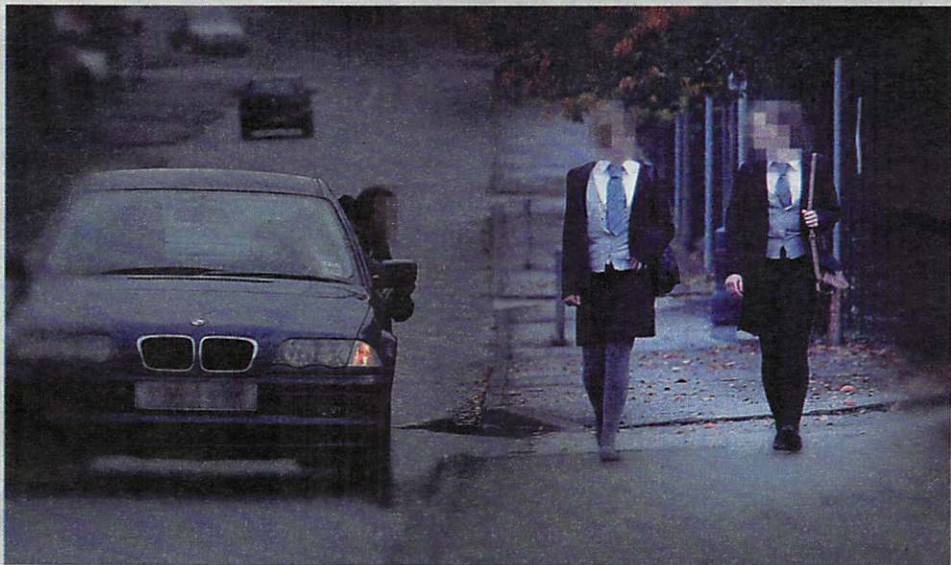


Thursday

23 May

Critics' choice



Pick of the day

The Hunt For Britain's Sex Gangs (C4, 9pm)

Filed over three years, this documentary claims "unprecedented access to a live investigation". In Operation Chalice, Telford police set out to tackle the problem of white girls befriended, sexually exploited and then offered to friends and relatives by British-Pakistani men. Although a compelling body of evidence was assembled (involving about 100 victims and 200 suspects),

securing convictions was difficult: the trial in 2011 collapsed, before seven men received jail sentences last year. A switch to a charge of trafficking for two "kingpins" proved crucial.

The director Anna Hall and reporter Tazeen Ahmad's unsettling film, which interviews victims and detectives, makes the case for a change in the legal process to encourage abused teenagers to testify. They should be questioned in judges' chambers, it argues, rather than being accused of lying and promiscuity in court.

JOHN DUGDALE