

public law  
human rights law  
international law

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Dear Madam/Sir

## **RE: INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

We write to provide you with information about Public Interest Lawyers (PIL) and our contact details. We advise briefly about core participant status, and we hope that this initial information will assist you during the ongoing proceedings.

### **Public Interest Lawyers (PIL)**

The firm was founded by Phil Shiner in 1999. PIL has a reputation for having the tenacity and skill to litigate cases at the very highest level to ensure that the Rule of Law is being upheld. We have extensive experience conducting work on Inquires for example; the Al-Sweady and Baha Mousa Inquiry. Our experienced team at PIL are here to help you fight for your rights against the unrestricted power of the executive when these situations arise, whether they arise on UK or foreign soil.

### **Inquiry and Core Participation Status**

The purpose of the Inquiry will be to consider issues such as:

- The extent to which State and non-State institutions have failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation;
- The extent to which those failings have since been addressed;
- To identify further action needed to address any failings identified;
- The steps which it is necessary for State and non-State institutions to take in order to protect children from such abuse in future and;
- To publish a report with recommendations.

The Inquiry's 'core participants' (CPs) are designated by the Chair of the Inquiry. As you are aware Justice Lowell Goddard has been selected to lead the Independent Panel Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. An individual or an organisation can become a CP if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- the person played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the inquiry relates;
- the person has a significant interest in an important aspect of those matters to which the inquiry relates; or
- the person may be subject to explicit or significant criticism during the inquiry proceedings or in its report.

If you meet the above criteria, we will be seeking CP status on your behalf. However we must stress that until any individual or group of individuals are granted CP status then we will not be able to formally act beyond applying for CP status on your behalf.

A team of lawyers will be working on this Inquiry to provide you with support, advice and assistance at each stage of the proceedings.

Yours faithfully,

Head of Strategic Litigation  
Professor Phil Shiner, LLD, LLM, LLB

**AUTHORITY TO ACT**

I, ..... [DOB.....] give Public

Interest Lawyers permission to seek core participation on my behalf.

Name: .....

Signed:.....

Dated:.....