

Truth Project

**Sharing your experience:
what to expect**

Sharing your experience with the Independent Inquiry

If you have chosen to share your experience with us, you are helping us to investigate institutional failings to protect children from sexual abuse.

As part of the Inquiry's Truth Project, we want to hear from:

- anyone who was sexually abused as a child in an institutional setting like a care home, a school, a hospital or a religious, voluntary or state organisation, or who first came into contact with their abuser in an institutional setting
- anyone who was sexually abused as a child and reported their sexual abuse to a person in authority like a police officer, a social worker or a teacher where the report was either ignored or not properly acted on

We are obliged to pass on all allegations of child abuse to the police. However, we will not provide your name or contact details to the police without your consent, except where it is necessary to protect a child at risk of continuing abuse.

Sharing your experience: what to expect

1

You tell us some basic information

You can tell us some basic information about your experience

2

We contact you

If you provide us with your contact details, we will contact you to arrange the best way for you to share your experience

3

You share your experience

You can choose to share your experience at a private session of the Inquiry, or by writing a detailed statement

4

We take account of your experience

We take your experience into account when we make our recommendations for the future

5

Leave your mark

You have a chance to contribute to the Inquiry's published reports, in your own words

A step by step guide

1 Tell us some basic information

You can tell us some basic information about your experience

By completing an online form, you can let us know some basic information about the experience you would like to share. For example, we'd like to know where in the country you were sexually abused, when it took place, and whether anyone in authority knew about it.

2 We contact you

If you provide us with your contact details, we will contact you to arrange the best way for you to share your experience

We can either call you, email you or write to you and you can let us know when would be convenient.

You can choose whether to arrange to attend a private session of the Inquiry to share your experience in person, or you can provide us with a detailed written statement.

3 You share your experience

You can choose to share your experience at a private session of the Inquiry, or by writing a detailed statement

In a private session you will have a chance to describe your experience to a member of the Inquiry. You can bring friends, family or other support with you. A trained professional will also be available for additional support should you want it.

Your experience will be audio recorded and a written summary will be produced. You will have a chance to check the summary and add anything that's been left out. Everything you tell us, and everything included in the written summary, will be held securely.

You will receive a follow up call from the Inquiry survivor support service about a week after you have attended a private session to see how you are. If you would like longer term support, our counsellors will make arrangements to refer you to support services in your local area.

Alternatively, if you don't want to attend a private session of the Inquiry, we will provide you with a guide to help you prepare a detailed written statement.

4 We take account of your experience

We take your experience into account when we make our recommendations for the future

The Chair and Panel of the Inquiry will consider your written or oral accounts, and those of all victims and survivors who have assisted the Inquiry during the Truth Project.

That evidence will inform the reports they write and the recommendations they make. However, they will not publish your name, unless you ask them to do so.

5 Leave your mark

You have a chance to contribute to the Inquiry's published reports, in your own words

If you share your experience in a private session of the Inquiry, you will be offered the opportunity to leave a short message about any aspect of your experience. This could be a sentence or two about what happened to you or about the effect it has had on you or others. Or it could be your opinion on how we can better protect children in the future.

These anonymous statements will be recorded in writing and assembled together for publication alongside the Inquiry's annual reports as a collective message to the nation.

Start the process on our website

www.csa-inquiry.independent.gov.uk/share-your-experience

Contact details

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