

Witness Name : Sara O'Donnell
Statement No : First
Exhibits: SOD1 – SOD5
Dated :

THE INDEPENDENT JERSEY CARE INQUIRY

EXHIBIT SOD1

Sara O'Donnell

From: William Bailhache
Sent: 28 February 2008 09:58
To: Sara O'Donnell
Cc: Tim Allen
Subject: RE: CV

Thanks Sara

It is early days yet but I will certainly bear in mind what you have said.

William

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

From: Sara O'Donnell
Sent: 27 February 2008 10:17
To: William Bailhache
Cc: Tim Allen
Subject: FW: CV

William,

I refer to our conversation on the 13th December in the presence of Tim Allen when we discussed my CV and the various options open to me concerning my career. I mentioned that I had experience of large scale child abuse cases and paedophilia type cases. I can confirm that this is the case. One such case was the case of [REDACTED]. It was a large scale investigation into the activities of [REDACTED] an adviser to the UK Government on the sexual abuse of children. The defendant was a guardian ad litem and previously had been employed as the principal of a children's home which specialised in the treatment of vulnerable children who had been abused. The enquiry was mainly into historic abuse and [REDACTED] charges were initially brought. I had been involved early on in the investigation and we were daily uncovering new allegations, which were numerous and spanned a period of 30 years. The only reason this case did not go to trial was that [REDACTED].

I also dealt with a case involving a huge and sophisticated paedophile ring the members of which were systematically sexually abusing children and distributing material advising of the abuse on the internet. Despite jurisdictional difficulties and problems with encryption a number of members of the ring were successfully prosecuted.

I dealt with a paedophile who used [REDACTED] as a way of attracting young girls and then using the same MO engaged in minor sexual activity culminating in rape. Dealing with such issues such as similar fact.

Another example is a case where I prosecuted and tried a [REDACTED] year old boy who had raped a [REDACTED] year old. At the time boys of [REDACTED] were not deemed to be capable of rape in law and therefore he was charged and convicted with indecent assault.

I also successfully prosecuted and tried an indecent assault by an [REDACTED] year old on a [REDACTED] year old.

I have dealt with an infanticide case where a woman had killed one baby (at the time there was insufficient evidence to charge) and then some 15 months later seriously assaulted her [REDACTED] old baby causing multiple fractures.

I have dealt with numerous physical abuse cases on children as well as numerous rape cases on young adults

I was a national trainer in relation to disclosure issues and dealt with highly complex issues of disclosure whilst working as a special case work lawyer for a number of years. In this position I dealt with the most serious crimes in the country, including murders.

In this type of allegation, the amount of unused material will be extensive and will require a team to analyse it to determine whether it should be disclosed as non-sensitive material or whether it will be subject to a Pii applications. It will also involve a lot of material which will be in the hands of 3rd parties and will require careful handling in relation to preservation of the material as well as dealing with third party Pii applications.

As a special casework lawyer I liaised closely with a number of Regional Crime Squads. I was consulted at the beginning of large scale investigations and I would provide general advice as well as advise on a number of specific

issues including the lines of enquiries that ought to be pursued and those that ought not, the quality of the evidence obtained, the obtaining of evidence abroad, disclosure and charge.

I feel that I could prove invaluable to your department in the light of the current allegations in relation to child abuse. I am already on the Island. I am fully conversant with the type of issues likely to be raised, I have the relevant experience and also have experience of Jersey's criminal law. Bridget Shaw will confirm that she recently discussed with me the case of [REDACTED] in relation to a number of issues.

I am happy to revise my CV to include the information regarding my experience relating to child abuse cases, if you so wish. I look forward to hearing from you and perhaps we can arrange a meeting in the very near future to discuss this matter further.

Best Regards

Sara

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

From: Sara O'Donnell
Sent: 19 November 2007 15:21
To: William Bailhache
Subject: CV

Dear William,

I refer to our telephone conversation on Friday. As suggested, I attach my CV for your consideration. May I suggest that we meet in the next week or so to discuss matters further.

<< File: CV- Sara O'Donnell latest version 1.doc >>

Best regards

Sara

Sara O'Donnell
Jersey Legal Information Board Programme Director
Telephone No: [REDACTED]