

Mandate Now

Press Release

12.10.22



On 20th October 2022 the [Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#) (“IICSA”) will publish its final report containing ‘recommendations for State and non-State institutions to take to protect children from abuse in future’.

The most important recommendation is for the introduction of [well-designed mandatory reporting of known and suspected child sexual abuse](#) by personnel who work in Regulated Activities (‘RA’) such as teaching, healthcare, faith, sport, and who have responsibility for the care of children. [There is a Private Members’ Bill in the Lords currently](#) which uses our recently updated model. [England and Wales are outliers in not having such a law.](#)

[Evidence demonstrates well-designed mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse immediately introduces substantial and sustained improvement to safeguarding.](#) Legitimate democratic government has a duty to protect children through the adoption of proven policy measures and the provision of sufficient budgetary support.

Mandatory reporting [contributes to superior child protection outcomes with relatively little system burden](#). Law must be accompanied by accredited safeguarding training (see below) and supported by appropriate resourcing for triage and service provision. Ongoing monitoring of referrals is essential to identify areas of education, reporting practice and systemic responses that may require refinement.

The following additional measures are needed to accompany well-designed mandatory reporting:

- Home Office to address the serious shortcomings at the Disclosure and Barring Service
- Ofsted and ISI to be relieved of their safeguarding inspection roles
- The formation of a new ‘safeguarding inspectorate’ for schools
- Establishing an accreditation scheme for safeguarding trainers
- The creation of a national Local Authority Designated Officer (“LADO”) training scheme
- Home Office to establish comprehensive data gathering of child sexual abuse referrals and outcomes

[Further information about these additional measures to accompany MR is available here.](#)

[Mandate Now](#) is the pressure group that leads the agenda for the introduction of well-designed legislation mandating the reporting of suspected and known child sexual abuse by personnel employed in Regulated Activities.

Contact: