

Police Knew for 13 Years Arshid Hussain Was Grooming and Raping Girls in Foster Care

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A police watchdog has upheld a complaint by a grooming gang victim against South Yorkshire Police that the force knew for years that child rapist Arshid Hussain was targeting girls in foster care and other “vulnerable young women” caught up in the widespread

Rotherham grooming gang scandal.

Grooming gang survivor Sammy Woodhouse had lodged a complaint to the Independent Office for Police Conduct that the force had failed to “deal appropriately with information which may have led to a suspect being prosecuted at an earlier stage, thereby exposing other children to abuse”.

South Yorkshire police knew in 2000 that Arshid Hussain had “a number of relationships with young girls in foster care”. The force took no action against him until one of his child victims, Sammy Woodhouse, told her story to *The Times* in 2013.

Her account, using the pseudonym Jessica, triggered the inquiry that exposed the town's child exploitation scandal, finding that 1,400 girls suffered appalling abuse by groups of men who were "almost all" of Pakistani heritage.

Police documents from March 2000 revealed that "Hussain... has, in the past, had a number of relationships with young girls who are in foster care. He targets young, vulnerable women."

Other reports from later that month revealed South Yorkshire Police had struck a deal with Hussain to hand over the child, who was missing from home, to officers. Records show that the Pakistani-heritage man was neither questioned nor arrested. The watchdog said the police constable thought to have brokered the handover, at a petrol station, Hassan Ali, would have been served with a gross misconduct notice, but died in 2015. *(I have wondered about*