



**Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP**  
Secretary of State

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Edward Timpson CBE  
Chair, Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

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Thank you for your letter of 1 February. I was very pleased to learn that the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel will be carrying out its first national learning review in relation to adolescents in need of state protection from criminal exploitation. We know that criminal exploitation has blighted too many young lives, and the Government has made clear through the Serious Violence Strategy that tackling this is an absolute priority.

The announcement of the Panel's first review is a key milestone in our reforms to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and will complement the work we are driving at local level to introduce stronger and more flexible safeguarding partnerships.

It is vital that we work together across government to learn from serious incidents and support improvements to services where they are needed to ensure the right protection is there for some of the most vulnerable children in our society.

I am copying this response to my cabinet colleagues the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care with whom I share joint responsibility for the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, as well as to the Justice Secretary. My colleagues and I look forward to meeting with you to discuss the review in more detail. My office will be in touch to make the necessary arrangements.

**Damian Hinds**  
**Secretary of State for Education**