

Witness Name: Suzanne Smith
Statement No.:
Exhibits:
Dated: 18 February 2020

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Witness Statement of Suzanne Smith

I, Suzanne Smith, Director of Barring and Safeguarding for the Disclosure and Barring Service will say as follows:-

1. I am the Director of Barring and Safeguarding at the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) having been appointed in May 2017. I have 27 years experience in the safeguarding environment and have a PhD in Child Protection. I am a qualified nurse and health visitor and have led safeguarding teams across acute and community sectors of the NHS.
2. I am not aware of an offence of allowing someone to undertake regulated activity without having an enhanced DBS check. However, the circumstances when an offence may be committed by someone under the DBS regime are laid out in paragraphs 3 to 6 below.
3. Section 38 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (SVGA) provides that a person commits an offence if he is under a duty to refer a person to the DBS and fails to do so or is under a duty to provide information on request to DBS and fails to do so without reasonable excuse. If convicted they may be subject to a fine up to £5,000.
4. Section 9 of the SVGA provides that:
 - A person commits an offence if they permit an individual to engage in regulated activity from which the individual is barred or knows or has reason to believe that they are barred from that activity, and the individual engages in the activity.
 - A personnel supplier commits an offence if they supply an individual to another and they know or have reason to believe that that person to whom they supply the individual will make arrangements for the person to engage in regulated activity from which they are barred and they know or have reason to believe that the individual is barred from that activity.
5. Section 18 of the SVGA makes reference to an offence under section 9 or 38 being capable of being committed by an organisation including a body corporate or partnership as well as an individual within that organisation in specified circumstances.

6. Section 7 of the SVGA provides that an individual commits an offence if he seeks to, or offers to, engage in regulated activity from which they are barred.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

DPA

Signed: _____

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EXHIBIT [] / 1

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