

Chief Constable Simon Bailey QPM  
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*16th January 2019*

*Dear Simon*

**RE: Missing from Home Debriefs for CICOLA**

I hope this finds you well?

I am writing about the placing of Children into the Care of Other Local Authorities (CICOLA) and the statutory obligations placed upon Local Authorities to perform a return interview once a CICOLA child has returned back to the care setting following a missing episode in particular. I am concerned that chances are being missed to intervene positively in these children's lives and to gather vital intelligence due to the fact that return interviews are not taking place for increasing numbers of children who are placed in the care of other local authorities for lack of finance.

I have raised this matter with ministers and enclose copies of my letter to the Rt Hon Nick Hurd and the response provided by the Secretary of State for Education, Damian Hinds, for your attention.

As explained, it is often the case in Merseyside that independent return interviews for CICOLA cases are not being completed because the host local authority is not responsible for the costs of this service, with the difficulties inherent within the current funding arrangements. This situation is a serious

**Rt Hon Jane Kennedy**  
**Police & Crime Commissioner for Merseyside**

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cause of concern in Merseyside, where instances of Child Exploitation are known to be of high prevalence in comparison to the national picture.

I am aware that you have commissioned research undertaken by The Children's Society, which is expected to be released shortly, into the provision of return home interviews. While I appreciate it may not be possible to influence this research as it is imminent, I would ask you to take into account our experience here.

Thank you for your attention to the matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

*Sent via email*

**DPA**

**Jane Kennedy**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside**

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