

DOCUMENT 1

This is a series of emails between the Cabinet Office and the FCO.

From: [REDACTED] FCO

Sent: 16 July 2014 17:11

To: Gray, Sue - Cabinet Office

Cc: Martin Longden [REDACTED], Peter Hayes

Subject: RE: Contact for St Helena child abuse inquiry

Sue

Thanks very much. We will discuss that here. I will keep you updated.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: Gray, Sue - Cabinet Office

Sent: 16 July 2014 17:03

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Martin Longden [REDACTED], Peter Hayes

Subject: RE: Contact for St Helena child abuse inquiry

HO suggest Sasha Wass

From: [REDACTED] FCO

Sent: 16 July 2014 16:10

To: Gray, Sue - Cabinet Office

Cc: Martin Longden [REDACTED], Hayes, Peter

Subject: Contact for St Helena child abuse inquiry

Hi Sue

Thanks so much for talking to me just now. **You kindly said you would be able to share with us the contact at the Home Office who has put together the list of experts (QCs and others) who might replace Butler-Sloss.** We are very much looking for a similar person who can lead our independent review into whether there was a conspiracy to cover up child abuse on St Helena – involving HMG, the Saint Helena Government and the police and social services on the island. The people who are making these allegations are two former social workers who are also bringing employment tribunals against FCO and DFID (although they weren't our employees officially) and they also have an investigation going on into their behaviour at the moment as they have been accused of perjury.

The reason we think we urgently need a QC for the independent investigation into conspiracy is because we need to de-conflict the three investigations. I would also be very grateful for any advice you have to CO lawyers/team who may be able to give us advice on making these investigations very separate as well as the list of names who might be able to lead the investigation.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

DOCUMENT NO 2

From: Peter Hayes (Sensitive)
Sent: 16 July 2014 17:39
To: Martin Longden (Sensitive); FCO [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Contact for St Helena child abuse inquiry

Yes - if dfid agree (and agree to pay), let's grab her!

From: [REDACTED] FCO
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2014 05:12 PM
To: Martin Longden * (Sensitive), [REDACTED], Peter Hayes (Sensitive)
Subject: RE: Contact for St Helena child abuse inquiry

All

Here is a bio of Sasha Wass. [REDACTED]. Martin – if you and Peter/Sarah agree maybe you could approach her tomorrow?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

SASHA WASS:

Queen's Counsel since 2000 and Recorder of the Crown Court since 1997, Sasha has over 32 years' experience at the Criminal Bar. She has been engaged in numerous complex and high profile cases including those of the UK's largest banking fraud, rogue trader Kweku Adoboli; the ex-Nigerian State Governor, James Ibori; failed financier, Roger Levitt; and serial killer, Rosemary West.

Sasha has both prosecuted and defended numerous cases of murder and serious sexual misconduct. More recently, she has been involved in large-scale international fraud, money laundering and confiscation proceedings. Additionally, she has a particular interest in cases where scientific and medical evidence is disputed, such as allegations of "Shaken Baby Syndrome" and unexplained deaths in infants. She has successfully defended cases involving medical malpractice.

With her experience as judge, prosecutor and defender, Sasha has the expertise and ability to use her understanding of all dimensions of the criminal process to enable her to present cases effectively to a jury.

Sasha is known for her attention to detail and relentless cross-examination on behalf of her clients. Her photographic memory allows her to work swiftly and efficiently through large amounts of material. She is admired for her ability to master her brief and to isolate and identify the essence of her client's case. She is recognised as being a fearless opponent.

Sasha has been recommended as a leader in the field of crime in both *Chambers and Partners* and the *Legal 500*.

Appointments

- Recorder at the Central Criminal Court (2008)
- Elected Bencher of Gray's Inn (2003)
- Queen's Counsel (2000)
- Recorder of the Crown Court (1997)

Other

- Authorised to try Serious Sex Cases since 2004.
- Called to the Bar in both Gibraltar and the Cayman Islands
- Serious Office Panel

[REDACTED]

From: Gray, Sue - Cabinet Office

Sent: 16 July 2014 17:03

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Martin Longden * (Sensitive); [REDACTED] FCO, Peter Hayes (Sensitive)

Subject: RE: Contact for St Helena child abuse inquiry

HO suggest Sasha Wass

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 16 July 2014 16:10

To: Gray, Sue - Cabinet Office

Cc: Martin Longden [REDACTED] FCO Hayes, Peter

Subject: Contact for St Helena child abuse inquiry

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Thanks

[REDACTED]

DOCUMENT NO 3

This paragraph comes from a submission to the Permanent Under Secretary and Minister James Duddridge, written by Martin Longden (head of Falklands, Southern Oceans and British Indian Oceans Territory) on 11 September 2014.

5. Following guidance from Ministers, officials have engaged with Ms. Sasha Wass QC, a pre-eminent and high profile barrister with an expertise in child safety issues to establish whether she would be prepared to lead this independent inquiry into child abuse on the island. Ms. Wass has now confirmed that she is content to take this on. This is a very positive development: Ms Wass is well respected and highly competent, and will give credibility to the inquiry as well as professional rigour. We recommend that Ministers commission her accordingly.

DOCUMENT 4

This is an email from the private secretary for Minister Duddridge, relaying the Minister's views on appointing Sasha Wass.

From: PS Minister Duddridge - Action (Sensitive)

Sent: 15 September 2014 17:19

To: PUS Action (Sensitive); [REDACTED] PS Minister Duddridge - Action (Sensitive); SOSFA Action (Sensitive)

Cc: Hogo SaintHelena (External); Sarah MacIntosh (Sensitive); Martin Longden * (Sensitive); Peter Hayes (Sensitive) Peter Walter (Sensitive); Gill Morrissey (Sensitive); Deborah Bronnert (Sensitive); Marc Holland, Beverley Warmington (DFID) (External); Gill Morrissey (Sensitive); Peter Walter (Sensitive); DL PO - PS & SPADS (Sensitive); (Sensitive); PRD - Duddridge (Sensitive), [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: St Helena inquiry submission update

[REDACTED], PS/SOSFA,

Mr Duddridge was grateful for the submission. He made the following comments:

1. The Minister fully agreed with the recommendation to appoint Sasha Wass QC to lead the independent inquiry. He supported the terms of reference and to write to the Governor and Councillors of St Helena to make them aware of the inquiry;

[REDACTED]

DOCUMENT 5

A letter sent to a member of the public about the appointment of Ms Wass.

[REDACTED]

By Email: [REDACTED]

27 July 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

“ANOTHER CHILD ABUSE COVER UP IN PROCESS – THE WASS INQUIRY (ST HELENA) – DFID - FCO EXPOSED AGAIN”

Thank you for your email of 16 July on the above subject.

HMG is taking child abuse allegations on St Helena very seriously. In his Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) of 20 November 2014, the Foreign Secretary stated, “I have agreed that Ms. Sasha Wass QC should lead this Inquiry. Ms. Wass is a very accomplished barrister with substantial professional experience of dealing with these kinds of issues. I am confident that she will lead this Inquiry with great rigour, fairness and sensitivity”. The Foreign Secretary added, “This new Inquiry will not be quick. But it will be thorough. And I am confident that the facts will be established”.

Ms Wass QC has extensive experience in sex cases both as a member of the independent criminal bar and as a judge.

We note that Ms Wass has not been instructed by, nor received any fees from DFID, either in relation to the Ibori case or any other matter.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office remain confident in the independence of Ms Wass, that she is experienced and qualified to chair the Inquiry, and we are satisfied that there is no conflict of interest.

We await Ms Wass’ report and will be responding to her findings and recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Overseas Territories Department