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*"As the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse nears the conclusion of its Public Hearing on child protection in religious organisations and settings, I would like to take this opportunity, once again, to thank Prof Alexis Jay OBE, her panel and all those associated with the Inquiry for all of their tireless work.*

*The scourge of abuse perpetrated against children is a terrible blight upon any community and it is particularly difficult for a faith community to consider that the very institutions it has built for the benefit of the next generation, could unwittingly be providing a space in which they might come to harm.*

*Nevertheless, as I have said previously, this Inquiry should be seen as an opportunity for profound self-examination, to listen and to learn about the ways in which we can improve. This is a time for humility, and sensitivity to the needs of those who have been abused, and we must be ready to make whatever changes are needed.*

*My hope is that this will be a watershed moment for the Jewish community, so that constant vigilance and care become the norm and we can be confident that all our children will grow up in the safe and secure environment that they so deserve."*

**DPA**

**Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis**

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