



25 May 2018

Nadhim Zahawi MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for Children and Families
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Our Ref: AG/GUES01001/01180267

Dear Nadhim

We the undersigned are writing to you with regard to the Government's efforts to tackle child sexual exploitation, (CSE), especially in relation to that perpetrated by organised grooming gangs in Britain.

As you are aware, the 2015 report; "Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation", detailed a number of measures the then government were to implement in order to improve statutory authorities ability to recognise CSE, to protect children and to bring offenders to justice.¹

One of the principal measures outlined in the report was the categorisation of CSE as a national threat in the Strategic Policing Requirement '*so that this is prioritised in every police force.*'

The categorisation requires police forces to ensure that there are sufficient resources to tackle CSE, that there are robust plans to target offenders and that forces must work with each other to share resources, intelligence and best practice.

Whilst these requirements apply to police forces, we believe that their spirit should extend similar obligations to other government departments.

Children's services must be properly equipped, both in terms of resources and expertise, in order to be able to intervene to protect children early and effectively. We would therefore be grateful for any information you could provide on guidance issued by the Government to children's services on strategies and planning in relation to preventing CSE. We are especially interested in relation to high risk children – such as

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/408604/2903652_RotherhamResponse_acc2.pdf

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham
Moorgate Crofts Business Centre, South Grove, Rotherham, S60 2DH
T: 01709 331035
sarah.champion.mp@parliament.uk
www.sarahchampionmp.com



vulnerable children, those in care, home-schooled or with chaotic lives. Can you also advise us on the ongoing implementation and monitoring of the guidance.

Many colleagues have expressed concern that there is a potential correlation between the levels of CSE and the fact that they occur in smaller single-tier unitary authorities – e.g. Telford & Wrekin, Rotherham and Blackpool. There could be a number of reasons for this, none of them apparently dominant. It may relate to the fact that smaller authorities lack the necessary diversity of expertise, or may find it harder to recruit specialists in this area than larger, potentially “more prestigious” authorities. Whilst by no means the sole explanation, we believe it warrants further examination by officials and would be grateful for any information you could provide on this specific issue.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Champion MP
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

Lucy Allan MP
Member of Parliament for Telford

Sir Kevin Barron MP
Member of Parliament for Rother Valley

Lyn Brown MP
Member of Parliament for West Ham

Alex Cunningham MP
Member of Parliament for Stockton North

Philip Davies MP
Member of Parliament for Shipley

Anneliese Dodds MP
Member of Parliament for Oxford East

Darren Jones MP
Member of Parliament for Bristol North West

Tony Lloyd MP
Member of Parliament for Rochdale

Holly Lynch MP
Member of Parliament for Halifax

Paul Maynard MP
Member of Parliament for Blackpool
North

Kerry McCarthy MP
Member of Parliament for Bristol East

Andy McDonald MP
Member of Parliament for Middlesbrough

Catherine McKinnell MP
Member of Parliament for Newcastle upon Tyne
North



Layla Moran MP
Member of Parliament for Oxford West
and Abingdon

Naz Shah MP
Member of Parliament for Bradford West

Anna Turley MP
Member of Parliament for Redcar

Mark Pritchard MP
Member of Parliament for The Wrekin

Barry Sheerman MP
Member of Parliament for Huddersfield

Paul Williams MP
Member of Parliament for Stockton South