

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS

NARPO House, 38 Bond Street, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 2QP

Main Tel: 01924.362166 Fax: 01924 372088

Vat Reg No: 656.2938.04

BRANCH CIRCULAR 38/16

To: All Branch Secretaries
NEC Members

25th October 2016

Dear Colleague,

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

This inquiry will investigate whether public bodies and other non-state institutions have taken seriously their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse in England and Wales. The Inquiry has launched 13 investigations into a broad range of institutions and will give a voice to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse, enable the Inquiry to understand how institutions have failed to protect children from sexual abuse and make practical recommendations to ensure better institutional protection for children in the future.

The Inquiry is an independent statutory inquiry and covers England and Wales. Being independent means the Inquiry is not part of government and not run by a government department. Being statutory means the Inquiry was set up under the Inquiries Act 2005 and has the power to compel witnesses to give evidence.


The Inquiry is a Public Inquiry and has wide-ranging powers under the Inquiries Act 2005. The Chair of the Inquiry can find fact but they cannot find criminal guilt or civil liability. This creates the potential for forces and/or individual officers to be criticised and for fact to be found, that may expose individual officers to allegations of misconduct. Although it should be noted that an overarching principle of an Inquiry is to make recommendations rather than apportion blame.

We have been in consultation with Operation Hydrant which acts as the conduit between the Inquiry and policing to produce Guidance for Police Forces who may at some stage in the future be asked to contact retired officers as a result of the Inquiry. That Guidance has now been finalised and is sent out together with this circular for the information of Branches and members.

Further information regarding the Inquiry including details of the 13 current investigations can be found at: <https://www.iicsa.org.uk>

Chief Constable Simon Bailey of Norfolk Police is the National Police Chiefs Councils' lead for Child Protection and Abuse Investigation and as such he has written to all Chief Officers in England and Wales, providing them with a copy of the Guidance and encouraging them to adopt its use, so that there is a consistent approach nationally.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Bailey', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Chief Executive Officer