

PE1740/B

Petitioner submission of 25 October 2019

We would like to take this opportunity to draw the Committee's attention to one further point that has a direct bearing on our petition. We believe that important and relevant lessons have been learned from the failings in the Operation Midland investigation of Carl Beech's testimony (now known to be false) concerning child sexual abuse. The Independent Office for Police Conduct made 16 recommendations addressing the conduct of investigations, one of which proposes the use of recordings. The investigation discovered a lack of evidence as to what exactly happened in a decisive hearing during which search warrants were falsely obtained. Director General Michael Lockwood said,

"The IOPC is very clear that there must be accountability and assurance to the public that the weaknesses we have identified are addressed so these mistakes can never be repeated.

"...Specifically, it [our report] also recommends consideration of the cost-benefit of implementing in the future the audio-recording of search warrant application hearings which we believe would increase public confidence by improving transparency."