



Department
for Education

Mandatory reporting and related issues

IICSA Seminar 27 September 2018

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CURRENT LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

- What is currently required (legislation or statutory guidance):
 - Children Act 1989 and 2004;
 - Working Together 2018 + Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018.
- Sanctions for non-compliance:
 - Intervention for failing LAs;
 - De-registration/closure of independent schools;
 - Criminal offence in some circumstances
 - Potential professional disqualification.

CONSULTATION AND GOVERNMENT POSITION

- Background – concerns about abuse not being reported.
- Majority of respondents wanted to pursue reform programme.
- Most concerned about the adverse impact on the CP system of a mandatory reporting duty.
- Small numbers of respondents proposed other approaches: mandatory reporting in closed institutions, or a ‘concealment’ offence.
- Government remains committed to taking necessary action to protect children. We will continue to monitor and evaluate evidence.

CONTINUED MONITORING/ EVALUATION OF EVIDENCE

- Duty in Wales and lessons from other countries.
- FGM mandatory reporting duty.
- Impact of reforms – new multi-agency arrangements, Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, work on information sharing.
- Government will identify whether there are gaps in current framework that stop it tackling the concealment of abuse.