

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak, MP, Prime Minister
10, Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

15th JULY 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

From the age of seven I was sexually abused for several years in a local authority run care home in Merseyside. The man who abused me, John Andrew Christian, was suspected of being a predator sometime before my arrival but was neither referred to the local authority nor the police. Instead, he was moved to a lodge within the grounds where he continued to abuse. Some six months later I was placed in the home and with other boys and girls the sexual abuse began in his lodge.

In adulthood my police complaint led to Christian being jailed. I subsequently took civil action against the Local Authority. The damages awarded to me in no way addressed the dysfunction that was introduced to my life so young. The worst thing, Prime Minister, is that all these years later I discovered the abuse I experienced could have been avoided had well-designed mandatory reporting of known and, importantly, suspected child sexual abuse existed for those people who work in what are now defined as Regulated Activities.

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has recommended some principles for a mandatory reporting law that inexplicably excludes 'suspected abuse' which is otherwise known as grooming. IICSA's model has no operating precedent in any jurisdiction. Meanwhile, Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson has a live Private Members Bill in the House which I would urge the Government to support. It has precedent in multiple jurisdictions on all four continents. Its adaptation for use in England and Wales was completed by the pressure group Mandate Now.

To bring this critically important matter to your attention Prime Minister, I arranged this ride to London with some friends and supporters who consider Baroness Grey-Thompson's model law to be long overdue. In not having it, we are out of step with most jurisdictions (>82%) in the rest of the world. I want our legislation to be the most effective mandatory reporting law for the benefit of children, parents, and those professionals who work with children. For this to happen, I hope you and the Home Secretary, to whom I have copied this letter, will meet with me and Mandate Now which has a comprehensive understanding of the subject.

Yours sincerely,

John Taylor

Academics

Professor Joy Schaverien
Author – Boarding school syndrome

Dr Suzanne Zeedyk
Developmental psychologist and research scientist

Authors and Broadcasters

Nicky Campbell
Author & Broadcaster

Nick Duffel
Author – Wounded Leaders

James O'Brien
Author & Broadcaster

Alex Renton
Presenter of BBC Radio Four's series In Dark Corners
Author – Stiff Upper Lip

Former members of the IICSA Victims Survivors Consultative Panel

May Baxter-Thornton - Project Worker, Marie Collins Foundation

Sheila Coates MBE

Lucy Duckworth – London Training Manager, The Survivors Trust

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