

Rt Hon James Cleverley MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street,
London,
SW1P 4DF

Our ref: MOPAC300124-D4857

7 February 2024

Dear Home Secretary,

An inspection of the effectiveness of the police and law enforcement bodies' response to group-based child sexual exploitation in England and Wales.

I write in regards to the thematic inspection published on 8th December, which looked at how well the police and law enforcement bodies understand and respond to group-based child sexual exploitation.

This specific thematic inspection report specified one area for improvement and recommendations for Chief Constables of police forces nationally.

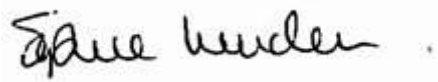
- 1. All chief constables should work with their statutory safeguarding partners to review, promote and make sure that relevant group-based child sexual exploitation disruption and prevention initiatives are implemented effectively in their forces.*
- 2. By 31 December 2024, all chief constables should make sure that their forces have problem profiles for child sexual exploitation, each of which should include an assessment of the nature and extent of group-based child sexual exploitation.*
- 3. By 31 December 2024, all chief constables and the relevant business user groups for police record management systems should make sure there are sufficient measures in place to identify group-based child sexual exploitation.*
- 4. By 30 June 2024, all chief constables of forces that are yet to receive the Hydrant Programme's (reviews of cases at no cost to forces) continuing professional development offer should arrange it.*
- 5. With immediate effect, all chief constables should take effective steps to eradicate victim-blaming language in their forces.*

You will be aware that last year the Mayor and I raised concerns about the MPS's ability to identify and understand the scale of Child Exploitation and their approach to multi agency working. Those concerns, alongside wider public protection issues, including group-based child sexual exploitation led MOPAC to commission of a specific HMICFRS report.

In November 2023 I responded to the accelerated causes for concern raised by HMICFRS and through our oversight mechanisms we are engaged with the MPS, as they move forward with addressing them and implementing their overarching Strengthening Public Protection programme. After the publication of the commissioned report on the 9th February 2024, I will be providing a response to all of the recommendations the MPS need to address regarding improving their service to children in this area, including those for group based child sexual exploitation.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophie Linden', followed by a period.

Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

cc. HMI Lee Freeman