

29 September 2016



Alexis Jay

Chair, Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

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Dear Alexis,

I am writing to inform you of my decision to stand down as Counsel to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

I shall be sad to leave the Inquiry, as I have been involved in this process longer than anyone else. I remain totally committed to securing a fair and just result for those who matter most, the victims and survivors of childhood abuse. Whilst many commentators have challenged aspects of the Inquiry's work, no one can surely doubt the importance of its mission.

Shortly after you took over, you announced a review of the Inquiry's ways of working to identify any changes that may be necessary in the public interest. When you decided to re-appoint me as Counsel to the Inquiry in early September, I had my personal doubts about whether I was genuinely the right person to steer that review process. Since then, it has become clear to me that I am not the person to take this review forward on your behalf. It is now time for someone else to take the helm with a different leadership of the Counsel team. There is no truth in suggestions that I have resigned due to a difference of opinion with you about the next steps for the Inquiry.

It has been a privilege to contribute to the groundwork that has been done so far, and I wish you and the Panel the very best of luck with the task ahead.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Emmerson", followed by a period.

Ben Emmerson QC