



## KEY FACTS

- The Inquiry has been set up to investigate past and present failings by institutions to protect children from sexual abuse
- The Inquiry is looking into child sexual abuse that happened either in an institutional setting – where the victim and survivor first came into contact with their abuser in an institution – or where the abuse was reported to someone in authority but was not acted upon properly
- It is independent of Government
- Its investigations cover institutions in England and Wales
- It will allow victims and survivors to share their experiences privately and confidentially
- It will provide regular progress reports and make practical recommendations to protect present and future generations of children
- Its work is focused on making big changes across institutions that will have a lasting impact

### **What is the Inquiry?**

The Inquiry is an investigation into past and present failings by institutions to protect children from sexual abuse, to hold those responsible to account, and to make recommendations to protect future generations of children.

### **Why was the Inquiry set up?**

The Crime Survey in England and Wales (2015/16) found that one in fourteen (7%) adults aged between 16 and 59 reported being a victim and survivor of child sexual abuse. There are likely to be many more instances that go unreported and uncounted. The Inquiry was set up to uncover and remedy failures that have led to this happening.

### **What is within the scope of the Inquiry?**

This Inquiry is the largest and most ambitious public inquiry ever established in the UK. Its purpose is to consider the extent to which all institutions in England and Wales have failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation, and what steps they might take to stop that abuse in future. It has no cut-off date, and in this task enquiries may be made concerning events occurring many years or even decades ago. It is not within the power of the Inquiry to convict people of criminal offences, determine questions of civil liability or to award compensation.

## How is the Inquiry set up?

The Inquiry is headed by a Chair and a three-strong Panel. It is supported by a Victim and Survivors' Consultative Panel. Inquiry Offices have been set up across England and Wales.

## How does the Inquiry work?

The Inquiry's work is divided into three core projects:

- **The Research Project:** to publish original research on child sexual abuse and analyse information that the Inquiry receives from victims and survivors
- **The Public Hearings Project:** to identify and examine evidence of institutional failings
- **The Truth Project:** to enable victims and survivors to share their experience

The evidence received in all three projects will inform the overall conclusions and recommendations of the Inquiry.

There are four thematic strands that are the focus of our work and recommendations:

- **Cultural:** examining the attitudes, behaviours and values within institutions that prevent us from stopping child sexual abuse
- **Structural:** looking at the legislative, governance and organisational frameworks within and between institutions
- **Financial:** considering the financial, funding and resource arrangements for relevant institutions and services
- **Professional and political:** focusing on the leadership, professional and practice issues for those working or volunteering in relevant institutions

## How long will the Inquiry take?

The Inquiry is committed to delivering an outcome within a credible timeframe and expects to have made substantial progress by 2020. Interim reports will be published which will include tangible and achievable recommendations.

## How can people assist the Inquiry?

Anyone who was sexually abused as a child where there was an institutional failure can report their accounts in a safe, private, confidential environment. This includes anyone who reported their sexual abuse to a person in authority, where the report was not properly acted upon. If you are a victim or a survivor, or can assist the Inquiry, please get in touch.

### Contact us

-  Use our online form: [www.iicsa.org.uk](http://www.iicsa.org.uk)
-  Call our Information line: **0800 917 1000**
-  Email us: [contact@iicsa.org.uk](mailto:contact@iicsa.org.uk)
-  Write to us: **Freepost HEAD OFFICE** (no other address details are required)