

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc
ac Addysg**

**Children, Young People
and Education Committee**

Amanda Blakeman
Chair of Welsh Chief Officer Group

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Inquiry into Children and Young People on the Margins

Dear Amanda,

As you may know, we are currently gathering evidence as part of our inquiry 'children and young people on the margins'. The inquiry is focusing on missing children and criminalised children and young people. More detail about our inquiry, including its terms of reference, can be found on [our web pages](#).

The written consultation window for this inquiry closed on 23 January 2024. We are now in the process of gathering informal evidence from stakeholders via a series of stakeholder events and engagement visits. However, due to pressures to our forward work programme, we have decided to seek targeted written evidence from key stakeholders rather than holding formal oral evidence sessions. We will then then hold a joint scrutiny session with the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice and the Minister for Social Services on 19 September 2024.

We are therefore seeking your views on any aspect of the inquiry to bolster our written evidence. In addition to any general comments you wish to make that are relevant to the inquiry's terms of reference, we would appreciate your views on the following specific points:

1. **Inspection findings: A HMI-CFRS report** identified shortcoming in the Metropolitan Police Service's handling of child sexual and criminal exploitation cases, including inadequate risk assessment, delayed responses, and the use of victim-blaming language. Have the Welsh police forces undertaken a review of its own practices? Specifically, have the forces considered the findings of this report in evaluating and improving its response to cases of missing children and young people and child criminal exploitation?

2. **Training and Awareness:** How are frontline police officers trained to identify and respond to signs of child criminal exploitation? Are there any specific programmes or initiatives in place to raise awareness among officers about this issue?
3. **Collaboration and Coordination:** How do the four Welsh police forces collaborate with other each other and other agencies, such as Youth Offending Teams and social services, in efforts to prevent and respond to child criminal exploitation? How is information shared between these different organisations

I would be grateful for your response no later than Friday 23 August 2024 so that we can take account of your views in advance of our scrutiny session with the Welsh Government.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

