

Key Facts

- The Inquiry has been set up to investigate past and present failings by institutions to protect children from sexual abuse
- The purpose of this Inquiry is to make sure that children get the protection from sexual abuse they need and deserve, now and in the future
- The Inquiry is looking into child sexual abuse that happened either in an institutional setting – or where the abuse was reported to someone in authority but was not acted upon
- It is independent of Government
- Its investigations cover England and Wales
- It allows victims and survivors to share their experiences privately and confidentially
- It will provide regular reports and make practical recommendations to help protect children in the future

What is an Inquiry?

Inquiries are established to make recommendations as to how to learn lessons from past events and to investigate serious allegations of general public concern which require thorough impartial investigation, and for which ordinary civil or criminal proceedings may not be adequate or appropriate.

How is the Inquiry set up?

This Inquiry was set up in the wake of some serious high profile instances of non-recent child sexual abuse and because the government had some very grave concerns that some organisations were failing and were continuing to fail to protect children from sexual abuse.

Our remit is wide ranging, but as a statutory inquiry we have unique authority to compel both witnesses and any material we feel is necessary in order to investigate where institutions have let children down in the past.

Through our investigations and public hearings we are examining what went wrong and why. The findings we make and the evidence we gather will inform our recommendations to help better protect children in the future.

In identifying what must be done differently we are building the case for change and improvement in how institutions must protect children.

We also have an ambitious research and analysis programme which will fill gaps in knowledge about child sexual abuse and make sure our recommendations are informed by the latest learning.

The Truth Project

Our Truth Project offers opportunities for victims and survivors to share their experiences and be respectfully heard and acknowledged. They will help us to better understand the long term impact of abuse, and contribute to recommendations about support needs. To find out more, or take part in our Truth Project, visit www.truthproject.org.uk

How long will the Inquiry take?

The Inquiry is committed to delivering an outcome within a credible timeframe and expects to have made substantial progress by 2020. We are confident that we will have heard enough evidence to fulfil our terms of reference by 2020.

How can people assist the Inquiry?

Anyone who was sexually abused as a child where there was an institutional failure can report their accounts to our Truth Project in a safe, private, confidential environment. This includes anyone who reported the sexual abuse to a person in authority, and it was not properly acted upon. If you are a victim or a survivor, or can assist the Inquiry, please get in touch.

Contact us

-  Use our online form: www.iicsa.org.uk
-  Call our information line on **0800 917 1000**. Open weekdays 8am-8pm, Saturdays 10am-12pm Calls are free and do not show on your bill.
-  Email us: contact@iicsa.org.uk
-  Write to us using the address as shown:

Freepost IICSA INDEPENDENT INQUIRY

All personal and sensitive information will be appropriately protected.