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Dear Ms Merity

Accountability and Reparations - Follow up on Recommendations - ABI

I write in response to your letter of 26 January 2021, in which you request an update on the steps that the ABI has taken to respond to Recommendations 2 and 4 in IICSA's Accountability and Reparations Investigation Report.

We have made progress in relation to the development of a code of practice for responding to civil claims of child sexual abuse. We are refining a full draft of a code following a meeting earlier this month of our members who write public liability insurance, and we anticipate being in a position to finalise and publish this code in the coming months. In our last progress update to the Inquiry on 18 March 2020, we said that we were working towards the conclusion of the code by the end of the year but that we may need to adjust this timeline depending on how the coronavirus pandemic developed. The impact of the pandemic has been far more pronounced than we had anticipated last March. However, we remain committed to delivering a code of practice in the near future that improves the claims process for victims of survivors of abuse.

As to Recommendation 4, at the time of our update to the Inquiry of 18 March we understood there were ongoing discussions between government departments about which department should take the lead on the development of a register of public liability insurance policies. We had sought to be as constructive as possible at that stage by providing the Department for Work and Pensions, HM Treasury and the Ministry of Justice with copies of the report that we prepared for the Inquiry on whether a register of public liability insurance could be introduced to assist claimants in civil child sexual abuse claims. We have not heard anything further and the position remains that we are ready to engage with officials on this issue should our further input be requested. We have had some discussions with the Financial Conduct Authority on the potential development of rules on the retention of public liability insurance records since our last update.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or wish to discuss.

Yours sincerely

Philippa Handyside
Director and General Counsel