

Detectives from Operation Midland are appealing for the public's help to track down possible suspects, witnesses or victims.

The investigation is into allegations of serious and organised sexual abuse, and the murder of three young boys.

The abuse is believed to have taken place over at least a decade, at various locations across London and the Home Counties, including military premises.

Officers from the Homicide and Major Crime Command started this complex investigation in November 2014 after allegations were reported to police.

Detective Superintendent Kenny McDonald, in charge of the investigation, said: "I want to appeal directly to those other young boys, now men, who were also subject to abuse at the hands of these men. I believe that there were other boys who were abused, or who were present whilst the abuse took place.

"I would ask you to trust me. I will support you, and do everything in my power to find those responsible and bring them to justice. I need your accounts to help me do that.

"One witness, known as Nick (not his real name) has spoken to us. He has said he was abused from the age of seven until he was 16, from 1975 - 1984.

"Some of the abuse took place at a flat on the Dolphin Square estate. However I can't rule out this was the only flat used. I am also investigating a number of other locations that we believe were used for the abuse of boys. At this stage I will not be specific about them as they are an important active part of the investigation.

"Nick has described how a car would be sent to collect him, and he would be driven to Dolphin Square. The abuse he has detailed that he was subjected to was carried out by a man on his own, a group of men, or during what have been described as 'parties'.

"There will be people who lived at, or visited, Dolphin Square from the early 1970s onwards who will have seen or heard something that they only now understand the significance of.

"Today I would like to ask former residents, current residents, or anyone who routinely went to Dolphin Square to think back and get in touch with us with any information they may have.

"This investigation team is made up of experienced murder detectives with specialist officers from the Child Abuse Command attached to the team. They have skills and expertise in dealing with allegations of child abuse. The team is working closely with the military police."

Detective Superintendent McDonald, continued: "I cannot stress enough just what a complicated and difficult investigation this is, examining events that took place over thirty years ago. It will take us time to unearth vital evidence and thoroughly piece together the information we have.

"My team is also investigating the possible murder of three young boys. Our work is ongoing, and we are examining reports of missing people from that time. To date, we have

not recovered any bodies.

"We are determined to find answers. I need the public's help to do that.

Detectives have spoken to the family of Martin Allen, who disappeared in 1979. At this stage in the investigation, it is not possible to say if Martin's disappearance is linked. However, officers will keep the family updated on the progress of their investigation.

The MPS is in close contact with Sussex Police, who are carrying out a further review into the disappearance and murder of Vishal Mehrotra in 1981.

At this stage, it is not possible to decide whether Vishal's murder is linked to this investigation, and Sussex Police remain in contact with his family.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact the Investigation Team on 020 8721 4005, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Alternatively call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000 or e-mail help@nspcc.org.uk.