



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AEA Cymru welcomes the release of Dr Margaret Flynn's highly critical report on Operation Jasmine**

*Cardiff, 14th July 2015*, Action on Elder Abuse Cymru (AEA Cymru) strongly welcomes the release of Dr Margaret Flynn's report, *In Search of Accountability*, which was highly critical of Operation Jasmine and has called for the Director of Public Prosecutions to refer the investigation to the Special Crime and Counter Terrorism Division of the Crown Prosecution Service.

Operation Jasmine, which cost approximately £15 million, was carried out by Gwent Police and investigated the alleged abuse of older people at six care homes in South Wales. The investigation focused on 63 deaths in Welsh care homes and nursing homes, which were identified as a cause for concern. Dr Flynn was also critical of the decision not to prosecute Dr Prana Das — the owner of two of the care homes — whose 2013 trial was ended after he sustained head injuries during an attack.

'Today's report, has exposed the failings in the handling of cases of neglect of older people in care homes in South Wales', says AEA Cymru director, Rachael Nicholson. 'We know that older people are let down time and time again by the Criminal Justice System, and this is highlighted in *In Search of Accountability*. We are pleased to see Dr Flynn's recommendation for the Operation Jasmine investigation to be reviewed by the CPS. Dr Flynn reported that care home staff 'had neither the skills nor the knowledge to care competently'. AEA Cymru exists to protect and prevent the abuse of older people in Wales

and will campaign to ensure that all care home staff receive adequate training, support and supervision, and that Criminal Justice agencies consider all allegations of abuse as crimes’.

‘The alleged abuses uncovered in Operation Jasmine cried out for both investigation and justice, but that is not what the victims or their families received. Dr Flynn has now provided another opportunity for that justice and we would call on all agencies to urgently seize that opportunity and demonstrate their commitment to end elder abuse.’

‘Sarah Rochira, the Commissioner for Older People, has already indicated the need to strengthen the law to make it easier to hold care providers legally accountable. We would support that view. The law to protect older people must be more robust. Serious, urgent consideration needs to be given to speedy prosecution of those who abuse or neglect older people.’

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Notes to editors:

For further information on this release, please call 020 8835 9283

1. Action on Elder Abuse is a UK-wide charity with a presence in all four nations. It aims to protect and prevent the abuse of vulnerable older people by raising awareness of the issues, encouraging education and giving information and support to those in need. It has the only national freephone helpline dedicated to this cause, open Monday to Friday between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm on 080 8808 8141 for confidential support and information. Website: [www.elderabuse.org.uk](http://www.elderabuse.org.uk)
2. With funds from the Big Lottery, in 2015 Action on Elder Abuse established staff in Wales to highlight and challenge the abuse of older people. Rachael Nicholson is Director of AEA Cymru.
3. Elder abuse includes physical, sexual, psychological and financial abuse and neglect. It can often be a criminal act but is not often prosecuted.