



Home Office

Sarah Dines MP
Minister for Safeguarding

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Jim McMahon OBE MP
Debbie Abrahams MP
Angela Rayner MP

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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26 October 2023

Dear Jim, Debbie, and Angela,

Thank you for your letter of 18 September 2023 to the Home Secretary relating to the work of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse ('the Inquiry') and its final recommendations, and regarding an Oldham Council motion on these matters. I have been asked to reply as the Minister for Safeguarding with relevant portfolio responsibilities on this important issue.

The Government remains firmly committed to tackling all forms of child sexual abuse and doing all that we can to combat this horrific crime. The final report of the Inquiry marked an important milestone in this regard. The Government published its response to the Final Report of the Inquiry on 22 May 2023, which sets out our commitment to accepting 19 of the 20 recommendations. The Government response can be viewed here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-the-final-report-of-the-independent-inquiry-into-child-sexual-abuse.

This includes acting quickly on our commitment to introduce a mandatory reporting duty for those working with children in England to report child sexual abuse. On 22 May 2023 we also launched a twelve week call for evidence, which closed on 14 August 2023, and the results of which we will use to help us decide on how best to implement this duty. Mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse will underscore that there is no excuse for turning a blind eye to a child's pain.

We are also working to explore further support for victims and survivors. The Government has accepted the Inquiry's recommendation to establish a national redress scheme for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. We are currently engaging extensively with key stakeholders, including victims and survivor representatives, lawyers, insurers and redress schemes in other jurisdictions, to understand the potential options and costs of a scheme for England and Wales.

We are continuing to work across government to implement our other commitments made, as well as continuing to engage with a range of stakeholders, victims and survivors, and the organisations working to support them. The Home Secretary has committed to providing an update to Parliament in November 2023 on the progress we have made across government in driving forward delivery against these commitments and next steps.

Let me reassure you that we remain committed to confronting and combatting this horrific crime wherever and whenever it occurs. We will use every lever available to us to keep children safe and provide support to victims and survivors, to ensure they receive the support they need to help to rebuild their lives.

Thank you for taking the time to write to us on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Dines". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Sarah Dines MP