



EUROPE (/TOPIC/EUROPE)

## A Former British Prime Minister Is Being Investigated Over Child Sex Abuse Claims



August 4, 2015 | 1:00 pm

A former UK Prime Minister is being investigated by four British police forces as part of an unprecedented inquiry into allegations of historical child abuse that reached to the very top of the country's elite.

The late Sir Edward Heath, who died in 2005, aged 89, is now the most prominent name to feature as part of a series of mammoth investigations into whether police and other authorities covered up horrific levels of sexual abuse by people of influence over several decades in the UK.

A dam of official silence around the allegations began to break after the 2011 death of TV entertainer Jimmy Savile, ([http://www.vice.com/en\\_uk/read/good-morning-sinners-warren-ellis-jimmy-savile-and-the-price-of-silence](http://www.vice.com/en_uk/read/good-morning-sinners-warren-ellis-jimmy-savile-and-the-price-of-silence)) when dozens came forward to say he had abused them. Subsequent revelations have implicated other entertainers, as well as clergy and other senior politicians.

The claims made against Heath, who was prime minister between 1970 and 1974, are now being investigated by the London Metropolitan, Wiltshire, Kent, and Jersey Police forces.

In the latest revelation, Kent Police revealed on Tuesday afternoon it had received a report of a sexual assault having been committed in east Kent in the 1960s. A spokesman told Kent Online (<http://www.kentonline.co.uk/thanet/news/inquiry-launched-into-former-prime-41117/>) that the victim has named Heath in connection with the allegation and is now being investigated as part of Operation Hydrant.

Allegations are also being examined by Scotland Yard as part of Operation Midland, which was set up to examine claims of coordinated murder and abuse by a Westminster pedophile ring.

Indicating the scale of the inquiry, police examining the systematic abuse of children at Jersey care homes in the UK Channel Islands confirmed Tuesday that Heath is also named in its separate investigation — Operation Whistle — along with 13 other "people of public prominence."

Heath is said to have "frequently" been to a children's home, Haut de la Garenne, which was visited by Savile.

Allegations against Heath were first disclosed on Monday after the UK's police watchdog also revealed it is investigating whether Wiltshire Police failed to pursue an allegation of child sexual abuse made against him in the 1990s.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission said it had received an allegation from a retired officer that a criminal prosecution was abandoned when a person threatened to expose Heath for allegedly being involved in offenses concerning children.

The *Guardian* (<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/aug/04/edward-heath-met-have-been-investigating-claims-for-several-months>) reported that the suspect was said to be a woman in charge of a brothel, whose prosecution was abandoned after she threatened to expose Heath.

Wiltshire Police issued an appeal for victims to come forward on Monday. A number of calls have reportedly already been made after officers set up an inquiry line to find witnesses who can support the allegations.

In a further sensational turn, British newspaper the *Mirror* (<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/sir-edward-heath-child-abuse-6188388>) then reported a claim by an unnamed man who claims he was raped at the age of 12 by Heath.

The alleged victim, now 64, says the sexual assault took place in an exclusive Mayfair flat in 1961 when Heath was a Tory MP.

Detectives from Scotland Yard's sexual exploitation unit have been informed of the claims from the man, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, and plan to interview him, the *Mirror* reported. (<https://news.vice.com>) <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/sir-edward-heath-child-abuse-6188388>

Supporters of Heath have already fiercely dismissed the claims saying there is "not a shred of evidence to link him to abuse," according to the BBC. (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-33770021>)

Follow Charlotte Meredith on Twitter: @CHMeredith (<https://twitter.com/chmeredith>)

The NSPCC helpline for the Edward Heath inquiry is 0808 800 5000

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Join the discussion...



**CaptainGrumpy** • 2 hours ago

Dig the bast@rd up I say, force him to confess, find him guilty and sentence him to life.

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**Gary Love** • 6 hours ago

It's either one extreme or the other. Seems like rapists (Cosby) and child molesters (catholic priests) used to have free rein, now guys go to jail and/or have their reputations destroyed by false accusers, a la ivy league \$kank Emma Sulkowicz and Rolling Stone Magazine.

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**Ulrich Werner** → Gary Love • 3 hours ago

Listened to too much Rush Limbaugh, eh? Rape is rampant on college campuses. How is one douchebag more believable than three women saying they have been raped by this guy?

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**Gary Love** → Ulrich Werner • 2 hours ago

I don't listen to Rush, I hate that guy. Maybe you should stop believing everything that jezebel hussies and fake journalists have to say. Show me some credible evidence that "Jackie" or Sulkowicz were raped, and that "Drew", his entire frat, and Paul Nungesser deserved to be labeled as predators.

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›

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**Swoos McGoose** → Gary Love • 5 hours ago

Ivy League \$kank...  
is that a new liberal arts major?

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**hoaxvii** → Swoos McGoose • 3 hours ago

I though it was a new hiphop thing

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›

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A Syrian military plane crashes into a crowded marketplace, Burmese rescuers struggle to deliver monsoon relief, Hungary begins to seal its southern border, and Gazans have a new place to relax by the sea.

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## **VICE News Meets Abdul-Haqq: The Islamist Boxer** **(/video/vice-news-meets-abdul-haqq-the-islamist-boxer)**

Having been cleared of plotting to leave Britain to join Islamic State militants in Syria, VICE News spoke to former professional boxer Anthony Small, now known as Abdul-Haqq, on the run up to his arrest.