

The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
The Home Office
Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

11 August 2016

Dear Home Secretary,

I write further to the invitation to Chair the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. I am honoured to have been asked to undertake this role.

In the interests of openness and transparency, I am in a position to confirm that I do not have any 'direct interest in the matters to which the Inquiry relates'. Neither do I consider that I have a 'close association with an interested party' (the language used in section 9 of the Inquiries Act 2005, which sets the statutory benchmark for impartiality relating to the Chair and/or members of the Panel). More generally, I do not consider that any of the matters dealt with below (which set out the full extent, so far as I am aware, of any possible past connection to the events or persons that are or may come under the Inquiry's scrutiny), could reasonably be regarded as affecting my ability to lead the Inquiry.

I trained and qualified as a social worker in 1974, working for over 30 years in local authorities in deprived areas of Edinburgh, Glasgow and West Central Scotland. In particular, I held several positions with Strathclyde Regional Council from 1975 to 1996. I began as a social worker, then became a senior social worker, then moved into training and staff development. Thereafter, from 1986, I took up a variety of roles of increasing seniority in operational management. These were in a number of locations in the west of Scotland, including Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Glasgow. Following the reorganisation of Strathclyde Regional Council in 1996, I became Head of Social Work Services in North Lanarkshire Council from 1996 to 2000 and thereafter Director of Social Work and Housing in West Dunbartonshire Council from 2000 to 2005. In these positions I would have naturally dealt with, as an operational manager, cases where allegations of child abuse, including child sex abuse had been made. I was an adviser to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) from 1998-2005.

In 2005 I was invited by the Scottish Government to set up the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) – a government agency to inspect all aspects of social services provided by Local Authorities. In this role, I was Chief Executive and Chief Inspector of Social Work for Scotland. I carried out a number of specific investigations, including cases of child sexual abuse, at the direction of Scottish Ministers. After the SWIA was merged into the Care Inspectorate in 2011, I took up the newly created post of Chief Social Work Adviser to Scottish Ministers. I retired from this position in March 2013.

In addition to my roles above, as a senior civil servant, I was involved in Scottish Government policy formulation and implementation groups on issues such as health and social care integration, children's care planning, dementia, drugs and alcohol policy, and criminal justice social work.

I hold a number of Trusteeships and Voluntary positions which I outline below:

- I am the Chair of the Life Changes Trust, set up by the Big Lottery in Scotland, to disburse £50m to improve the lives of young care leavers and people with dementia (April 2015 - to date);
- I am the Independent Chair of Celcis (Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland). This is a government-funded centre based in the University of Strathclyde, which carries out research and improvement activity within the children's sector in Scotland (June 2013 - to date); and
- I am occasionally involved, in a non remunerated capacity, in the European Social Network (ESN) which is the independent network for local public social services in Europe. ESN brings together people who design, manage and deliver social services in public authorities across Europe. They support the development of effective social policy and social care practice through the exchange of knowledge and experience - www.esn-eu.org

None of the above roles is remunerated.

I served on the UNESCO Scotland committee from 2008 to 2012 and I was President of the Association of Directors of Social Work from 2004 to 2005. As you are aware, I completed an independent inquiry into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham from 1997-2013.

I was a trustee of the Royal Voluntary Service since 2012, but have recently tendered my resignation from the Board.

Prior to being appointed, I accepted a commission from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland to review the Northern Ireland Safeguarding Board. This work is now complete and due to be published by the Northern Ireland Minister of Health in due course.

I was until recently a non-executive director of Care Visions Ltd, a provider of child care services in Scotland and of adult services in England.

I am currently a registered associate with Verita and Solace Enterprises but intend to resign forthwith.

I am not currently personal friends with any previous or serving parliamentarian although in the course of my career I will have come into contact with parliamentarians for professional reasons. I was formerly friends with former MP, Margaret Curran, but we have not engaged in any social contact for over 20 years, save for one social engagement in 2010.

I will keep this matter under review during the tenure of my appointment. If during the course of my appointment I become aware, by any means, of any matters that could affect my ability to lead the Inquiry, I will immediately report this matter to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexis Jay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Professor Alexis Jay OBE