



Martin Smith
Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse
PO Box 72289
London
SW1P 9LF

5 November 2021

Dear Mr Smith,

**SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN IN CUSTODIAL INSTITUTIONS REPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
AND REPARATIONS REPORT – UPDATE**

Thank you for your letter of 6 August requesting updates on the steps that the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has taken to respond to Recommendations 1 and 4 from the Sexual Abuse of Children in Custodial Institutions: 2009 – 2017 Investigation Report ('Custodial Institutions Report') and Recommendations 1,3,4 and 6 from the Accountability and Reparations Investigation Report ('Accountability and Reparations Report').

I am pleased to update the Inquiry that progress continues to be made in acting on these recommendations. The Government recognises the importance of the issues highlighted in the two reports and remains committed to working to address them. I would also like to reiterate again that ensuring the safety and well-being of children in our care is our highest priority.

In respect of Recommendation 1 from the Custodial Institutions Report, I can confirm that the MoJ has concluded its research and engagement relating to the remand review. We will publish the report including our conclusions and next steps in due course and will share the report with the Inquiry on the day of publication.

As Minister Malthouse highlighted in May, we are not awaiting publication of the review to take key steps to improve the youth remand system. Section 132 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill will tighten the tests that courts must satisfy in making the decision to remand a child to custody and require them to record the reasons for any custodial remand. The Bill is now at Lords Committee stage and with a view to be enacted as soon as possible.

In respect of Recommendation 4, we have now concluded our review of the evidence collected through targeted consultation with stakeholders to look at the Inquiry's proposal of professional registration. We are considering this complex issue carefully and will notify you of the outcome of this process as soon as possible.

You also asked for updates in relation to a number of recommendations from the Accountability and Reparations Report. In respect of Recommendation 1, we continue to work with criminal justice agencies, Police and Crime Commissioners and Local Criminal Justice Boards to develop a core minimum data set to allow monitoring and improve the delivery of rights under the Victims' Code. Information from a self-assessment exercise completed in September will provide the MoJ with a better and more consistent understanding of how victims' rights are effectively monitored and delivered. The reporting of Code compliance is still suspended after it was halted due to Covid-19, however development of the core minimum dataset and quality standards will reinitiate regular reporting in the new year.

As highlighted in our March update, we intend to consult on a Victims' Bill to ensure the delivery of victims' rights under the Victims' Code. The consultation will be published in due course.

In respect of Recommendation 3 we are still planning to publish a consultation paper on the law of apologies, as proposed in our March update.

In respect of Recommendation 4, we have commenced discussions with the Association of British Insurers on the Inquiry's recommendation for a public liability register and will be exploring the feasibility of the proposed reform. We expect to be able to report further on this matter in the next few months.

Finally, in respect of Recommendation 6, we remain committed to progressing this work and hope to have a more substantive update to report in the next few months.

I thank the Inquiry for its work on these important issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent 'T' and 'P'.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP