



# INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

**Strictly Private & Confidential**

Richard Scorer  
Slater & Gordon  
58 Mosley Street  
Manchester M2 3HZ

By email to: [REDACTED]

8 June 2021

Dear Mr Scorer

**CCJW database of potential child sexual abusers**

Thank you for your email dated 2 June 2021, sent on behalf of Lloyd Evans.

While the Panel has powers under the Inquiries Act 2005 to compel the production of evidence and witnesses, it is axiomatic as a matter of public law that it must exercise these powers for the purpose of fulfilling its terms of reference. I made clear in my letter dated 5 February 2021 that the Inquiry has obtained all the documentation from the CCJW that is necessary for it to conclude its programme of work. In these circumstances, it would not be appropriate, lawful or fair to exercise those powers for another purpose, i.e. to obtain 'a secret database of potential offenders'.

As I explained in my separate email to Leigh House dated 4 March 2021, the Panel is very conscious of the terrible impact of child sexual abuse, but cannot act in a way that is unlawful. The appropriate authorities for investigating individual allegations of non-recent abuse are the police, who have the correct statutory powers to seize evidence and investigate crime. If such a database of potential offenders exists, then it is the police who have the correct powers to seize it, not the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Martin Smith  
**Solicitor to the Inquiry**