

Terms of Reference for the Review of the Departmental Reviews

Two reviews were conducted. The purpose of the first review was to review all relevant Home Office files, records and other papers from the period 1979-99 and establish a picture of:

1. what, if any, material was provided to the Department in relation to alleged organised child abuse; and
2. what, if any, action was taken in relation to such allegations and whether relevant materials were passed to the police or law enforcement body to investigate; and
3. whether any member of Home Office staff was alleged or found to be involved or implicated in organised child abuse and what action was taken.

The second review looked into whether the Home Office ever directly or indirectly funded the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE).

Terms of Reference

This Review will consider:

- whether the Terms of Reference of the original reviews were appropriate and sufficient to allow a full assessment of the Home Office's handling of allegations received in relation to historic child abuse ; and the findings as to whether the Home Office ever funded PIE;
- whether the methodology was appropriate and sufficient to fulfill the Terms of Reference;
- whether Home Office support for and co-operation was appropriate and sufficient – in particular whether the Independent Investigator was afforded sufficient access to documentation and individuals in the Home Office;
- whether further information is available in relation to the 114 files identified as destroyed/missing or lost and whether the original review's assessment of their significance was reasonable;
- whether there is any further information identified through this Review which should be referred to the Police so they can consider whether further investigation is required;
- whether the conclusions of the reviews were and remain appropriate.

Without prejudicing ongoing criminal investigations, the Review will also consider how the police and prosecution authorities handled any material that was handed to them at the time.

The Review will report to the Home Secretary within 8-10 weeks of commencement. Any matters relating to the prosecuting authorities will also be reported to the Attorney General.

The full report of the investigation will be published.