

**INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
INVESTIGATION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO THE ALLEGATIONS OF
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE INVOLVING THE LATE LORD JANNER OF BRAUNSTONE
Q.C.**

**SUBMISSIONS ON BEHALF OF LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE PRELIMINARY HEARING
ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Update

- 1) Leicestershire County Council (LCC) is a core participant.
- 2) LCC has considered the IOPC submissions dated 30 August 2019, Solicitor to the Inquiry Note for the preliminary hearing dated 30 August 2019 and Submissions of Counsel to the Inquiry dated 2 September 2019.
- 3) LCC, as with other core participants, has been aware that a decision was being awaited from the IOPC, as set out in the ‘updated note for Core Participants’ dated 23 July 2019. The IOPC has in its submissions dated 30th August 2019 stated that its decision maker has decided that one allegation in relation to one subject should be referred to the CPS for their consideration. No other referrals to the CPS are being considered and there will be no disciplinary proceedings of any kind. The IOPC is not able to state how long the CPS will take to review the one matter which has been referred to it.
- 4) Counsel to the Inquiry in submissions dated 2 September 2019 confirmed that the IOPC report would not be disclosed to Core Participants before the preliminary hearing. It had been anticipated that Core Participants would have had the opportunity to read and digest the contents of the IOPC’s report prior to this hearing. That has not been possible and so these submissions are made in the absence of significant information.

LCC's position regarding the potential adjournment

- 5) LCC notes the submissions of Counsel to the Inquiry. It is acknowledged that any delay will be a disappointment to many of the Core Participants and other interested persons. LCC is alive to the impact of further delay. LCC notes both Counsel to the Inquiry and Solicitor to the Inquiry's observations in relation to the impact of the recommendation of the IOPC investigation. It is also acknowledged that to a significant extent LCC is reliant upon the assessment of the Counsel to the Inquiry about the likely burden that will be placed on the Core Participants' representatives when preparations need to be made for the hearing: if the timescales are too short between disclosure and hearing, this may prevent the proper preparation of the case by and on behalf of Core Participants which will be prejudicial to core participants and the work of the inquiry.
- 6) LCC also understands and accepts that the integrity of the criminal process and decision-making is of the utmost importance and nothing should be done to imperil any potential criminal proceedings. However, neither should the workings and outcome of the Inquiry be compromised. The corollary is that, in light of recent and possible future developments, and the likely timescales involved, it may well not be possible for this strand of the Inquiry to fairly take place in February 2020. On that basis, whilst acknowledging the impact of delay on all core participants as well as the impact on resources, LCC does not oppose the adjournment on the information that is available.

Preparation

- 7) Whether or not the hearing in February 2020 is adjourned, LCC requests that there is a plan for disclosure by IICSA which allows sufficient time for necessary preparations to be made. It is hoped that a timetable can be put in place by Counsel to the Inquiry which would allow core participants to put arrangements and any relevant resources in position.
- 8) LCC remains committed to assisting IICSA in its investigation into the institutional responses to allegations of child sexual abuse involving the late Lord Janner of Braunstone QC

DATED: 16.9.2019

Sam King QC

Michael Edwards