

## **Residential Schools Investigation**

**An investigation into the nature and extent of, and institutional responses to, child sexual abuse in residential schools, including schools in the state and independent sectors and schools for children with disabilities and/or special educational needs.**

### **Update Note - 25 September 2019**

1. The Inquiry is today inviting applications for core participant status for Phase two of the Residential Schools investigation. This note provides an update on the matters that the Inquiry proposes to explore in this phase, and the methodology that will be adopted.
2. Individuals and organisations who wish to be designated as a core participant in relation to Phase two of the [Residential Schools investigation](#) are asked to submit their application before **4pm on Friday 18 October 2019**. Further information on how to apply is set out below.

#### Phase one

3. Phase one of the Residential Schools investigation is considering (i) non-recent abuse in schools which are no longer open or which are under new management; (ii) special schools and (iii) specialist music schools. There will be a public hearing between 30 September 2019 and 11 October 2019 to consider these issues. Information about Phase one was set out in the [Update Note](#) dated October 2018 and during two preliminary hearings in [January 2019](#) and [July 2019](#).
4. Existing Phase one core participants will not automatically be given core participant status in Phase two. If any Phase one core participants wish to reapply for Phase two, they will need to set out their specific interest in the matters to be considered by the Inquiry in Phase two.

#### Phase two

5. Some Phase two issues affecting residential schools also arise in day schools. The investigation will therefore need to look at some evidence relating to day schools to ensure it understands the sector fully.
6. Phase two hearings will take place in 2020. The dates of the hearing will be announced



# INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

when the Inquiry publishes its 2020 hearing programme in the next few weeks.

7. This update note provides further detail on the Phase two hearings in order to inform those who are considering whether or not to apply for Core Participant status.
8. Phase two will be a thematic/issue based investigation of the schools' sector - both day schools and residential schools. The themes currently being considered by the Inquiry are:
  - a. Governance and management;
  - b. Inspection and monitoring;
  - c. Recruitment and termination of employment;
  - d. Whistleblowing and reporting;
  - e. The culture of schools in respect of safeguarding.
9. In considering these themes in Phase two, the Inquiry intends to call evidence from institutions, experts and three additional schools.
10. The Inquiry will consider evidence from the following institutions:
  - a. The Department for Education/the Welsh government;
  - b. Ofsted/the Independent Schools Inspectorate/Estyn;
  - c. The NSPCC and other national charities with an interest in safeguarding children;
  - d. The Teaching Unions;
  - e. Independent associations such as the Governors' Association and the Boarding School Association.
11. Expert evidence will also be considered from Professor Simon Hackett on the issue of sexually harmful behaviours amongst children and Marcus Erooga on schools' safeguard culture, categories of offender and low level reporting.
12. The Inquiry will be specifically considering the following schools in Phase two:



# INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

- a. Headlands school, Bridlington (Yorkshire);
  - b. Hillside First school, Worle (Somerset);
  - c. Clifton College, Bristol.
13. **Headlands School** is a day secondary comprehensive school for pupils between 11 years and 18 years. It is a community school. The local authority is East Riding of Yorkshire. A number of teachers at the school have been convicted of having sexual relationships with pupils.
14. **Hillside First school** was a small day school for children between the ages of 4 and 8 years old. It no longer exists in the same form. An academy now caters for a broader age range of students. The school was the subject of a Serious Case Review following the arrest and conviction of a teacher for sexual offences against children at the school.
15. **Clifton College** is an independent day and residential school in Bristol. A teacher was convicted and jailed in 2015 for, amongst other matters, possessing indecent images of children. An independent review was undertaken following the conviction and has been considered by the Inquiry.
16. Headlands and Hillside First have been selected in order to widen the scope of the schools which have been considered by the Inquiry to include state schools, day schools and a primary school. In Phase one of this investigation and in the Catholic Church investigation, the Inquiry has already considered fee-paying residential schools. The Chair and Panel also wish to examine how institutions respond to child sexual abuse in day and state schools in order to assess whether there are common factors between these schools and boarding schools.
17. Clifton College is being examined as it is a fee-paying residential school which is not a special school, a specialist music school or a school with a particular religious ethos.
18. Based on preliminary investigations, the Inquiry considers that all three of these Phase two schools will provide evidence on each of the themes of interest.

## Next steps

19. Applicants should read carefully the description of scope, this note, the [guidance document for potential core participants](#) and the [Inquiry's FAQs](#). In particular applicants should note that applications should be set out in writing on no more than 4 sides of A4 paper and as a minimum should include the information set out at paragraph 14 of the



# INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

guidance.

20. The deadline for core participant applications in Phase two is 4pm on Friday 18 October 2019
21. A preliminary hearing in relation to this investigation will be held at 14.00 on Tuesday 14 January 2020 at the Inquiry's hearing centre in Pocock Street, London.