

TLB/KIB

2nd October, 1987

FIRST CLASS

The Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, C.B.E. MP.,
The Home Secretary,
The Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate,
London SW1H9 AT

Dear Home Secretary,

Home Office Circular - Protection of Children, 17th July, 1986

The above document was circulated to County Councils and other Authorities on 22nd July, 1986 and contained in the circular was a request that it was implemented urgently. I wish to raise with you the following questions:

1. is the Circular mandatory
2. has the Home Office monitored its implementation
3. if not, does it intend to do so.
4. if it has been monitored, could you please advise me of the number of Authorities (particularly County Councils) who are complying with the Circular and its percentage of the total.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

T. L. BUTCHER
County Councillor
Acting Spokesman for Social Services

Cllr. T.L. Butcher

2nd October, 1987

TLB/KIB

Cllr. Mrs C. Minkley

Cllr. J. Armstrong-Holmes

Cllr. J. Hewitt

I have identified two facts that I believe show a lack of urgency, even complacency, over the number of sexual offences by staff on children in their care.

1. Is the fact 7 members of Social Services staff have been involved in such offences over the past two years, and
2. after 14 months they appear to have failed to implement a Home Office circular intended to protect children.

Would it therefore be appropriate for the two Johns to make enquiries of Education and Leisure Services about offences committed by their staff, the number of complaints received and how they are dealt with, etc.

Cllr. T.L. Butcher

2nd October, 1987

TLB/KIB

Mr. E. Culham
Director of Social Services

Cllr. Mrs Minkley
Cllr. J.E. Dwan

Thank you for your reply dated 21st September, 1987 re: 'sexual abuse.

I am concerned that records are "not kept within the department" in relation to children in care involved in sexual offences/acts. I consider it to be an important part of managerial monitoring of problems facing children in care.

Could you cause enquiries to be made at Area Offices and let me have this information.