

GMP identify 809 members of child sex grooming gangs as new unit is launched

Come on, Reclaim the Streets, now is your chance to stand up and agitate for seriously abused proletarian girls. From the [Maggie Oliver](#) doesn't think this was co-incidence and neither do I.

eventually
the job was closed.

In hindsight, perhaps I should have looked a little more closely at the timeline of Operation Augusta. I'd gone off

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the job in March 2005. Norman died on 5 July. Two days later, a team of four homegrown terrorists had exploded bombs on the London Underground and on a double-decker bus in the cause of jihad, killing fifty-two people and injuring almost 800. The 7/7 bombings happened the day after it had been announced London had won its bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games. The spotlight of the world was now upon us and the fallout had been wide and far-reaching.

I'd returned to work in September 2005, soon after the HOLMES database on Operation Augusta had been completely shut down. Some years later, however, I discovered that the last entry placed on it was the evening of 6 July – the night before the 7/7 attack. Up until that point, information had been routinely placed upon it, with the Augusta team seemingly working towards arrests and successful prosecutions. Then after 7/7, nothing.

Coincidence? I think not. In my mind, I'm certain that an order was given at the very highest level that to reveal the extent of child grooming of white girls by Muslim men at that point would be akin to adding petrol to an already inflammatory situation. I believe the decision came from the top and was made so the police could avoid accusations of Islamophobia – to avoid being labelled racist. Undoubtedly, it was a very fractious time for race relations in the UK. Equally, it was political correctness gone mad. In short, they didn't want riots on the streets of Britain. In the light of what has happened since 2005, and what we now recognise as a national scandal surrounding this type of sexual abuse, I see no reason to change that opinion as nothing else makes any sense to me. Call me a

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conspiracy theorist, but to my mind it was more convenient for the Government to ignore the plight of a few so-called 'underclass' girls than to tackle this issue, even if it reared its head at a most inconvenient moment.

Hardly any charges were made against the men identified by the operation. Eight of them later went on to commit serious sexual crimes, including the rape of a child, the rape of a young woman, sexual assault and sexual activity with a child.

In addition to investigating large scale and complex cases, the unit will also have strategic oversight of all multi-victim/multi-suspect CSE investigations taking place across Greater Manchester.

Perhaps Reclaim the Streets would like to put pressure on the Greater manchester Police to actually see these initiatives, of which there have been a few over the last 2-3 years actually do achieve some convictions. And then, the defendants having served a decent length, if eligible for and ordered to be