

## THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN OUTSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM

### *An inquiry into the extent to which institutions and organisations based in England and Wales have taken seriously their responsibilities to protect children outside the United Kingdom from sexual abuse*

#### Scope of investigation

1. The Inquiry will investigate the extent to which institutions and organisations based in England and Wales have taken seriously their responsibilities to protect children outside of the United Kingdom from sexual abuse. The investigation will incorporate case-specific investigations, a review of information available from published and unpublished reports and reviews, court cases, and investigations.
2. In investigating the extent to which institutions have taken seriously their duty to protect children abroad, the Inquiry will consider, in particular:
  - 2.1. whether government departments, public authorities, private and/or charitable institutions based in England and Wales have taken sufficient care to protect those children they may have sent or placed abroad;
  - 2.2. whether the armed forces, government departments, public authorities, private and/or charitable institutions based in England and Wales have taken sufficient care to ensure that their employees do not pose a risk to children living abroad and/or whether they have taken appropriate steps in response to allegations that their employees were involved in the sexual abuse of children abroad;
  - 2.3. whether the responses of government departments based in England and Wales to reports of institutional failures to protect children from sexual abuse in overseas territories and crown dependencies have been appropriate;
  - 2.4. whether law enforcement agencies, the criminal justice system, and any other public authorities have been effective in preventing foreign travel by, or notifying foreign authorities of, individuals known to the UK authorities as posing a risk to children.

3. The inquiry will consider the appropriateness of the statutory and regulatory framework relevant to child sexual abuse abroad, including in relation to:
  - 3.1. the operation of the statutory vetting and barring regime by organisations recruiting individuals to work abroad;
  - 3.2. monitoring of child sexual abusers by the criminal justice and law enforcement agencies in England and Wales;
  - 3.3. civil orders, including foreign travel orders and risk of serious harm orders provided by the Sexual Offences Act 2003; and sexual offences prevention orders provided by the Anti-Social Crime and Policing Act 2014.
4. In light of the investigations set out above, the Inquiry will publish a report setting out its findings, lessons learned, and recommendations to improve the protection of children outside of the United Kingdom for whom institutions in England and Wales may have some responsibilities.