

Veterans miss out on charity millions as fundraiser keeps up to 80% of cash

Andrew Gilligan

THE Charity Commission is trying to claw back almost £3m from a man whose company collected money in the street for veterans' charities – but took the vast majority for itself.

Tony Chadwick, from Blackpool, is linked to a network of veterans' charities that have raised millions of pounds from the public, but

spent almost nothing of it on veterans. The charities subcontracted their fundraising to companies owned by Chadwick or his former employees – which then took up to 80% of the amounts raised.

"Thousands who have donated, thinking they are helping veterans, have in fact mostly been giving to his rip-off fundraising compa-

nies," said Alex May, a monitor of military charities who has repeatedly complained to regulators about Chadwick. "The authorities know, but have done very little."

One of Chadwick's companies, Prize Promotions (PPL), now in liquidation, worked with a disgraced charity called Afghan Heroes, taken over by the Charity Commission after raising £3.1m over four years

but spending only 8% of it on charitable work.

Liquidation documents show the commission-appointed manager of Afghan Heroes is seeking £2.9m from PPL, saying it has no "valid contract" with the charity. Chadwick, PPL's sole director, disputes this, saying the contract was "agreed verbally and via emails".

Despite its action against

Chadwick, the commission still allows other charities to work with him.

Another Chadwick-owned company, Targeted Management (TML), has a similar fundraising deal with a second charity, Our Local Heroes, which raised £500,000 last year but spent only £10,000 on charitable works.

In March, the commission censured Our Local Heroes,

raising "serious regulatory concerns" and admitting "the fundraising costs of 80% [charged by TML] remain high". But it said the charity could continue working with TML and Chadwick, provided the public were told about donations.

The commission is also allowing Chadwick to work with a third charity, Support

The Heroes. Support The Heroes says it spent 30% of its income on charitable acts and does all its own fundraising.

A commission spokesman said: "We are concerned about those arrangements between professional fundraisers and charities which do not comply with statutory regulations and best practice, and the damage they can have on public trust."

Chadwick said he made a "terrible" living and insisted that despite what the Charity Commission said, TML was "not a professional fundraiser".

He admitted PPL had taken an 80% cut, but claimed this was "clearly marked" on literature and street stands.

Asked whether he would repay the £2.9m, Chadwick declined to comment.

Met set to lose anti-terrorism job to 'British FBI'

Tom Harper and Richard Kerbaj

SCOTLAND YARD may be stripped of responsibility for counterterrorism in a shake-up of policing after Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe's departure as commissioner of the Metropolitan police.

The Sunday Times understands that Theresa May is considering handing control of counterterrorism to the National Crime Agency (NCA), which she created as home secretary in 2013.

According to a senior source familiar with her views on police reform, the change could come "within this parliament". The potential loss of about 2,000 Met officers and a significant chunk of its budget would represent a huge blow to Scotland Yard.

The prospect may explain why Lynne Owens, the director-general of the NCA, has ruled herself out of the

sioner will be told that it will occur at some point during his or her tenure.

"It certainly will happen. It is inevitable. Theresa has taken the decision. The only question is timing," said the source. "The NCA job is going to be the premier job in policing. It is the British FBI and will get counterterrorism, probably sooner than some people think."



Kavanagh: Essex chief constable could replace Hogan-Howe

A senior Home Office source said the move was not imminent, but was "likely to happen in this parliament".

A clause allowing the home secretary to shift counterterrorism to the NCA was

police argue that rank-and-file officers often have better intelligence on potential threats in their districts than the NCA, which currently focuses on organised crime.

Another police source said: "The idea of doors being kicked in by people dressed in black from central government may not go down well in certain parts of the country. It is different to doors being kicked in by local police, with contacts and connections to communities, who have legitimacy."

Hogan-Howe announced last week that he would step down from his £278,000-a-year post in February 2017, seven months before his contract was due to expire.

The favourite to succeed him is Steve Kavanagh, chief constable of Essex police, who used to work at the Met.

Other possible contenders include Mark Rowley, the assistant commissioner in



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