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From: Phil Green
Inspector

Our Ref: 530/SSI/3/53/45

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MAIL ON SUNDAY ARTICLE 'THE UNLOVED', NOTTINGHAM
CHILDREN S HOME

My apologies for not responding within the original timetable but I was on sick leave and other tasks have subsequently needed to take precedence. I am reassured that the matter has not caused additional press interest.

I have now had the opportunity for a brief discussion with the SSD's Assistant Director responsible for children's services. Basically, the authority stands by what is said in the article. The authority has experienced a number of difficulties with young people in children's homes being targeted by 'pimps'. The security of certain homes has had to be considered with this aspect in mind and in one incident an injunction was obtained to keep a person from the premises of a particular children's home. Discussions have taken place with the police and this contact is continuing. All residential child care managers are to attend a special training day on 4 January.

The SSD was approached by the reporter who had already information on two 'rent boys' who had been in care. They agreed to co-operate with the article as long as the reporter agreed to certain guidelines. A Sunday People reporter was refused co-operation for a similar story.

The Assistant Director, the 'senior official' in the article, believes the article was a fair representation of the problems that confront the local authority.

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