that I was not prepared to go to the wall if, as I judged it, the appropriate editorial threshold had not been reached. The editorial chain with such stories is the reporting team, me, Stephen Mitchell and Helen Boaden. I cannot recall describing it as a long political chain but if I did so, it would have been in the same context. My only concern about potential embarrassment for the BBC or me related to putting on air a story that would not stand up to the scrutiny that it would inevitably get. I regard such concern to be a legitimate part of being a Newsnight Editor.

**The Blog**

28. As with any BBC Editor any blog or written public statement has to be approved by the BBC's Corporate Communications team before publication. This was the case with this blog which was also written after consultation with my line manager Stephen Mitchell.
29. On Tuesday 2nd October 2012 I was asked by Stephen in an email sent at 8.43 to provide a briefing note on my decision making process during the investigation "for our use". He asked me to do this "as best you can recall". Stephen's request was prompted by "the press this morning" which included "various members of staff putting their version out there". This was a reference to Meirion and Liz, who Stephen believed were putting out the line that I had been pressurised into dropping the story. The central point of the briefing note was to set out my denial of this.
30. I arrived at the office around 10.15. This was an exceptionally busy period for the programme as we were moving buildings from Television Centre to Broadcasting House. This was a complicated process that involved moving offices, running two teams in two different locations, producing pilot programmes in an untested new studio and our regular programme in our old studio at the same time. I was responsible for ensuring it all ran smoothly as well as the normal business of the programme. I attended a number of meetings to do with that day's programme and the move then wrote the note as requested to the best of my recollection and by referring back the original blog [R1] had written and the final statement we got from the CPS. I knew less about the story than I would have done had I broadcast, in which case I would have been more familiar with the material having been through it in detail prior to broadcast. As I have said, I am used to defending what I have broadcast, not what I have not.
31. I emailed it to Stephen and Helen at 12.14. In the context of possible "institutional failure" I pointed out that [R1] had said in her blog that she was "perfectly certain the BBC had no idea whatsoever of the goings on". The "goings on" were a reference to incidents at Television Centre, which she had referred to in the blog and which had already been widely reported. Anyone at the BBC reading the note would have known this.
32. Whilst writing this note I agreed, after a discussion with the BBC Press Office, to write the blog, as Stephen suggests in the email "along similar lines". As can be seen, I based the blog on the briefing note, but as Stephen made clear in his email of 12.56 I would have to "steer away from some [some] of the elements of witness reliability but in essence can follow the same lines". I accepted this, although, as I have explained, the potential for our main witness to be criticised as unreliable was a factor in my decision making. I also did not feel it appropriate to highlight the concerns I had about how the testimony that had been collected as it would be seen as criticising my team.
33. After receiving Stephen's email I amended the briefing note to turn it into the blog and circulated it at 14.22. I chose to include the denial about withholding evidence from the police as the question was being raised in the media.
34. The blog was written honestly to the best of my knowledge at the time. As soon as it became clear after the ITV broadcast that it was potentially going to function more as the primary defence for the whole Corporation during a major crisis and some

elements of it were wrong or being misinterpreted I repeatedly asked my managers if they wanted me to change or clarify it and I made repeated efforts to correct inaccuracies that were being repeated in interviews. However, it was not until the weekend of 20th/21st October, nearly three weeks later just before the Panorama programme and two days before the Director General was due to appear before the Select Committee, that I was told firstly that I did need to rewrite it, then that it was going to be rewritten for me and I was being moved from my job as Newsnight Editor because of the inaccuracies the blog contained.

35. The day before I wrote the blog on Monday 1st the BBC Press Office had been getting questions about whether we had withheld any evidence from the police during the investigation. I called the producer, Meirion Jones, to re-familiarise myself with the reasons we believed we had not withheld evidence. My mobile phone records show this call was at 15.56. I put it to him that as far as I could recall all the women we had spoken to had all been part of the police investigation anyway so the police would be aware of all the evidence we had. He replied "basically all the women we spoke to had spoken to the police and anyway we did not have anything evidential about anyone alive that would have been useful to the police."
36. As can be seen from the emails on the 2nd, the blog was signed off by Stephen and viewed and in some cases amended by the head of Corporate Communications, Paul Myrea; the senior figures in the News Communications team, Julian Payne and Paddy Feeney; the Head of News, Helen Boaden; the Special assistant to the Director General, Jessica Cecil and BBC News Press Officer, Helen Dellar. No one took issue with the spirit in which it was written or suggested I should go back to source documents or re-check details because of the significance the blog could be about to take. Everyone was happy and I was congratulated on it by all involved including the DG.
37. On Wednesday 3rd Liz McKean emailed at 09.54 expressing her "concerns about the blog". The only inaccuracy that she pointed out related to the penultimate paragraph that she described as "misleading". She said that [R1] had not been interviewed by the police. I responded six minutes later, cc'ing Meirion, stating that I had written what she was disputing based on a conversation with Meirion on Monday. I then called Liz McKean and Meirion into my office to discuss it. They made clear that some of the women had not been seen by the police. However, we all agreed on the substantive point that we did not think we had anything that would have been of value to the police. Meirion told me the allegation about [REDACTED] Liz referred to had been described to the police by another woman. I proposed in this meeting as a way forward that I would make sure the BBC Press Office no longer said "all the woman" had contacted the police and instead said we did not think we had anything of use to the police. Neither Liz nor Meirion contested this approach. I then had two further phone conversations with Stephen Mitchell at 12.06 and 13.15 to agree it. I emailed Stephen cc'ing Liz McKean and Meirion saying this is what we are going to do and Stephen again agreed it in his response.
38. Why did I not insist on correcting the blog at this point? With hindsight I should have. However, at the time I thought, and Meirion and Liz agreed, that the substantive point that we did not have anything the police would be interested in, stood. Therefore to highlight the error would give it disproportionate significance.

This was still before the Exposure transmission. However, I was concerned that this was the right strategy so I did refer up to Stephen Mitchell.

39. After the ITV documentary aired, Stephen called me to say that two people from my team had emailed the DG to express concern that some of the public statements being made by the BBC over the story were inaccurate and misleading. He told me it was not a complaint but that George had asked Ken McQuarrie, the Head of BBC Scotland to talk to them about it. He could not say if the two were Liz and Meirion. He could not say what inaccuracies they were referring to, or whether Ken McQuarrie would want to speak to me, or whether I would be expected to do anything as a result. At this point it was clear that my blog was going to be more significant than I had envisaged. So I made clear to Stephen that if my blog needed re-writing or clarifying I would be happy to do it but I needed to know precisely what aspect or aspects of it were being disputed in order to do so. Given I had written the original in good faith based on what I had been told by the team, I needed to be very careful that any rewrite or clarification was definitive and not challenged again. I made this point to Stephen a number of times over the following days. He was as frustrated as I was at the lack of communication about what the McQuarrie process involved and whether we should be acting on it.
40. During this period I was also doing what I could to correct other mistakes and misinterpretations being made in some public statements. I texted David Jordan offering to brief him more fully before his media appearances. He did not take me up on the offer. One of the misunderstandings I was trying to correct was the suggestion we had had a cut film ready to run. Also it was being suggested I was only interested in the CPS angle on the story, but my blog made clear we investigated because of the both the nature of the allegations and the CPS angle. I pointed this out to David in an email after his appearance on the Media Show on October 3rd.
41. On 11th October the McQuarrie review process was leaked to the Guardian which published an article at around 8pm. This happened close to Newsnight air time. I asked Liz McKean to spell out to me what she was disputing. She refused to engage with me on it, admittedly it was close to air and she was busy in an edit suite doing a VT, although she volunteered during the programme that neither, she or Meirion had leaked it.
42. I then emailed at 21.23 Paul Mylrea, Paddy Feeny, Stephen Mitchell, Julian Payne and Helen Deller and Karen Rosine in the BBC Press Office again suggesting that the blog needed changing and suggesting that Kenny McQuarrie needed to talk to Liz and Meirion before we did.
43. On 12th October I sent a detailed email (11.03) to Helen Boaden and Steve Mitchell, outlining what issues I thought might be being disputed in the blog in another attempt to assist the Corporate decision about whether it needed re-writing.
44. Later that day the Head of BBC Director of Human Resources, Lucy Adams, told me on the phone that there was to be a formal review into whether there were any management failings in the handling of the Newsnight decision to drop the Savile investigation. She told me it was a fact finding review but it may lead to a disciplinary process so I may want to consider getting legal advice.

45. On the evening of 17th October I was sent a long right of reply letter by BBC Panorama, who Meirion Jones was now working for, that included questions about the blog.
46. I understand that on the morning of Saturday 20th October the Chairman of the Trust, Chris Patton, learned of inaccuracies in the blog. The Controller of Editorial Policy, David Jordan, called me to say he felt I needed to rewrite/correct the blog before the DG's Select Committee appearance on Tuesday 23rd. I agreed and started drafting something. David suggested the corrections needed to be done by Monday morning so I contacted my lawyer who was only available to advise on the wording on Sunday afternoon.
47. I was then called at 11.56 the next day, Sunday 21st, by Helen Boaden who said it needed to be done by 3pm that day. I pointed out that my lawyer would not have had time to go through it properly and that rushing it risked further difficulties. Helen said she would pass my view on but I was not sure to who she was referring. I was then called around 1pm by Richard Thurston, the Head of HR for News, who said I was going to be asked to step aside from being Newsnight Editor because of the issues with the blog. He said if I refused to agree to this I would be moved anyway. At around 3.30pm I called Paul Mylrea to discuss what corrections I should do and by when. I was still unsure of the extent to which the blog was being contested but I suggested four corrections/clarifications. Paul agreed with these and insisted firmly that I had to send the wording for them to him by 5pm. The proposed wording from me was:

*"I wrote my first blog in good faith, based on the information I had at the time. But I have since learned that some aspects of it are incorrect or require clarification. I am limited in the detail I can give because of the independent investigation that the BBC has set up. In my original blog I said "We are confident that all the women we spoke to had contacted the police independently already." This is incorrect.*

*I also said that "we had no evidence that anyone from the Duncroft home could or should have known about the allegations". I have since discovered that some allegations along these lines were made to the Newsnight investigation team, but they were not passed on to me.*

*When I said we had no evidence against the BBC, I should have been more explicit. Our key witness told us she was "perfectly certain that the BBC had no idea whatsoever of the goings on" but, as Newsnight reported last week, we had heard allegations that incidents had taken place on BBC premises.*

*I also want to make clear the investigation was not only into the potential police or CPS failings around the case. We were investigating both the abuse claims in themselves and possible police failures. The moment we got the CPS statement was the moment I decided not to publish. However, concerns about the testimony of our key witness and about how we had collected the corroborating testimony were an important part of my decision not to publish."*

48. While writing this I was called by Stephen Mitchell to confirm I was being moved off Newsnight and a decision was still being made as to the best way to issue the



clarification to the blog. Later that evening the Daily Mail began reporting that I had resigned.

49. The following morning the BBC issued its own clarification saying:

*"The BBC has today issued a correction to the blog by the Editor of Newsnight, Peter Rippon (link).*

*On the basis of material now available, it is apparent from information supplied by the Newsnight editor and programme team, that the explanation by the Editor in his blog of his decision to drop the programme's investigation is inaccurate or incomplete in some respects.*

*In addition, the BBC has announced that the Peter Rippon is stepping aside with immediate effect from his post while the review by Nick Pollard, the former head of Sky News into the management of Newsnight's investigation, is carried out.*

#### *Blog Correction*

*The BBC has launched an independent review, led by former Head of Sky News Nick Pollard, to determine whether there were any failings in the BBC's management of the Newsnight investigation into allegations of sexual abuse of children by Jimmy Savile.*

*However, on the basis of material available now, it is apparent from information supplied by the Newsnight editor and programme team - that the explanation in a blog by the editor of his decision to drop the programme's investigation is inaccurate or incomplete in some respects. By way of correction and clarification:*

*The blog says that Newsnight had no evidence that anyone from the Duncroft home could or should have known about the allegations. In fact some allegations were made (mostly in general terms) that some of the Duncroft staff knew or may have known about the abuse.*

*The blog says that Newsnight had no evidence against the BBC. No allegation was made to the programme that BBC staff were aware of Mr Savile's alleged activities, but there were some allegations of abusive conduct on BBC premises.*

*The blog says that all the women spoken to by the programme had contacted the police independently already and that Newsnight had no new evidence against any other person that would have helped the police. It appears that in some cases women had not spoken to the police and that the police were not aware of all the allegations.*

*The BBC regrets these errors and will work with the Pollard review to assemble all relevant evidence to enable the review to determine the full facts."*

50. I should give more details on why Meirion's insistence that we had not withheld evidence from the police seemed reasonable to me at the time.

51. Even when I discovered some of the women had not been part of the police investigation it still seemed reasonable that because Jimmy Savile was dead and could not be prosecuted, any evidence we had against him would not have been useful to prosecute anyone. We normally hand over evidence to the police if we feel that we have discovered some serious criminal activity that is being hidden from them. In this case that did not apply. Also, there was nothing stopping any of the alleged victims going to the police at any time if they chose. There were allegations [REDACTED]

52. [REDACTED]

53. [REDACTED]

54. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I was not aware this interview even existed until this date. It had not been included in the material Meirion had given to the BBC Legal team as part of the disclosure process for the police investigation. It was only disclosed after I asked the BBC Legal team to request it specifically.

*"When I said we had no evidence against the BBC, I should have been more explicit. Our key witness told us she was "perfectly certain that the BBC had no idea whatsoever of the goings on" but, as Newsnight reported last week, we had heard allegations that incidents had taken place on BBC premises."*

55. It had been widely reported that some of the incidents we were aware of had been on BBC property before I wrote the blog. None of the many people who viewed my blog before publication suggested I needed to make this clearer at the time. However, I felt it worth clarifying now the blog had taken on such significance.

*"I also want to make clear the investigation was not only into the potential police or CPS failings around the case. We were investigating both the abuse claims in themselves and possible police failures. The moment we got the CPS statement was the moment I decided not to publish. However, concerns about the testimony of our key witness and about how we had collected the corroborating testimony were an important part of my decision not to publish."*

56. My blog had made clear I was interested in the story because of the "nature of the allegations" and "the police investigation". However, it was being often misquoted and suggested I was only ever interested in the police/CPS aspect of the case. As this was not the case I wanted to make this clear. I do not know why this was not included in the statement made by the BBC.

.....  
Peter Rippon  
12 November 2012