



## COULD YOU BE A WINNER IN OUR **£1 MILLION** summer giveaway

SEE PAGE 42 FOR DETAILS

**After judge's bombshell intervention,  
victims of VIP abuse fantasist demand...**

# NOW TURN FULL FORCE OF LAW ON 'NICK' POLICE

By Stephen Wright, Jack Doyle  
and Glen Keogh

VICTIMS of VIP child abuse fantasist 'Nick' last night called for a fresh criminal probe into Scotland Yard's bungled inquiry.

Their demand follows a sensational intervention from a retired High Court judge who said police may have broken the law with £2.5million Operation Midland.

Writing in yesterday's Daily Mail, Sir Richard Henriques suggested detectives had used false evidence

to obtain warrants to raid the homes of high-profile figures.

Harvey Proctor, who was accused by Nick, called for another force to investigate the Met's actions.

The former Tory MP was backed yesterday by a string of politicians

and Lord Macdonald, a former director of public prosecutions.

He called for a full investigation into how warrants were obtained against 'highly distinguished and completely

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### Daily Mail COMMENT

There was no secrecy for the true victims of 'Nick's' vile lies. Now there should be none for the officers who trashed their good names in such cavalier fashion.

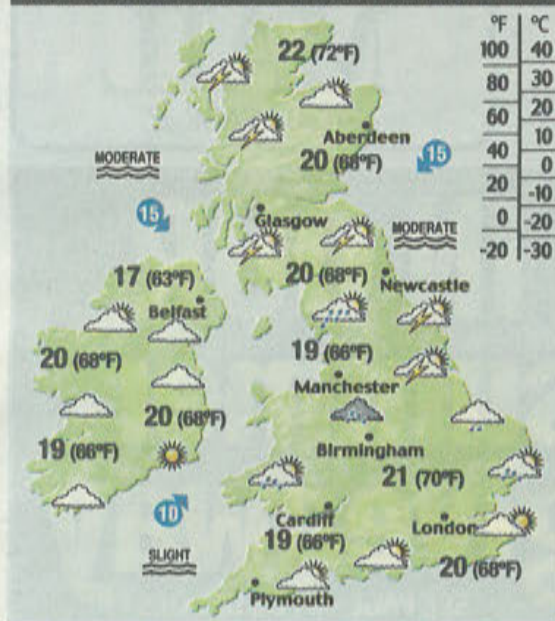


Margot takes the plunge at Tarantino premiere

SEE PAGE 3

# Weather

Go to: [dailymail.co.uk/weather](http://dailymail.co.uk/weather) for UK and world 5 day forecast



## Summary: Rain for many

**UK TODAY:** It is forecast to be cloudy with showers for central, northern and eastern areas, some thundery later. Mostly dry with variable cloud in the south and west. Moderate northwesterly winds. Max 23c.

### Today's weather

	9am	12noon	3pm	6pm	9pm
London	18c	21c	23c	22c	20c
Plymouth	17c	18c	18c	18c	16c
Cardiff	16c	18c	18c	18c	16c
B'ham	17c	18c	19c	19c	17c
M'chester	17c	18c	18c	18c	17c
Newcastle	16c	18c	18c	18c	16c
Glasgow	18c	20c	20c	20c	18c
Aberdeen	17c	19c	19c	18c	16c
Belfast	15c	16c	17c	18c	16c

### 5 day forecast

	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
London	24c	25c	26c	25c	24c
Plymouth	21c	22c	21c	20c	19c
Cardiff	23c	25c	24c	22c	22c
B'ham	22c	23c	23c	23c	22c
M'chester	21c	23c	23c	22c	22c
Newcastle	20c	19c	20c	20c	21c
Glasgow	20c	21c	21c	20c	20c
Aberdeen	19c	19c	19c	18c	18c
Belfast	20c	21c	20c	21c	20c

### Yesterday

City	Sun (hrs)	Rain (mm)	Temp (min)	Temp (max)	Sun (hrs)	Rain (mm)	Temp (min)	Temp (max)
Edinburgh	4.3	0.02	11	21	4.3	0.02	11	21
Glasgow	3.1	0.02	12	22	3.1	0.02	12	22
Hull	7.2	0.01	13	24	7.2	0.01	13	24
Ipswich	7.8	0.02	17	22	7.8	0.02	17	22
Leeds	5.4	0.31	14	25	5.4	0.31	14	25
Lincoln	7.1	0.02	15	24	7.1	0.02	15	24
London	2.4	0.16	17	20	2.4	0.16	17	20
Manchester	3.5	0.09	14	23	3.5	0.09	14	23
Southampton	3.8	0.11	17	21	3.8	0.11	17	21
St Andrews	5.9	0.00	12	21	5.9	0.00	12	21
Stornoway	3.1	0.02	16	18	3.1	0.02	16	18

### Moon and Sun

**MOON** rises: 4.09am, sets: 8.42pm  
**Sun** rises London: 5.22am, sets: 8.50pm  
 Manchester rises: 5.22am, sets: 9.07pm  
**HIGH TIDE** London Bridge: 2.11pm  
 Liverpool: 11.37pm

**Extremes** (24 hrs to 7pm y/day)  
 Warmest: East Park, Hull, 27c (81f). Coldest: Kielder Castle, Northumberland, 7c (45f). Wettest: St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 1.23ins. Sunniest: Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, 10.4hrs.

### Europe forecast

City	today	c/f	tomorrow	c/f
Geneva	fair	25/77	sun	26/79
Lisbon	sun	28/82	sun	26/79
Madrid	sun	35/95	sun	35/95
Paris	fair	24/75	sun	26/79
Rome	sun	30/86	sun	29/84

### Around the world yesterday

City	weather	c/f	City	weather	c/f	City	weather	c/f
Algiers	Fair	30/86	Florence	Sunny	29/84	New Delhi	Cloudy	32/90
Amsterdam	Sunny	27/81	Geneva	Sunny	25/77	New York	Fair	33/91
Athens	Sunny	32/90	Gibraltar	Sunny	28/82	Nice	Fair	26/79
Auckland	Fair	16/61	Guernsey	Showers	16/61	Oslo	Rain	12/54
Bahrain	Sunny	46/115	Helsinki	Fair	16/61	Palma	Sunny	30/86
Barcelona	Fair	30/86	Hong Kong	Fair	32/90	Paris	Cloudy	23/73
Basra	Sunny	47/117	Innsbruck	Fair	26/79	Perth	Sunny	20/68
Beijing	Cloudy	30/86	Istanbul	Fair	28/82	Prague	Cloudy	26/79
Belrut	Sunny	30/86	Jersey	Fair	18/64	Rhodes	Sunny	30/86
Belfast	Cloudy	19/66	Larnaca	Sunny	32/90	Riga	Rain	19/66
Belgrade	Fair	27/81	Las Palmas	Cloudy	24/75	Rome	Sunny	29/84
Berlin	Showers	22/72	Lisbon	Sunny	24/75	Singapore	Fair	30/86
Biarritz	Cloudy	20/68	London	Showers	18/64	Stockholm	Fair	17/63
Brisbane	Sunny	22/72	Los Angeles	Cloudy	22/72	Strasbourg	Sunny	29/84
Brussels	Sunny	24/75	Luxor	Sunny	39/102	Sydney	Cloudy	14/57
Bucharest	Fair	27/81	Madrid	Sunny	27/81	Tangier	Sunny	25/77
Budapest	Fair	29/84	Malaga	Sunny	25/77	Tel Aviv	Sunny	33/91
Chagen	Fair	22/72	Malta	Sunny	31/88	Tenerife	Sunny	26/79
Cairo	Sunny	35/95	Melbourne	Cloudy	11/52	Tokyo	Sunny	33/91
Cape Town	Showers	16/61	Mexico City	Fair	21/70	Toronto	Cloudy	31/88
Casablanca	Fair	24/75	Miami	Cloudy	32/90	Tunis	Sunny	32/90
Corfu	Sunny	30/86	Milan	Sunny	30/86	Vancouver	Fair	21/70
Dubai	Sunny	42/108	Montreal	Fair	29/84	Venice	Sunny	28/82
Dublin	Showers	18/64	Moscow	Cloudy	14/57	Vienna	Sunny	28/82
Dubrovnik	Sunny	26/79	Mumbai	Rain	28/82	Warsaw	Fair	30/86
Faro	Sunny	30/86	Nairobi	Cloudy	19/66	Wellington	Showers	12/54

# KUROSU

EVERY day in the Mail you can play Kurosu, the most addictive brainteaser since Sudoku. There are only two rules:  
 1: Fill in each space with either a nought or a cross so there are no more than two consecutive noughts or crosses in any row or column.  
 Important note: diagonals don't count.  
 2: Each row and column must contain three noughts and three crosses.

Today's difficulty rating ★★☆☆

X		O			X
	O				
O			X	O	
		X			
	X	O	O		X
O					O

PLAY more Kurosu and 26 addictive puzzles like them every day on your smartphone or tablet with Mail Plus, your Mail newspaper on your screen. Get a FREE trial today at [dailymailplus.co.uk](http://dailymailplus.co.uk)  
**Solution on Puzzles & Prizes back page.**

### Continued from Page One

innocent' individuals. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) was also under intense pressure last night for refusing to reopen its inquiry into five Scotland Yard officers involved in the case. It insisted it had already investigated them and found 'no suspicion of criminality'.

New Home Secretary Priti Patel will haul in the head of the watchdog to demand answers about the case. Miss Patel will challenge Michael Lockwood, its £175,000-a-year director general 'as soon as possible', a source close to the Home Secretary said.

The scandal surrounding Scotland Yard's investigation into Nick, real name Carl Beech, was dramatically reignited by Sir Richard's broadside yesterday.

He said detectives did not have the right to search the properties of former armed forces chief Lord Bramall, the widow of ex-home secretary Leon Brittan and Mr Proctor. This, he said, was because their description of Beech as a 'consistent' witness was false, effectively fooling a judge into granting the warrants.

Sir Richard, the author of a scathing review of Operation Midland for Scotland Yard in 2016, also alleged 'the course of justice was perverted with shocking consequences' during the investigation.

He said he found it astonishing no officer had been brought to book over the fiasco and that a 'criminal investigation should surely follow'.

Beech was jailed for 18 years last week over his bogus claims of child rape and murder. With the Home Office under huge pressure to order a new probe:

Lord Bramall, Mr Proctor and the family of late Labour peer Greville Janner - also falsely accused - led furious calls for Scotland Yard to release the full, unredacted Henriques report;

But the Met again refused to release to do so, citing 'the confidentiality of complainants, witnesses and those accused'.



Jailed: Carl Beech is serving 18 years



Report: Sir Richard Henriques

Former Met commissioner Lord Hogan-Howe, whose officers carried out raids on VIPs during Operation Midland, refused to answer questions from a Daily Mail reporter.

Mr Proctor said: 'I take no satisfaction in having my view [confirmed] that the Metropolitan Police force were

allegations at an earlier stage would have exposed him as a fantasist, as a liar, as someone who was engaged in an attempt to pervert justice.'

Scotland Yard said the IOPC had looked into allegations about how the search warrants were handled and it was found that the three officers involved had no case to answer.

This came after it had referred potential conduct matters relating to five officers which had been identified in Sir Richard's report.

A spokesman said: 'None of the five officers involved in the original referral or the three officers subject to investigation were found to have cases to answer in relation to any of the allegations.'

All those involved in the allegations which were referred to the IOPC have either retired or moved to other jobs and are no longer serving Met Police officers. A Home Office

spokesman said: 'The Home Secretary looks forward to meeting with a number of policing partners, including Michael Lockwood of the IOPC. It is right that allegations relating to the seeking of warrants as part of Operation Midland were referred to the IOPC - the public need to have confidence that the police are exercising their powers in a correct and proportionate way.'

But Lincoln Seligman, godson of former PM Edward Heath who was also wrongly accused, said: 'For so many senior and junior police to choose to believe Beech without corroboration or other evidence is astonishing.'

'It suggests a lack of education or training in both analysing evidence and in the importance of the presumption of innocence. Or a wilful and reckless disregard for both.'

'Given that the IOPC have already cleared every officer involved something stronger, genuinely independent and less myopic is needed.'

Comment - Page 18

## 'An attempt to pervert justice'

wrong in the way that they investigated Nick.'

Lord Macdonald QC told BBC Radio 4's World at One that if 'the courts were misled then criminal investigations should follow'.

He added: 'The police didn't set out to investigate Carl Beech's allegations, they set out to prove them. A cursory investigation of this man's

**Give us the full report**  
 SEE PAGES 6-9

# North Korea launches 'multiple' missiles

**NORTH** Korea defied an international embargo yesterday by launching a series of unidentified missiles.

The exercise is thought to be another attempt by Pyongyang to pressure Washington into restarting nuclear negotiations.

North Korea is banned by the UN Security Council from engaging in any sort of ballistic missile launches and is under 11 rounds of sanctions. But it is unlikely to face further action unless the missiles travel a significant distance.

The 'multiple' launches were fired

### Mail Foreign Service

from the Hodo peninsula on North Korea's east coast, according to reports in South Korea. Military chiefs in Seoul said they were monitoring the situation in case of additional launches and maintaining a readiness posture.

The launches come a week after Kim Jong-un's communist dictatorship test-fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea. Observers suggested this was a warning shot to remind the White House what may happen if talks with

the US are abandoned. The weapons flew between 270 and 430 miles before landing off the east coast.

Takeshi Iwaya, Japan's defence minister, said this was probably a violation of Security Council resolutions because of the distance the missiles travelled.

Kim claimed that the missiles were launched under his personal supervision. He said that they were a 'solemn warning' in response to military drills planned by the South and the US forces based there.

'North Korea appears to be thinking its diplomacy with the US isn't proceeding in a way that they want.'

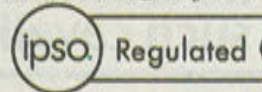
So they've fired missiles to get the table to turn in their favour,' said Kim Dae-young, from the Korea Research Institute for National Strategy.

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# GIVE US THE FULL REPORT

**Bramall leads calls for Met to publish judge's inquiry into VIP abuse probe**

By Glen Keogh and Stephen Wright

LORD Bramall last night led furious calls for Scotland Yard to release an unredacted version of Sir Richard Henriques' report into its shambolic 'Nick' investigation.

The former head of the Armed Forces said it was imperative the document was published immediately and 'in its entirety' to ensure there could be no repeat of the Operation Midland scandal.

Sir Richard's investigation into the Yard's handling of Nick - carried out three years ago - identified 43 failings as police probed his bogus allegations of murder and child rape against Establishment figures.

But when the retired high court judge's report was published more than 80 per cent of its 491 pages were redacted.

At the time, Metropolitan Police commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe insisted this was necessary for 'data protection' and because the report contained 'sensitive information'.

But in a devastating intervention in yesterday's Daily Mail, Sir Richard spoke out to renew his criticism of the force and to call for a criminal investigation into how Met officers had obtained search warrants in the case.

That led to fresh demands yesterday for Scotland Yard to finally release the judge's original report in full. Lord Bramall, Harvey Proctor

**'The public has a right to know the truth'**

and the family of late Labour peer Greville Janner all demanded its publication.

Despite this, Scotland Yard again insisted it was not yet ready to meet the requests, citing 'the confidentiality of complainants, witnesses and those accused'. The force said it was still reviewing whether more of the report could be published.

Nick - whose real name is Carl Beech - has been jailed for 18 years for perverting the course of justice and fraud.

In a statement yesterday, 95-year-old Lord Bramall, the former field marshal who was falsely accused by Beech and had his home raided, said: 'It was much to Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe's credit that he commissioned the independent review into investigations of historical sexual abuse by the Metropolitan Police Service led by Sir Richard Henriques following the spectacular collapse of Operation Midland. However the decision to only release a redacted version of the report undermined its impact.'

Following the comments made by Sir Richard Henriques in the Daily Mail, the report in its entirety should be released to the public immediately.'

Daniel Janner QC, son of falsely accused Labour peer Lord Greville Janner, said: 'The report must be published in full. The police are still protecting their own from the risk of being prose-

## Moment police heavy mob moved in on Brittan's home



**EXCLUSIVE PICTURE**

**THIS** is the astonishing scene on the drive of Leon Brittan's home when a Scotland Yard search team turned up mob-handed six weeks after he died.

Officers brought two minibuses, two vans and at least two cars to the former home secretary's weekend retreat. A district judge had granted them a search warrant after being supplied with false information.

Over two days the detectives turned the property upside down looking for evidence that the peer had been part of a murderous VIP paedophile gang.

According to sources, they emptied the attic and took away private letters, copies of speeches and treasured

By Stephen Wright  
Associate News Editor

pictures. They removed footwear for 'DNA testing'.

The exclusive picture obtained by the Daily Mail was taken from a first-floor window during the raid that also saw officers carry out a finger-tip search of the garden in the hunt for 'disturbed earth'.

The search warrant was granted on the uncorroborated word of Carl Beech, a paedophile and serial liar. Police told the judge he was a consistent and credible witness. At the same time as the North Yorkshire raid in

early March 2015, officers on Operation Midland raided Lord Brittan's home in central London, which he shared with his wife of 34 years, Lady Brittan. The peer had died there of cancer aged 75 on January 21.

Last week, in a victim impact statement read to court after Beech was imprisoned for 18 years for his lies and other offences, Lady Brittan laid bare her suffering.

She said: 'The experience of having my house in London searched by a dozen police officers for 12 hours was traumatizing. The impact of these allegations and their consequences on my wider family were significant.'

the homes of elderly men 'as if they were looking for body parts'. Sir Richard also examined Wiltshire Police's Operation Conifer investigation into sex abuse allegations against former prime minister Edward Heath.

He concluded that the 'vast majority' of 400 complaints made as part of a national inquiry into historic child abuse claims were without merit.

In a statement, the Met said: 'The MPS is reviewing Sir Richard's report to ascertain whether more of it could be published.'

However, the MPS has to strike a balance between its commitment to transparency and its legal and moral duties to protect the confidentiality of complainants, witnesses and those accused.

'The report contains sensitive personal information and explicit descriptions of sexual offences that it would neither be right nor lawful to publish. Nor would it be appropriate to publish or repeat information from investigations where the allegations were dropped without charge or defendants acquitted.'



Trauma: The late Leon Brittan with his wife Diana

## I was ruined on a lie. We must have an inquiry



Anger: Harvey Proctor yesterday

**W**HEN I drew back my bedroom curtains at 8am on that fateful day in March 2015, there was a police van sitting right outside.

It wasn't unusual. I worked as a private secretary on the Duke of Rutland's estate in Leicestershire, and liaised regularly with the local police over the fire and burglar alarms at Belvoir Castle.

But then the doorbell rang. When I opened the door, a Detective Sergeant from the Metropolitan Police Murder Squad stepped inside with a search warrant, followed by 18 stern-looking police officers in their forensic blue uniforms. And so began a Kafkaesque nightmare of deceit and injustice that would see me lose my home, my job and my reputation - thanks to a treacherous miscarriage of justice.

I am now 72 and it is more than four years since my descent into hell began. The ordeal still casts its shadow over me: I have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and have lost countless friends.

But former High Court Judge Sir Richard Henriques's blistering denunciation in the Mail yesterday of the police's witch-hunt against me and others has given me some cause for comfort. It confirmed every misgiving I'd had about the inquiry. I had known it was morally dubious. And now, thanks to Sir Richard's intervention, it amounted to a perversion of justice.

There can only be one result: A formal inquiry must be held. For too long, the gross and defamatory lies of Carl Beech (the paedophile fraudster known as Nick) - peddled by the now defunct website Exaro and Labour's deputy leader Tom Watson - were given unchallenged currency and credence.

Back in 2014, when I first read about Nick's horrific claims of a VIP paedophile ring of politicians and leading British figures, I was appalled like every one else. But I never imagined that I would one day find myself at the heart of the ensuing investigation.

That spring day, as I watched officers turn my home inside out, I thought

that I might break down and harm myself if I had been alone. It was a sensible move. Accused of these horrific crimes, I didn't think life was worth living. Thankfully, my partner Terry, my brother Greville and a handful of friends stood by me.

They wholeheartedly supported me through the dark days when I was portrayed as a vile fiend - not just by the Met and Beech - but by an over-zealous and self-serving Tom Watson, who used parliamentary privilege to spout Beech's unfounded claims.

'The truth will out,' Terry kept telling me. I had to believe him.

The police, meanwhile, under the guise of Operation Midland, were bent on squeezing a 'confession' out of me. Incredibly, they never sought to investigate Beech's credibility as a witness. Nor did they find any evidence to support his claims. It was as if the police, the institution dedicated to maintaining law and order, were determined to bring down members of the Establishment - or at least tarnish its reputation.

Sir Richard's intervention is timely and the events of the past few weeks - Beech's sentencing to 18 years on 12 counts of perverting the course of justice and one count of fraud - is certainly a battle won. Hopefully, I will be able to win a second battle, for fair compensation in November, when I take the Met to court. Their wrongful actions have ruined my life.

As Sir Richard made clear, a formal inquiry must be held into whether officers knowingly provided false evidence to obtain search warrants. Those found guilty must be prosecuted with the full strength of the law.

Meanwhile, we already know Tom Watson, who spent so much time and energy amplifying Nick's accusations, has peddled lies. If he wants to save a shred of respectability, he must resign from public office. And if he doesn't, I shall stand against him in the next election. His support for this calculated, menacing miscarriage of justice cannot go unpunished.

He broke the news to me carefully in his offices. Since the charges were so gruesome - the rape, torture and murder of three children - he was worried

**Y**ET two hours before his officers left, a journalist from Exaro, called Mark Conrad, emailed my office and asked if I would like to provide a statement.

It was disgraceful, as was the fact that during the four long months between the police search and the day my solicitor outlined the full case against me, I had no idea of what crime I was accused.

# Home Secretary to call in head of police watchdog

By Jack Doyle Associate Editor

HOME Secretary Priti Patel is to personally interrogate the boss of the police watchdog accused of bungling its probe into the VIP child abuse inquiry.

Miss Patel, who has been in post for less than a week, plans to haul in £175,000-a-year Michael Lockwood 'as soon as possible'.

The Independent Office for Police Complaints yesterday refused to reopen its misconduct investigation into officers involved in the debacle, despite damning allegations from former high court judge Sir Richard Henriques.

In an article for the Mail, Sir Richard accused police of providing false evidence to obtain search warrants. This allowed them to raid the homes of D-Day hero Lord Bramall, ex-Tory MP Harvey Proctor and former home secretary Lord Brittan's widow.

Sir Richard suggested the officers involved should face a criminal investigation. However, the IOPC responded by saying it had already concluded there was 'no suspicion of criminality'.

Last night a source close to Miss Patel told the Mail: 'Priti will be meeting the head of the IOPC as soon as possible. Top of the agenda will be seeking an explanation as to why there were no proceedings against officers if there was indeed evidence of misconduct.' Ken MacDonald,

## £175,000 boss faces grilling over decision to clear Met officers of misconduct



New broom: Priti Patel

Boss: Michael Lockwood

the former head of the Crown Prosecution Service, accused the watchdog of conducting a ' cursory investigation' into the most senior officers, who were not even interviewed.

He told BBC Radio 4's World at One: 'They will have to explain how they missed so much of the material that Sir Richard seems to have ferreted out. Certainly, if he is right in his conclusions, it calls into question the rigour in which the IOPC have pursued this case and that would be very troubling.' He called for a 'full

investigation' into how warrants were obtained, adding: 'If the courts were misled then criminal investigations should follow.'

Tory MP Nigel Evans said: 'They should look again at all the processes that were followed... if people have hidden evidence or misled a judge which has led to £2.5million being wasted and lives being destroyed.'

Misconduct allegations were first referred to the IOPC's predecessor, the Independent Police Complaints Commission, in 2016 but the probe was not completed

was aware of several matters which undermined the credibility of key witness Carl Beech - and 'knew full well that they had not been brought to the attention of the district judge'.

'Knowingly misleading a district judge is far more serious than mere misconduct,' he said. 'The IOPC should in my judgment have investigated whether a criminal act had been committed.'

He also criticised the watchdog for failing to explain why two senior officers were exonerated without being interviewed.

Former deputy assistant commissioner Steve Rodhouse has since been promoted, while detective superintendent Kenny McDonald - who called Beech's allegations 'credible and true' at the start of the inquiry in 2014 - retired on the eve of the witness's own criminal trial this year.

The IOPC rejected Sir Richard's claims in a statement published at lunchtime, saying it had conducted a 'careful assessment' in which 'no suspicion of criminality was identified'.

The watchdog said investigators 'did not identify any information to suggest officers deliberately withheld evidence' with the intention of 'misleading' the district judge who approved the search warrants.

Lord Bramall branded the decision 'completely ridiculous'. Sources say it is vital that there is transparency at Scotland Yard about the level of involvement by such a senior officer in the application for search warrants.

ability after a string of controversies, not least its investigation of the shooting by police of 29-year-old Mark Duggan in 2011, which was accused of having inconsistencies and omissions and which was dismissed by Duggan's family as a 'whitewash'.

It was designed to be independent, with fewer conflicts of interest. Officers did not themselves carry out investigations into allegations of misconduct.

In the understandable desire for impartiality, the effectiveness of the IOPC has been lost. Misconduct cases are among the toughest of all to resolve because the small minority of corrupt officers are precisely the ones who know the tricks to mislead inquiries into their behaviour.

The IOPC moans about lack of resources to do its job properly, but this is unconvincing. In the last financial year, the organisation spent £72.6 million.

Too much of this sum is squandered on bureaucracy, not enough on hardened investigators. What we need now is radical reform. My solution would be to put independent magistrates - who really understand the criminal justice system - in charge of investigations, bolstered by more investigators with real police experience.

Most of the police are decent. Like me, they loathe the way the force has been dragged through the mud by the deceitful incompetence of a few.

Now their watchdog must have the teeth to prove it.

# A GUARDIAN NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE

COMMENTARY by Phil Flower

EX-MET CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

THE fallout from the bungled probe into lurid and now-rubbed-out claims of historic child abuse by VIPs continues to inflict serious damage to the police.

But nothing has been as devastating as the condemnation of former High Court judge Sir Richard Henriques, who accused top officers of allowing the course of justice to be perverted through their mishandling of the ridiculous allegations made by the fantasist and paedophile Carl Beech.

Sir Richard's attack is so powerful not only because of his judicial status but also because in 2016 he conducted an inquiry into how the police tackled the case, highlighting no fewer than 43 blunders.

He now believes that the police's potentially illegal behaviour and incompetence were so serious that 'criminal investigations should swiftly follow'. As a former detective, I agree.

Last week, as Beech was sentenced to 18 years in prison, the Independent Office

for Police Conduct (IOPC) finally published its report into the saga, formally clearing three officers of any misconduct in the case.

It was a decision that both Richard and the wider public found incomprehensible.

Indeed, as Sir Richard has pointed out, because police were fully aware of the glaring inconsistencies in Beech's testimony, they may have broken the law when seeking to obtain warrants to raid the homes of

those accused of abuse. I share much of Sir Richard's exasperation with the IOPC. As most police officers will tell you, the organisation is simply not fit for purpose, being top-heavy with senior managers and short of hard-nosed investigative experience.

A key part of the problem lies in how it was established.

The IOPC was launched after the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) was thought to have lost its credi-



Go away: Lord Hogan-Howe near his Dorset home this month and, below, before retirement



# 10 QUESTIONS THAT HAVE TO BE ANSWERED



By Stephen Wright  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

THE bombshell 1,200-word statement by former High Court judge Sir Richard Henriques, attacking Scotland Yard and police watchdogs, included devastating allegations about the conduct of senior officers. Here are the key questions about Operation Midland that must now be answered:

**1** Why did the Metropolitan Police Service take nine months to correct the use of the phrase 'credible and true' by a senior officer to describe Carl Beech - aka 'Nick' - at the start of Operation Midland?

The use of this phrase by Detective Superintendent Kenny McDonald in December 2014 undermined the principle of 'innocent before proven guilty' and set the tone for the bungled investigation.

**2** What role did 'gold commander' Steve Rodhouse, the Met deputy assistant commissioner in charge of Operation Midland, have in the decision to raid the homes of Lord Bramall, Lord Brittan and Harvey Proctor?

Sources say it is vital that there is transparency at Scotland Yard about the level of involvement by such a senior officer in the application for search warrants.

**3** Was then Met chief Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe briefed ahead of the raids and did he raise any concerns?

The tough-talking Yorkshireman has distanced himself from the running of Operation Midland but senior Yard sources say there needs to be clarity on what he knew, and when, about the unprecedented triple murder inquiry involving a former prime minister and home secretary.

**4** Sir Richard Henriques said in his devastating article in the Daily Mail there were a number of major inconsistencies in Beech's accounts which were contained in a police document prior to the application for the search warrants. Who compiled this document and who saw it?

This is a critical issue at the heart of Sir Richard's claim that officers applying for search warrants did not act with due diligence and good faith.

**5** Why, in the words of Sir Richard, was a 'comparatively junior officer' with limited knowledge of the investigation 'detailed or required to sign the three applications' for search warrants that portrayed Beech as a credible and consistent witness?

According to the former High

Court judge, the officer - a detective sergeant - was accompanied to court by his boss DCI Diane Tudway who had access to the document highlighting the fantasist's 'several inconsistencies', but did not raise it with the district judge who granted the search warrants.

**6** Why was Sir Richard not supplied with 'all relevant documentation' by the Met during his 2016 review of Operation Midland?

This is a potentially very serious matter, involving possible criminal conduct because Sir Richard said he was not given the three applications for search warrants and had to obtain them from court.

**7** Why did the Independent Office for Police Conduct clear DAC Rodhouse and Det Supt McDonald of potential misconduct within a few months - all without interviewing them?

This is another critical issue which, according to critics, goes to the heart of whether the watchdog is fit for purpose.

**8** Why did it take the IOPC two years to investigate the three officers accused of misleading a district

Judge over the application of the search warrants?

Critics claim this is fundamental because all the officers under suspicion had retired by the time the watchdog inquiry had finished this month.

**9** Why did a lowly detective constable, not a high-ranking officer, interview former head of the Armed Forces Lord Bramall under caution for 100 minutes?

An excruciating video of the D-Day hero being asked a series of ridiculous questions - including whether he knew Jimmy Savile and whether he could swim - was played to jurors at Beech's trial. Friends of Lord Bramall say the choice of junior interviewing officer, who appeared woefully out of his depth, heaped further humiliation on the Normandy veteran.

**10** How on earth could the Met spend £2.5million investigating Beech's murder and abuse allegations? These included ludicrous claims he was used as a 'human dartboard' by the heads of MI5 and MI6, had his dog kidnapped by a top spy, had his horse shot by the VIP paedophile gang, suffered snake and wasp torture and was forced by Lord Bramall to eat his vomit.

This is the most simple yet damning question of Operation Midland. A man whose fantastical claims would not have looked out of place on the front of the Sunday Sport newspaper in the 1980s, were probed by the Met for 16 months.

## ... and the ex-Met chief's reaction? Get off my land!

HE is the former Met Police boss at the centre of a storm over controversial raids on VIPs during the disastrous police inquiry into alleged abuse.

But yesterday when the Mail approached Lord Hogan-Howe over claims of a possible perversion of justice he refused to comment.

He tetchily stated: 'Leave my property immediately!' Lord Hogan-Howe - commissioner at Scotland Yard from 2011 until 2017 - refused to answer any questions about the devastating claims by ex-High

Court Judge Sir Richard Henriques. The horse-loving peer was approached at his remote home in a Dorset village. He had just received an item from a parcel delivery driver when he lost his cool. The reporter waited until the driver had left and was out of earshot before walking up to the door of his converted barn with stunning Jurassic Coast views.

When he introduced himself, making it clear he was from the Daily Mail, Lord Hogan-Howe interrupted abruptly. He pointed with his left hand to the

gateway at the end of his gravelled drive and told the reporter to go away. The journalist said it was important he was given every opportunity to respond to Sir Richard's allegations about a possible perversion of the course of justice.

But Lord Hogan-Howe, 61, who has forged a lucrative career in business since leaving the Met, refused to listen and talked over the top of the reporter, adding: 'I have told you to leave my property. Leave my property immediately!'

## Daily Mail

## COMMENT

## Victims of Met fiasco deserve the truth

EDWIN Bramall has given a lifetime of service to his country, from the day as a young officer that he took part in the D-Day landings to his retirement with the rank of Field Marshal.

That this distinguished soldier should have been humiliated by having his home searched as part of a police investigation into child sexual abuse – and then interrogated like a common criminal – is a national disgrace.

Reputations have been dragged through the mud as a result of Operation Midland, the hopelessly shoddy investigation conducted by the Metropolitan Police into allegations concerning a VIP paedophile ring made by the fantasist Carl Beech, known as 'Nick'.

Even more grave is the disclosure that the inquiry was mishandled from the outset.

Thanks to an article in this newspaper yesterday by former High Court judge Sir Richard Henriques, we have learned that officers engaged in Midland withheld evidence showing how Beech's fantastical claims were riddled with inconsistencies in order to gain court approval for warrants to search individuals' homes.

Yet, the police watchdog, the IOPC, quietly cleared them after what former DPP Lord Macdonald calls a 'cursory' process.

So where is Sir Richard's full, un-redacted report? So far, the Met is refusing to release it – a fresh scandal adding to those of the Midland fiasco and IOPC whitewash.

There was no secrecy for the true victims of 'Nick's' vile lies. Now, there should be none for the officers who trashed their good names in such cavalier fashion.

As a first step, Sir Richard's report needs to be published in full, and now.

Nothing else will do if the reputation of the Metropolitan Police is not to be damaged beyond repair by this appalling witch-hunt, a grave warning of what happens when police pander to hysteria.

## Pluck's not enough

POSING with chickens, the Prime Minister yesterday sought to comfort farmers facing crippling EU tariffs in the event of a No Deal Brexit.

But as the pound traded at British airports for 0.78 euros, the realities of this frightening scenario are coming home to roost.

Indulging in stunts while touring the Union, rowing with the Irish premier on the telephone and engaging in macho talk of a 'Brexit war cabinet' may play well with hardliners. But megaphone diplomacy is rarely helpful. Mr Johnson should ditch Churchillian rhetoric and engage in sensible talks with our most important trading partner.

Yes, precautionary planning for No Deal should be pursued, but not recklessly. Every sinew must be strained to reach a deal. That is as true for EU leaders as it is for Boris.

## Campbell clears off

THIS newspaper is no fan of Alastair Campbell. In promoting the invasion of Iraq in 2003, based on non-existent WMD, Tony Blair's media henchman proved himself an accomplished pedlar of fake news.

But Campbell knows how to win general elections – having helped in three victories. Now, he is quitting his old party in despair over the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn.

Labour, he warns, risks destruction unless it junks its far-Left politics – and that means junking Mr Corbyn. In saying so, he is merely reflecting the view of many Labour MPs.

With his dithering over Brexit, dissembling over anti-Semitism and discredited socialist thinking, this creaking Marxist is leading Labour towards the precipice.

The diehards surrounding him will no doubt shoot Campbell the messenger.

The fact that Labour's 'conscience' is a man who employed mendacity and bully-boy tactics in attacks on the Press shows how far the party has sunk.

## AS WOODFORD INVESTORS ARE BETRAYED AGAIN

## Why the fat-cat fund boss who shames the City must be forced to step down

by Alex Brummer

CITY EDITOR



**E**ACH year, Britain spends £1.7 billion to ensure that our financial system – the most important in Europe – is clean, fair, and works in the best interests of us all.

For this staggering sum, provided by the taxpayer and financial industry, we surely have a right to expect a Rolls-Royce system of regulation.

How, then, can we explain the flaccid, near negligent response by the regulator and the Bank of England to the meltdown inside the investment empire of Neil Woodford?

Indeed, I find it almost inexplicable that Woodford has not been discharged from his job. Why is he being allowed to soldier on, raking in fees of around £100,000 each working day, while his clients are denied access to their money?

## Unscrupulous

The Woodford saga is one I have written about regularly since June, when his main fund, Global Equity Income, was frozen because it did not have enough ready cash to pay departing savers due to so many of its holdings being illiquid (hard to sell).

I make no apology for returning to it after news emerged this week that 291,520 savers – myself included – either directly or indirectly exposed to Woodford funds via the Bristol-based investment platform Hargreaves Lansdown, will not be able to get their hands on £1.6 billion of their own money until at least December.

What really sticks in the craw is that, while small investors are being made to wait and worry, not only are Woodford and his firm continuing to charge fees – amounting to some £12 million by the end of the year – he has also been cashing in his investments.

The shameless financier revealed he sold 1.75 million shares in his publicly quoted Patient Capital Trust Fund, in total worth £1 million, to meet a personal tax bill.

In so doing he drove the shares in Patient Capital,

which have fallen 30 per cent this year, down further, hurting all his fellow investors.

He only told the Trust board on Saturday – three weeks after he ditched the shares.

Woodford has become super-wealthy – with the houses, cars and a lifestyle to match – on the back of ordinary savers, and he is still able to get his hands on resources.

The muggins in his main fund, however, are totally trapped. They are unable to release funds to pay their tax bills, meet social care costs for a family member, organise a wedding or buy a house.

They are the innocent victims of the unscrupulous greed of Woodford and his sponsors, Hargreaves Lansdown.

Once lionised by the City as Britain's savviest stock picker, Woodford has not been seen in public since the scandal erupted. He's confined his excuses to online postings.

There has been absolutely no recognition by him or by the City regulators of the damage being done to the reputation of our investment industry.

If I sound angry and aggrieved it is because I, like several colleagues and members of my family, have reasons to be worried. We are among those who trusted the loaded advice of Hargreaves Lansdown.

I committed some of my retirement funds to Woodford's flagship Equity Income Fund and to the separate, but as it turned out far too closely related, Patient Capital Trust.

We can't access our money, but Woodford continues to ruthlessly exploit us, refusing to waive fees in defiance of admonition from Andrew Bailey, the head of the City watchdog, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) – or, as Private Eye has dubbed it, the Fundamentally Complicit Authority. Savers could be forgiven for thinking the magazine may have a point.

As this appalling spectacle

plays out, the City's biggest potential embarrassment since the financial crisis, it is clear the regulators have totally misjudged the public mood.

What we have witnessed since the build-up of trouble within the Woodford empire began, is fumble after fumble by those charged with safeguarding our investments.

Yet there was no shortage of evidence of alleged rule-breaking and conflict of interests, which justified a far more robust approach from the regulator from the start.

Stocks held by his Equity Income Fund were sold on to an interconnected company (Patient Capital Trust) – something frowned on by regulators – and unlisted stocks were transferred to the Guernsey Stock Exchange, where few dealings are done, so it could be claimed they were 'quoted' somewhere.

Several directors of Patient Capital were also directors of companies in which funds were invested, while the relationship between Woodford's firm and Hargreaves Lansdown was far too intimate.

## Dangers

And not enough attention was paid, until it was too late, to the necessity of keeping a generous cash or 'liquidity' cushion to protect against a run on the funds by savers.

Yet, for several years now, the Bank of England and its deputy governor, Jon Cunliffe (along with Bailey, one of the candidates to succeed Mark Carney as governor), have regularly warned of the dangers of 'open funds', such as those Woodford managed, where investors are entitled theoretically to withdraw their cash instantly.

The FCA has been aware of the weaknesses in the system, but reforms of fees and governance have been hampered in part by fierce lobbying by the fund management industry.

Despite all this, instead of raising red flags as warnings of unorthodox dealings and a lack of cash in Woodford funds grew, the FCA was silent.

At the same time, Hargreaves Lansdown continued to support Woodford – even after problems became public – by including his funds among its top recommendations.

So, if ever there was a time for the FCA to seize the moment to protect savers, it is now. But its main response to date has been to announce an inquiry into what went wrong – a worthy exercise, but one that will do nothing to address the immediate pain of savers.

## Failed

It is not too late to do more. The FCA together with the Bank of England, which has overarching responsibility for preserving financial stability, need to act decisively. Woodford should be summoned from his hideaway and ordered to suspend the average 0.6 per cent fee he charges savers for managing their money.

He won't be left short. Managing other people's cash is hugely rewarding, with profit margins of close to 50 per cent. Since he founded his firm in 2014, Woodford and his main associates have extracted £100 million in dividends.

Should Woodford defy the FCA's request to waive the fees, the FCA should remove his licence as an 'approved' person to work in the City.

In previous financial scandals, such as Equitable Life and the Libor interest rate scam at Barclays, regulators moved ruthlessly to clean the stables by removing top executives.

They may lack a clear legal basis for asking Woodford to step down, but the FCA and the Bank of England have sufficient moral authority to force his departure.

The duty of the regulator is to us, the customer, so that the ordinary citizen can invest for the long-term with confidence and know precisely how and when they can access their own money.

In this, regulators have failed miserably and the scandal continues unabated.