

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Prof Alexis Jay OBE
ESTD Conference 10th November 2017



@IICSATruthProject



@InquiryCSA (#TruthProject, #InquiryCSA, #ResearchCSA)

● TERMS OF REFERENCE

The scope and purpose of the Inquiry is defined in its Terms of Reference, which state that it should:

- consider the extent to which **state and non-state institutions** have failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation
- consider the extent to which those failings have since been addressed
- identify **further action needed** to address any failings identified
- consider the steps which are necessary for state and non-state institutions to take in order to **protect children from such abuse in future**
- **publish a report with recommendations**

● KEY FACTS

- Launched in 2015 by the then Home Secretary, Theresa May
- Led by Chair, Alexis Jay, and 3 Panel members
- Advised by a Victims and Survivors Consultative Panel
- Independent of Government
- Three core projects - Public Hearings, the Truth Project, Research
- Thirteen investigations
- Will publish an interim report in April 2018
- It does not have the power to convict people of criminal offences, determine civil liability or award compensation
- Inquiry offices across England and Wales.

● VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS CONSULTATIVE PANEL (VSCP)

- The VSCP was set up to assist and advise the Inquiry on all aspects of its work.
- The eight members of this panel are closely involved in the work of the Inquiry, providing advice and guidance to the Chair and Panel.
- The panel members bring a wealth of experience providing support and advocacy for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.

● INVESTIGATIONS

- Cambridge House / Knowl View / Rochdale Borough Council
- Child Sexual Exploitation by organised networks
- Accountability and Reparations
- Children in Custodial Institutions
- The Internet
- Institutional Responses involving Lord Janner
- Children in care of Nottinghamshire Council
- Child Sexual Abuse in the Anglican Church
- Child Sexual Abuse in residential schools
- Child Sexual Abuse linked to Westminster
- Protection of children outside the United Kingdom
- Children in the care of Lambeth Council
- Child Sexual Abuse in the Roman Catholic Church

● RESEARCH

Rapid Evidence Assessments

- Best practice from overseas in preventing and responding to child sexual abuse
- The impacts of child sexual abuse
- Child sexual abuse in custodial institutions
- Child sexual abuse in Anglican Church & Roman Catholic Church
- Characteristics and vulnerabilities of victims of online child sexual abuse
- Behaviours and characteristics of perpetrators of online child sexual abuse
- Scale and nature of online child sexual abuse
- Social and political discourses around child sexual abuse

Primary Research

- **CSE & Organised Networks:** Qualitative research with perpetrators to understand how networks are formed and sustained, prevention approaches and protective factors
- **Children in Custodial Institutions:** Qualitative research with staff and young people to explore their views on and experiences of safeguarding policies and processes
- **Residential schools:** Qualitative research with staff, parents, and young people to understand safeguarding risk and protective factors
- **Internet:** Evaluation of e-safety interventions in schools

● SEMINARS

- Civil justice (November 2016)
- Criminal injuries compensation (February 2017)
- Best practise from overseas in preventing and responding to CSA (April 2017)
- Victims and survivors' experiences (July 2017)
- The health sector (September 2017)
- The criminal justice system (November 2017)
- Social and political discourses around child sexual abuse (February 2018)

● TRUTH PROJECT

- The Truth Project provides an opportunity for victims and survivors to share their experience with the Inquiry by attending a private session or sharing their experience in writing
- The accounts provided by victims and survivors will not be:
 - Tested
 - Challenged
 - Contradicted
- It will assist us in piecing together a broader picture of the scale and nature of institutional child sexual abuse in England and Wales.
- Anonymised summaries
- Operation Hydrant referrals
- Personal details will not be passed on without consent unless there is a child immediately at risk.

● A TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH

- The Inquiry has adopted a trauma-informed approach to its work. This is led by the Support and Safeguarding team, made up of psychologists, psychotherapists, counsellors and social workers.
- This is to ensure that members of the public, including victims and survivors are not traumatised or re-traumatised by their engagement with us and that they have a positively different experience of an institution from that they may have encountered in their past.
- It is also to ensure that staff are appropriately supported in their work and to reduce the risks of secondary traumatisation.

● A TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH - PRINCIPLES

Five principles of trauma-informed engagement have been developed:

1. We recognise that the experience of child sexual abuse is subjective and individuals should be respected;
2. We are aware that trust is not to be taken for granted, but fostered;
3. We seek to empower victims and survivors in their interactions with the Inquiry;
4. We prioritise the safety and well-being of victims and survivors and work to prevent re-traumatisation;
5. We acknowledge the impact of child sexual abuse and institutional failures, therefore, look out for staff well-being
 - Staff receive trauma-informed engagement training as part of their induction
 - This provides them with information about why CSA is traumatic, the lifelong impact of CSA and how they can use this information to tailor their approach to working with victims and survivors
 - We also advise them on how they can avoid secondary-trauma in their work

● A TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH - EXAMPLES AND OUTCOMES

Examples:

- Solicitors work with counsellors to ensure investigation witnesses are supported before, during and after public hearings;
- Truth Project rooms have been designed to avoid the presence of common triggers for re-experiencing symptoms
- People making subject access requests under the Data Protection Act may receive support if they become distressed by reviewing information that the Inquiry holds about them

Outcomes (generalisations):

- Survivors feel more confident to share their experience with us because they know they will be offered support
- Survivors have felt positive about having contributed to our work
- There is no evidence that survivors are re-traumatised as a result of sharing their experience with us
- Staff have developed skills and expertise which has contributed to their well-being and satisfaction at work
- We have been working with other government departments to help them consider how they can take a trauma-informed approach in their engagement with survivors of trauma generally and sexual violence specifically.

● CONTACT US

General:

Telephone: 0800 917 1000

Email: contact@iicsa.org.uk

Address: Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, PO Box 72289, London, SW1P 9LF or FREEPOST Head Office (only text required)

Website: www.iicsa.org.uk

Trauma informed approach queries:

Dr Bryony Farrant

Head of Support and Safeguarding

Bryony.Farrant@iicsa.org.uk