

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Victims and Survivors Consultative Panel

Call for applications or nominations

Background

Justice Goddard has made it clear that she fully agrees with the Home Secretary's view that the experiences of victims and survivors needs to be placed at the centre of the Inquiry's work. Victims and survivors will be given a strong voice and play a defined role in the institutional arrangements that she is putting in place.

For that purpose she has decided to establish a **Victims and Survivors Consultative Panel (VSCP)** which will be closely involved in the work of the Inquiry and will provide advice and guidance to the panel as the Inquiry proceeds.

There will be eight members of the VSCP, nominated by victims and survivors, who will bring a representative cross-section of experience and opinion to the Inquiry's work. The VSCP will be funded out of the Inquiry's overall budget and those appointed will receive an honorarium for their contribution to the work of the Inquiry and will be entitled to receive reimbursement of travel and other expenses.

Panel members other than the Chair of the VSCP (see below) will be expected to be available for Inquiry business for a total of two days per month, to include a half day monthly meeting. Justice Goddard expects to seek the advice of the VSCP on specific issues that will be notified in advance of monthly meetings of the VSCP. However, it will be open to the VSCP, through its Chair, to raise with Justice Goddard and the Inquiry panel, issues other than those on which its advice has been specifically sought.

The members of the VSCP will be invited to select a Chair from among their number who will liaise directly with Justice Goddard and the Inquiry Panel. The Chair of the VSCP will be expected to work on Inquiry business for four days per month. The Chair of the VSCP will be invited to attend meetings of the Inquiry panel as and when required.

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The Appointment Process

Appointment to the VSCP can be by nomination or application. The core criteria for appointment are that the individuals have:

- a) Experience of issues associated with institutional responses to child sexual abuse
- b) Experience of working collectively and collaboratively as part of a team and
- c) Holds a current mandate to represent the interests of a defined group of victims or survivors of child sexual abuse.

Any person wishing to apply for appointment to the VSCP, or to nominate any other individual for appointment, should submit a written application or nomination that includes a statement setting out why the person is suitable for appointment and addressing in particular the three criteria outlined above. This needs to be no more than 3 sides of A4.

As regards criteria (c) the application or nomination letter should set out clearly the class of individuals represented, and the nature of the applicant's or nominee's mandate to represent them, in as much detail as possible.

Any person wishing to nominate another person for membership of the VSCP must include a statement indicating that the person nominated consents to the nomination. Applications and nominations should be sent to Helen Griffiths at engagement@childsexualabuseinquiry.gsi.gov.uk

The closing date for nominations is **4 pm on Friday 1 May 2015.**

The selection of the members of the VSCP will be made by Justice Goddard in consultation with the Inquiry panel on the basis of the written applications or nominations submitted.

The successful candidates will be announced by **Friday 22 May 2015.**