



Home Office

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Dear Clive,

Thank you for your letter of 6 June 2018 regarding Telford and Wrekin Council's decision to commission an inquiry into non-recent cases of child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Telford. Sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you.

The Government recognises that CSE is a national issue and is determined that no child should have to suffer any form of exploitation or abuse. This is why we declared child sexual abuse a national threat and last year announced a £40m national programme of work to tackle CSE. The Government established the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse to uncover the truth about past failures and make recommendations for the future, and as you know, the Inquiry has announced an investigation into CSE by organised networks in towns and cities across England and Wales. So, insofar as the type of offending we have seen in Telford and elsewhere is a national issue, Government is looking to the Independent Inquiry, and not to the inquiry in Telford and Wrekin, to investigate this. It is for local authorities to fund investigations into local issues and we cannot therefore agree to fund the inquiry in Telford and Wrekin.

You also refer in your letter to the Council's Trusted Relationships bid. The Trusted Relationships Fund received 107 applications at Expression of Interest stage. Many of these applications were of a high quality but unfortunately, we were only able to progress a small number of these to the full application stage based on the published criteria. Like many others, Telford and Wrekin submitted an interesting proposal but with the size and strength of the pool of applications, Telford and Wrekin's proposal did not reach the top scoring bracket.

As the Home Office's former Safeguarding Director wrote following officials' visit last year, we are assured of the effort that the Council is making to keep children safe and learn from past mistakes, and I am grateful to you for your ongoing engagement with officials here on developments in Telford and Wrekin.

Yours sincerely