

Victims and survivors' engagement with the Inquiry

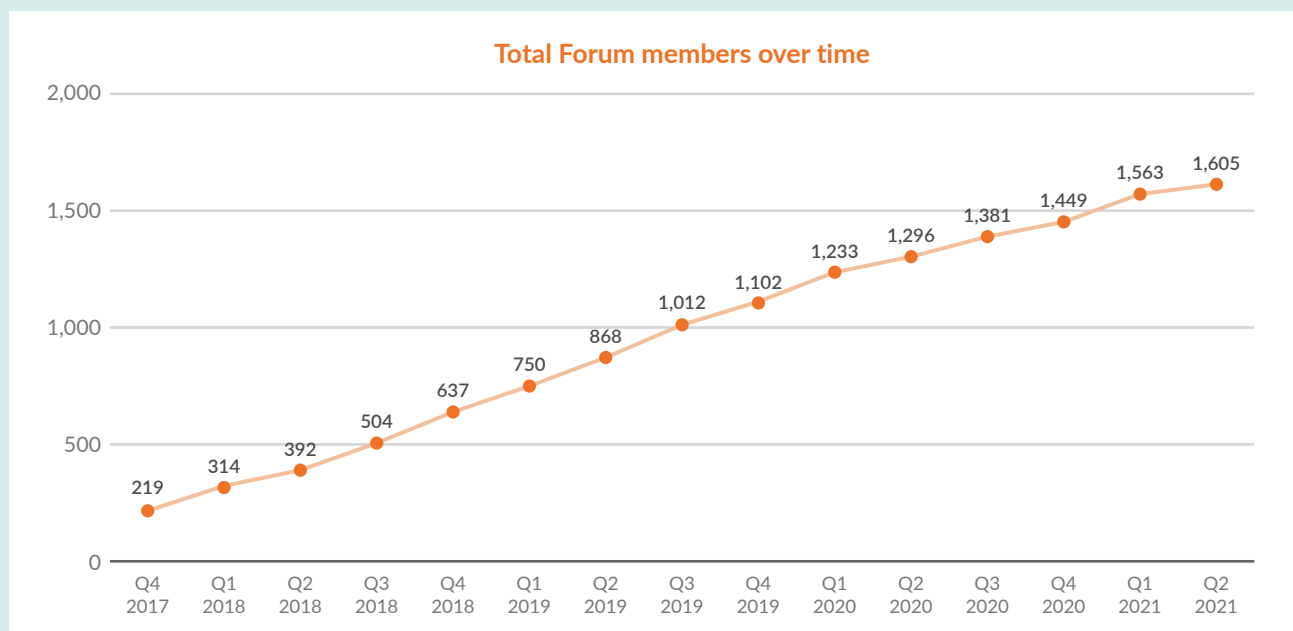
Thousands of victims and survivors have helped shape the Inquiry's work by sharing their experiences of child sexual abuse with the Truth Project, providing evidence during investigations, contributing to research and engaging with the Victims and Survivors Forum. Every contribution matters, and helps to inform the Inquiry's recommendations to better protect children in future.

The Inquiry also publishes a [dashboard](#) of research statistics based on accounts shared with the Truth Project.

The Victims and Survivors Forum

The Forum is open to all victims and survivors of child sexual abuse, and currently has over 1,600 members across England and Wales from diverse backgrounds.

Forum members provide vital contributions to our policy and research work, and their feedback and suggestions will also help inform recommendations in the Inquiry's Final Report.

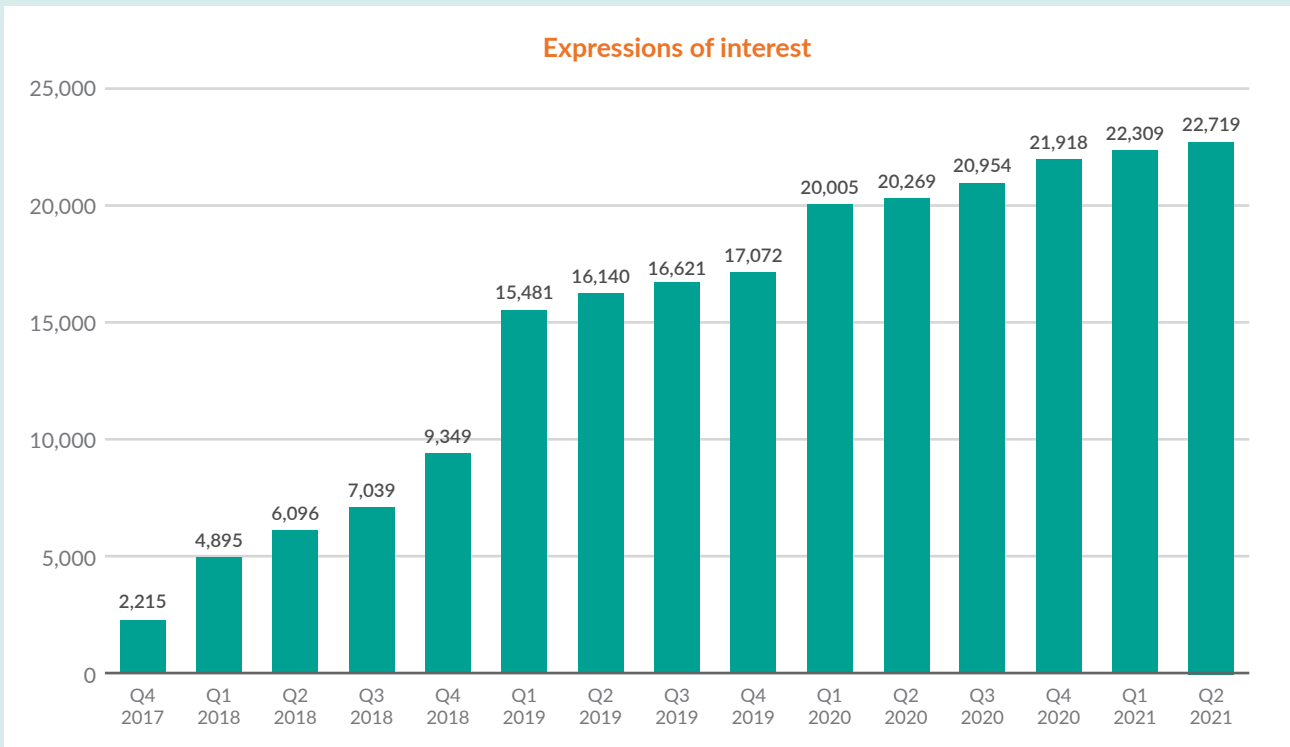


There has been a steady increase in the number of Forum members across the life of the Inquiry, with new members joining all the time. This growth continued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, demonstrating the value of Forum membership and the importance of a platform for victims and survivors to engage with the Inquiry and share their views.

Truth Project

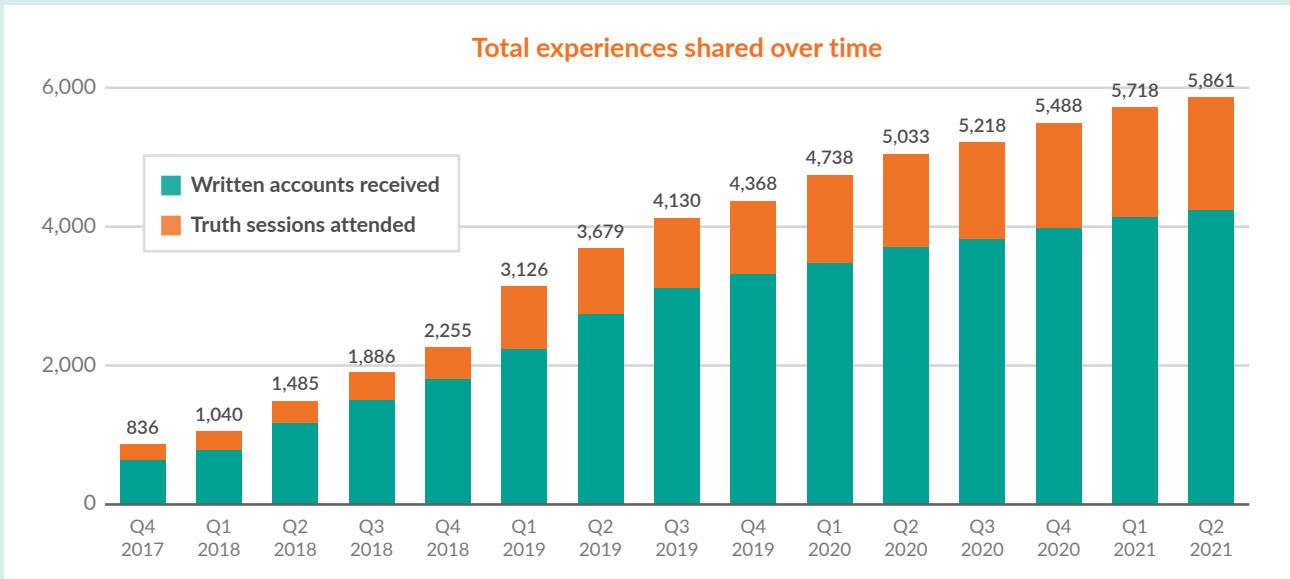
Since its launch in 2015, the Truth Project has provided victims and survivors of child sexual abuse with the unique opportunity to share their experiences with the Inquiry and put forward suggestions for change. Accounts shared feed into the Inquiry's wider work programme, helping us build a better understanding of child sexual abuse across England and Wales.

The ongoing engagement with victims and survivors is a clear indicator of the Truth Project's importance as an opportunity for survivors to speak out.



The expressions of interest show the number of people who contact the Inquiry to talk about sharing their experience with the Truth Project. Throughout the course of the Truth Project’s lifetime, victims and survivors have continued to engage and show an interest in contributing to the Inquiry, with close to 22,800 expressions received. The notable peaks in Q1 of 2019 and Q1 of 2020 correspond with media awareness raising campaigns, where we wanted to ensure victims and survivors were aware of the opportunity to come forward.

We understand it is a major and very personal decision to share an experience of child sexual abuse, and victims and survivors are encouraged to get in touch to help answer any questions or concerns. After contacting the Inquiry, some victims and survivors may choose not to share their experience, or change their mind at any stage during the process.



The chart above shows the total number of experiences that victims and survivors of child sexual abuse have shared with the Truth Project over time. 5,861 accounts have now been shared in writing or through a Truth session, which could be in person, via video call or by telephone. During the Covid-19 pandemic, in-person sessions were initially suspended, and later modified so that they could be held safely. Victims and survivors are still able to share their experiences with the Truth Project in writing until 31 October 2021.