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Child abuse fantasist Carl Beech freed under early release scheme

Under the pseudonym 'Nick', the former nurse made a string of baseless claims about VIPs including the late Lord Bramall, former head of the British Army

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, Crime Editor

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Labour Party

Prisons



Carl Beech was sentenced to 18 years in 2019

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A paedophile who made lurid allegations of sexual abuse and murders committed by VIPs has been freed from prison under Labour's early release scheme.

[Carl Beech](#), 58, who went by the pseudonym Nick, was released last week after serving a little over 40 per cent of an 18-year term.

The former nurse was jailed in 2019 after he made a string of baseless claims about a VIP abuse ring in Westminster. It led to raids on the homes of [Lord Brittan of Spennithorne](#), the former home secretary, Lord Bramall, the D-Day veteran, and [Harvey Proctor](#), the former Conservative MP.



Field Marshal Edwin Bramall died six months after Beech stood trial
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A judge called Beech a “manipulative and devious” person and ordered him to serve half of his sentence in prison.

On Monday it emerged that Beech had been released after just over seven years behind bars, including time spent on remand.

A Ministry of Justice spokesperson said: “Carl Beech’s crimes were shocking and had far-reaching consequences, and our thoughts remain with all those affected. Offenders released on licence are subject to strict conditions and can be returned to prison immediately if they breach them.”

Beech left prison last week and was taken to a hostel in the West Country, according to a report in the Daily Mail. He will remain on life licence and is subject to strict conditions.



Beech was described by the trial judge as a “manipulative and devious person”

CPS/PA

He was freed as part of a Labour initiative launched in September 2024 to manage “acute capacity pressures” in prisons.

Beech’s lies were uncovered after [Operation Midland](#), the disastrous £2.5 million investigation led by the Metropolitan Police. He had told police that he and other individuals had been sexually abused by a “VIP ring” in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He also told detectives that he had witnessed three child murders by members of the same group.

Two other men, known only as Witness A and Witness B, supported Beech’s claims with false allegations, but avoided criminal charges.

Beech’s lies unravelled after Scotland Yard’s 16-month inquiry, which involved two dozen officers, ended without a single arrest. [He fled to Sweden](#), where he was later found.

He was found guilty on 12 charges of perverting the course of justice and a single charge of fraud after a trial at Newcastle crown court. He admitted four charges of making indecent photographs of children and one of possessing indecent images of children, and another of voyeurism.

Mr Justice Goss called him “manipulative and devious person” and said that his false claims had undermined genuine abuse survivors.

Beech’s 18-year sentence included 15 years concurrently for perverting the course of justice. He was given 18 months consecutively for fraud and another 18-month consecutive term in relation to the indecent images and voyeurism charges. He was also given a two-month concurrent sentence for breaching bail when he escaped to Sweden.

- [Field Marshal Lord Bramall obituary](#)

Bramall, a former head of the British Army, told the court how Beech's "monstrous" allegations had affected his life. He said: "I can honestly say ... I was never as badly wounded in all my time in the military as I have been by the allegations made by 'Nick' that formed the basis of Operation Midland." Bramall died in November 2019.