

Criteria for Selection of Investigations

The Panel will select situations suitable for investigation which fall within two categories:

- a) institution-specific, involving inquiries into particular institutions or type of institution;
- b) thematic, concerning a series of broad areas where multiple institutions may play a role in protecting children from abuse.

In selecting situations suitable for investigation, the Panel will apply the following criteria: (a) the situation appears to the panel to involve credible allegations of child sexual abuse in an institutional setting, or by a person who has exploited an official position in order to perpetrate child sexual abuse; (b) institution(s) appears to the panel, on credible evidence to have facilitated or failed to prevent child sexual abuse, whether through an act, policy or omission; or (c) institution(s) or a person acting in an official capacity, appears to have failed to respond appropriately to allegations of child sexual abuse.

The panel will select situations which (a) appear to it to be typical of a pattern of child sexual abuse occurring in the sector or context involved; (b) appear to be practically capable of detailed examination through oral and written evidence; (c) appear to involve no significant risk to the fairness and effectiveness of any ongoing police investigation or prosecution; (d) appear likely to result in currently relevant conclusions and/or recommendations. The panel will also have regard to the need to ensure that the selection of situations for examination takes account of the needs of particularly vulnerable children and those from socially excluded or minority groups.