



# INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

## ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPARATIONS FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

*An inquiry into the extent to which existing support services and available legal processes effectively deliver reparations to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse and exploitation.*

### 14 August 2019 Update Note

1. This investigation examines the extent to which the civil justice system, criminal compensation and support services deliver accountability and reparations to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. The scope of the investigation can be found [here](#).
2. The Inquiry selected five case studies through which to examine these issues: North Wales children's homes, Forde Park Approved School, St Leonard's children's home; St Aidan's and St Vincent's children's homes; and Stanhope Castle Approved School. The description of scope for the case studies can be found [here](#).
3. Public hearings in the case studies were held for three weeks in November and December 2018. The purpose of the hearings was to elicit evidence, through specific examples, about the civil justice system, compensation frameworks and existing support services. The primary focus of the case studies was necessarily on past practices. Evidence of how these systems and services work today was also sought so that the Inquiry could consider workable recommendations for the future.
4. The Panel is currently producing a report on the case studies, which will make a number of recommendations to the systems of civil justice, criminal compensation and support.
5. In addition, the Inquiry intends to look in more detail at two important issues that emerged during the investigation of the case studies:



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- a. Whether the law of limitation should be reformed to make it easier for victims and survivors to bring claims in respect of non-recent child sexual abuse.
  - b. The potential for a redress scheme to offer accountability and reparation to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.
6. The Inquiry invites anyone who wishes to be designated as a core participant in the next phase of the Accountability and Reparations investigation to make an application to the Solicitor to the Inquiry by **4pm on 11 September 2019**. For the purpose of determining Core Participant status, the matters to which the next phase relates are those set out in paragraph 5 above.
7. Existing Core Participants in this investigation will remain as Core Participants for phase two unless written notice is provided to the Solicitor to the Inquiry confirming the Core Participant does not wish to be involved in this phase.
8. A preliminary hearing in relation to this investigation will take place on **16 October 2019** at the Inquiry hearing centre at 18 Pocock Street, London SE1 0BW.
9. The Inquiry will hold a public three day hearing in this investigation, commencing on **26 November 2019**.