

Rotherham police chief: we ignored sex abuse of children'. With it being Asians, we can't afford for this to be coming out.

An exclusive from [The Telegraph.](#)

A senior police officer admitted that his force ignored the sexual abuse of girls by Pakistani grooming gangs for decades because it was afraid of increasing "racial tensions", a watchdog has ruled.

After a five-year investigation, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) [in Manchester.](#)

Until now police forces across the north and the Midlands have consistently denied that concerns about upsetting community sensitivities or accusations of racism were a factor in their past failure to tackle grooming gangs.

Steve Noonan, IOPC's director of major investigations, said: "We are continuing to make significant progress with Operation Linden and we have completed more than 90% of the enquiries we have identified so far.

"A small number of investigation reports still need to be completed and our investigation into the actions of the former senior command team at South Yorkshire Police during the period of our investigation continues and is progressing well.

South Yorkshire Police had accepted the watchdog's findings, adding that the unnamed chief inspector's alleged comments were "not something we tolerate in today's force".

The watchdog has informed the young woman that its report has been shared with the South Yorkshire force, She was told that the IOPC was unable to identify the chief inspector. It interviewed 16 police officers known to have had dealings with the girl during her years of exploitation but the report said that “none of them could recall their involvement with you”.

The complainant and her family said they were pleased by the watchdog’s findings but did not believe that any officer would be held to account.

Earlier this week, a damning report into Greater Manchester Police’s 2004 investigation into [the officer hung up on the father.](#)



He recalled one occasion when he phoned the police and spoke with a Chief Inspector to discuss his concerns about you. He could not remember the name of the officer. He added that the officer referred to grooming as 'Paki shagging' and told him that 'with it being Asians we can't afford for this to be coming out' as 'Rotherham would erupt'. The officer had then put the phone down on him.

A paragraph from the IOPC report into the Rotherham sex abuse scandal, regarding a complaint from a victim's father

The hollow nature of such a claim is exposed by the police watchdog's upholding of a complaint that the father of a Rotherham victim was told by a senior police