

**INVESTIGATION INTO TAXI LICENSING – ROTHERHAM MBC BY  
JOHN RIDDELL, WEIGHTMANS LLP – APPENDIX A.**

**CHRONOLOGY**

2002	Home Office researcher report published making link between taxi service and CSE in Rotherham
March 2006	Dr Heal's report describes extensive and historical link between taxi service and CSE in Rotherham
December 2007	Sexual exploitation forum hears that Risky Business were inundated with referrals.
January 2008	Licensing enforcement officers moved from licensing to general enforcement section.
May 2008	Councillor Akhtar, a licensed taxi driver, appointed cabinet member with responsibility for housing and neighbourhood services which included taxi licensing management and enforcement. He holds this post until May 2011 when he is appointed Deputy Leader, a role that does not include responsibility for taxis.
November 2010	Review led by Matt Gladstone, to investigate CSE and the need for the flow of information between licensing, enforcement, police, safeguarding and Risky Business.
November 2010	Operation Central investigates complaints of CSE by four young people which leads to five convictions in trial ending in November 2010.
November 2010	Child S (Individual 21) murdered and serious case review launched.
5 January 2011	Andrew Norfolk breaks story in Times naming Rotherham as one of the towns where there was a pattern of collective abuse involving hundreds of girls aged 11 to 16. No link is made to taxis however.
2011	Operation Chard launched – no prosecutions followed.
3 February 2011	Grid of concern sent to licensing – it records numerous concerns of links between taxis and CSE. Intelligence from police, Risky Business and licensing considered insufficient for further action.
March 2011	Agreed that enhanced CRB checks would be retained by Rotherham for checks on taxi drivers.
December 2011	Vehicle maintenance checks held, but decided in future to give greater notice due to complaints by the trade.
March 2011–2014	Continued reports of links between CSE and the taxi trade received at responsible authority meetings.

8 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	Rotherham MBC evidence submitted to Home Affairs Select Committee identifies four cases which established a link between the taxi service and CSE over the previous two years.
10 <sup>th</sup> June 2013	Home Affairs Select Committee reports that Rotherham Council were inexcusably slow to realise widespread and organised sexual abuse of children in their local authority.
2012 to 2015	Two licensing management staff re-located from Maltby to Riverside House. Remainder remain at Maltby.
1 July 2014	Taxi licensing enforcement officers brought under single management of Individual 62.
21 <sup>st</sup> August 2014	Professor Jay's report published identifying link between taxis and CSE.
18 October 2014	Home Affairs Select Committee reports that there was compelling evidence that Rotherham MBC and South Yorkshire police ignored numerous, credible warnings about the scale of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham.
Autumn 2014	Draft taxi licensing policy drafted and reviewed as part of wide ranging Improvement Plan instigated by Dave Richmond, in response to Jay report.
4 February 2015	Dame Louise Casey's report published giving further details of links between taxis and CSE and failures of Rotherham MBC to confront issue.
February 2015	Commissioner Mary Ney appointed and is made responsible for taxi licensing management and enforcement. Introduces a series of reforms which sees taxi enforcement reunited with taxi licensing management and review of all existing licences leading to many suspensions.
February 2015	Three remaining licensing management staff move from Maltby to Riverside House.
June 2015	Internal audit report shows a failure to obtain a DBS check on an operator's licence. Individual 64 issued with written warning as a result.
7 July 2015	Revised and more robust taxi licensing policy introduced.
3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2017	Report by Weightmans LLP completed endorsing majority of findings in Casey report, criticising certain officers but not recommending any disciplinary action.