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News

## Michael John Hewitt: Paedophile Jehovah's Witness jailed for 15 years



Michael John Hewitt was described as a significant risk to young children and a dangerous offender.

By Gareth Platt

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

**A man who took advantage of his position of trust in a Surrey branch of Jehovah's Witnesses and sexually abused three young girls has been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment on Monday, 12 March at Croydon Crown Court.**

Michael John Hewitt, 71 and now of Fremington in Devon, was found guilty of eight counts of indecency with children who were all aged under 16 years at the time.

He will be on the sex offenders register for life and have a Sexual Harm Prevention Order and Restraining Order served.



Two of Hewitt's victims were as young as five when the abuse started. He sexually abused all three of them in his and their home addresses, undetected by family members.

He later sold his home in Surrey and moved to Devon.

On January 11, 2016, two of the victims reported what had happened to a family member, who then contacted police. Hewitt was later arrested in January 2016 and bailed pending further enquiries.

Following extensive research by detectives from the Child Abuse and Sexual Offences Command, the third victim was identified and came forward when told Hewitt was under investigation for two similar offences.

In May 2017, Hewitt was charged with eleven counts of indecency with three girls under 16 years old. He was later acquitted of three offences.

Whilst sentencing Judge Flahive described Hewitt as a significant risk to young children and a dangerous offender.

Detective Constable Janet Williams, the investigating officer from the Met's Child Abuse and Sexual Offences Command said: "The victims were abused by Hewitt at a very early age. Only when they were older were they able to understand what Hewitt subjected them to. Hewitt abused his position of trust to exploit the young girls for his own satisfaction.

"I would like to pay tribute to the victims who had the courage to report these distressing crimes to police. I hope today's conviction gives the victims a measure of comfort and closure."

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Michael John Hewitt

Paedophile

Jehovah's Witness

Surrey

Wallington

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