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FAO: Alexandra Merity
Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse
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By Email Only:
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Dear Alexandra,

I write to update you on the ABI's work to respond to the Recommendations made of the ABI in IICSA's report dated 19 September 2019.

In terms of Recommendation 2, we have made good progress to commence the drafting of a Code of Practice. Having spoken to the Local Government Association we are content that it is preferable for each organisation to prepare separate Codes of Practice, however we will be sharing copies of our draft work once we are closer to completion.

We have conducted two meetings with representatives from member firms to establish key principles for inclusion in the Code of Practice. We are in the process of arranging a third meeting to further develop this piece of work and are working towards its conclusion by the end of this year, whilst recognising that we may need to adjust this timeline depending on how the coronavirus develops and impacts both the ABI's resources and the availability of our members. We continue to consider how best to ensure the Code of Practice will operate to improve the claims process for victims and survivors of abuse, including taking into account the accounts of victims and survivors during the Inquiry's hearings to date.

In terms of recommendation 4, our understanding is that this Recommendation is likely to be led by the Department for Work and Pensions but that discussions between government departments about who should take the lead are ongoing. We have sought to be as constructive as we can at this stage by providing, with the Inquiry's approval, the DWP, HM Treasury and 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 child sexual abuse cases, as well as with the Financial Conduct Authority who may have a role should a register be established.

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We remain ready to continue to engage with officials on this issue should our further input be requested.

Yours sincerely

Philippa Handyside
Director and General Counsel