

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1734/04
by Mary Honeyball (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Verification of the bona fides of experts

In the light of the revelations in the recent case of Stephen King in London, could the Commission explain what steps it takes to satisfy itself as to the bona fides of persons or organisations which it funds, supports or invites to speak at conferences or other events connected with children's online safety, and also more generally?

(King was a so-called expert who had been used as a witness in child pornography cases by both the defence and the prosecution, and had been involved in training conferences along with the police and prosecuting authorities, and it turned out that, using a different name, he had a prior conviction for gross indecency and that he was also sexually abusing three 10-year-old girls.)