

= Giving Victims a Voice =

Giving Victims a Voice is a report published in January 2013 , relating to allegations of sexual abuse made against English DJ and BBC Television presenter Jimmy Savile (1926 ? 2011) as part of the Operation Yewtree criminal investigation . It was initiated as a result of publicity surrounding the Jimmy Savile sexual abuse scandal . The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) jointly produced this report . It marked the end of investigations made under the operation regarding Savile alone .

The scandal resulted in hundreds of alleged victims of Savile and other abusers approaching the police and the NSPCC . Their claims were investigated and formed the basis of the report , which found that Savile 's alleged offences were committed across England and Scotland , in hospitals , prison facilities , schools and BBC premises . Offences were reported between 1955 and 2009 , totalling 214 alleged offences across 28 police forces . The most frequent alleged offending coincided with Savile 's peak celebrity status . Numbers of alleged victims totalled 450 , of whom 328 were minors at the time . They were aged between 8 and 47 years , majority being 13 ? 16 .

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) described the report as marking a " watershed moment " and apologised for " shortcomings " in the handling of prior abuse claims . The report 's publication resulted in some highlighting what could be systemic failure because of the number of complainants and institutions identified , but others criticised it for treating allegations as facts . The DPP 's Principal Legal Advisor concluded that Savile could have been prosecuted for offences against at least three victims during his lifetime . After the report , investigations were further initiated in other hospitals . Ex @-@ Metropolitan Police Commissioner Peter Spindler (who had previously led Operation Yewtree) estimated that there may be many more victims who had not come forward .

= Background =

In September and October 2012 , claims were widely publicised that the English DJ and BBC Television presenter Jimmy Savile (31 October 1926 ? 29 October 2011) had committed sexual abuse . The publicity began on 5 October 2012 after an ITV Exposure documentary broadcast allegations . By 11 October , allegations had been made to 13 British police forces . On 19 October , the Metropolitan Police Service launched a formal criminal investigation , Operation Yewtree , into historic allegations of child sexual abuse by Savile and others . It described the alleged abuse as being " on an unprecedented scale " , and the number of potential victims as " staggering " .

Much of Savile 's career involved working with children and young people , including visiting schools and hospital wards . He spent 20 years presenting Top of the Pops before a teenage audience , and an overlapping 20 years presenting Jim 'll Fix It , in which he helped the wishes of viewers , mainly children , come true . During his lifetime , two police investigations had looked into reports about Savile , the earliest known being in 1958 , but none had led to charges ; the reports had each concluded that there was insufficient evidence for any charges to be brought relating to sexual offences . In October 2012 , it was announced that the Director of Public Prosecutions , Keir Starmer , would investigate why proceedings against Savile in 2009 were dropped .

The 30 @-@ page Giving Victims a Voice report , published on 11 January 2013 , is a result of an investigation undertaken jointly by the MPS and the NSPCC . Its authors were Detective Superintendent David Gray , of the Metropolitan Police Service Paedophile Unit , and Peter Watt , Director of Child Protection Advice & Awareness at the NSPCC . The authors had two intentions in writing the report . These were to provide public acknowledgement to alleged victims that they were being listened to , and to learn how child protection can be improved as a result of the investigation .

The report marks the end of investigations regarding Savile alone , though enquiries in relation to living people are continuing .

= Summary of findings =

According to the report , sex offences were committed by Savile on 450 people (328 being minors at the time) across England and Scotland , and also in Jersey . The vast majority of the alleged offences occurred in his home town of Leeds and his main workplace in London . The victims were mainly unacquainted with each other . Savile may have committed more than 30 rapes , with a total of 126 claims of indecent acts having been recorded .

Most of the alleged victims were aged 13 ? 16 , with 73 % of the total being minors aged under 18 . The alleged attacks were mostly against girls aged under 16 . It also included 18 girls and 10 boys under the age of 10 . The youngest alleged victim was aged 8 years and the oldest was 47 . The report said that a dying child aged 11 ? 12 was " touched inappropriately " by Savile . The report states that they were mostly opportunistic , although child grooming was involved in some cases . The first and final alleged offences were in 1955 and 2009 . The period containing the most frequent offences was between 1966 and 1976 (when Savile was aged 40 ? 50) , coinciding with his peak status as a celebrity . The years 1975 and 1976 each had 15 recorded offences .

Among other places , including BBC premises , the alleged offences occurred in hospitals (where he volunteered as a porter) , schools (upon invitations related to the Jim 'Il Fix It TV show) and prison facilities . According to the report , they took place 33 times in television and radio studios . One included sexual abuse against a girl in July 2006 , at the final recording of Top of the Pops . The report said that Savile 's celebrity status meant that he must have been " hiding in plain sight " . Operation Yewtree 's senior investigating officer , DS David Gray , said Savile used Jim 'Il Fix It as a means of meeting victims .

Most of the allegations had not previously been reported to authorities , the reasons given included fear of disbelief and distrust in the judicial system . At least seven allegations of sexual assault made to police during Savile 's lifetime were not linked by police , with Savile as the same alleged perpetrator . The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said that the allegations made to Surrey Police between 2007 and 2009 could have resulted in prosecutions being undertaken .

Approximately 600 people had provided information at the time of the report 's publication with 450 relating to Savile . This resulted in the formal recording of a total 214 alleged criminal offences across 28 police forces . No attacks within the West Mercia area are included in the figures , and Gray expected the number of recorded offences to rise above the 214 considered by the report .

The report acknowledges that agencies such as the police and the NHS have " failed victims over decades " . It describes Savile as " one of the UK 's most prolific known sexual predators ... " It concluded that " no clear evidence " was found that Savile operated in a paedophile ring , but investigations were continuing regarding the possibility of his being a member of an " informal network " . The report suggests that Savile may not have been caught partly because , during the most prolific period , police investigations into such crimes at that time " lacked the specialist skills , knowledge and the collaborative approach of later years " .

= = Reception = =

It has been suggested by The Guardian and The Sydney Morning Herald , that the report may have highlighted what could be systemic failure , because of the number of institutions identified . Yvette Cooper , Shadow Home Secretary requested that child protection experts conduct an " overarching review ... into why everyone failed to stop Savile and what should be done now " . Jonathan Brown , writing in The Independent , opined that the report " revealed a man who used his celebrity status and outwardly well @-@ intended works to gain access to and ultimately rape and sexually exploit hundreds of vulnerable young star @-@ struck victims ... "

Keir Starmer , Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) apologised for " shortcomings " in the handling of abuse claims . He said that the allegations had been " treated ... with a degree of caution which was neither justified nor required " and described the report as marking a " watershed moment " . Prosecutions were not brought by the CPS in three cases due to the victims not supporting police action . An apology for " missing the opportunity to prosecute Savile in 2009 " was made by the CPS . Principal Legal Advisor to the DPP , Alison Levitt QC concluded that Savile could have been prosecuted during his lifetime for offences against at least three (of the four) victims .

When interviewed under caution by Surrey police in 2009 , Savile referred to the allegations as an " occupational hazard " , saying to have previously sued five newspapers .

Former editor of The Daily Telegraph , Charles Moore noted that the report does not reveal the " extent of abuse " and that it " contains [no actual evidence] , in a sense which a court would recognise . " He commented that it " undermines justice " by " treat [ing] allegations as facts " , noting the report 's admission that " the information has not been corroborated " and viewing its contents as " not a contribution to the truth " . He did not feel it right to overcompensate for previously dismissive attitudes to such an extent " that every accusation must be considered true " . Referring to the 2000 BBC Two documentary When Louis Met ... Jimmy , Moore noted Savile 's response to claims of paedophilia : " How does anyone know whether I am or not ? " He concluded that this specific question (and also concerning " future Saviles ") is " not [made] easier to answer " by the " uninformative and self @-@ righteous " report .

Salon reported that because Savile could not face prosecution , the report offers the " closest thing to justice " for the alleged victims . Spiked criticised the report by describing it as " the peak of ' victim centred ' justice " and lacking in objectivity . Academics in Social Work Studies at the University of Edinburgh have questioned the veracity of the report . Writing in " Moral Panics , Jimmy Savile and Social Work : a 21st century morality tale " that " Giving Victims a Voice is full of scare @-@ mongering , exaggeration and elision , as allegations are presented as ' facts ' and accusations become ' offences ' , held to be incontrovertibly true " . The Lucy Faithfull Foundation stated that children must be better protected in the future . It also called for a national strategy to prevent such child sexual abuse . The BBC restated a " sincere apology to the victims " , saying it was " appalled " at Savile 's preying on its premises .

= = Consequences = =

The departure of Newsnight 's editor Peter Rippon in October 2012 was a precursor to a permanent replacement being sought by the BBC after the release of the report . In April 2013 ex @-@ Metropolitan Police Commissioner Peter Spindler , who had previously led Operation Yewtree , stated that many more victims had probably not come forward . He estimated that this number could be two or three times the 450 accounted for in the report . An inquiry by West Yorkshire Police into Savile 's " Friday Morning Club " , which was regularly attended by officers , was reported on in February 2013 . It was subsequently claimed that officers may have been groomed by Savile , partly as a result of his celebrity status . Investigations into further hospitals were underway during 2013 , and a children 's home in early 2014 .

The NSPCC reported that the Savile scandal had resulted in an increase in overall reports of sexual abuse by 81 % . This was measured by comparing the years immediately before and after broadcasting of the Exposure documentary . A subsequent NSPCC report was commissioned by Her Majesty 's Inspectorate of Constabulary and published in January 2014 . It reported on interviews with 26 individuals , a number of whom were abused in hospitals . Upon reporting abuse to staff at the time , they felt that their concerns were not treated sincerely .