



**Home Affairs
Committee**

8 April 2025

**Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
Via email**

Subject: Child Sexual Abuse

Dear Home Secretary

On 1 April 2025 the Committee took evidence from Tom Crowther KC on the implementation of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) recommendations.

The evidence we heard raised concerns around the actions taken by the Home Office when commissioning the framework for locally-led, victim-centred inquiries.

Tom Crowther ran through his timeline of events and how he was communicated with by the Home Office. He commented on the lack of communication from the Home Office since you announced his role in January. We were also surprised to hear about the use of text message by officials as the primary form of communication for the best part of three months.

We heard that communication was so poor that Tom Crowther felt the need to contact the Home Office to ask if he was still required for this work. In your statement to the House on 6 January you said: "We now need new impetus and action"; the impression given by Tom Crowther at our evidence session was that this was still lacking.

On 16 January you told the House that "Tom Crowther will work specifically with the first five local authorities that want to do such work, drawing up an effective model that can be used in other areas". We were informed by Tom Crowther that he has had no involvement in the development of the framework.

You are, of course, welcome to respond to Tom Crowther's statement of events and to correct any misunderstandings.



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In light of the evidence we heard from Tom Crowther, we have the following questions:

- How prescriptive will the framework be? Will there be set requirements, for example survivors' panels or a two-year review?
- What are your timelines for completing the framework?
- Who will be responsible at the national level for identifying common themes coming from the victim-centred, locally-led reports and acting on them?
- What actions have you taken to identify the four pilot areas for the locally-led inquiries?
- What criteria will be used to determine who will be able to access the £5 million of additional funding?
- What will the process be to access the £5 million additional funding, for example, will local authorities have to bid for it?
- What is the department's response to evidence from Tom Crowther KC that he was communicated with via text message rather than email until a month ago?

I would be grateful for a response to these questions by 29 April.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP
Chair of the Home Affairs Committee