

# The Labour Party

David Evans  
General Secretary

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Professor Alexis Jay, OBE, Chair.  
The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse  
PO Box 76107  
London  
SE1P 6HJ  
**By email only to: [solicitors@iicsa.org.uk](mailto:solicitors@iicsa.org.uk)**

9 December 2020

Dear Professor Jay,

I am writing to you as Chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in response to recommendations resulting from the Inquiry's investigation into allegation of child sexual abuse linked to Westminster. The Labour Party appreciated the opportunity to act as a Core Participant in this investigation so as to assist both the Inquiry in its work and also our own learning from the issues investigated. We now welcome the Inquiry's report, which will help us in our continued effort to improve the safeguarding of children at risk of sexual abuse. We have carefully considered the report and its recommendations in so far as they relate to political parties.

### **Recommendation 3**

**Government, political parties and other Westminster institutions must have whistleblowing policies and procedures which cover child sexual abuse and exploitation. Every employee must be aware that they can raise any concerns using these policies and that the policies are not limited to concerns specific to a person's employment.**

The Labour Party has revised its whistleblowing policy in its Employee Handbook so that it now specifically addresses employee's safeguarding concerns. The policy directs the employee to the Party's Safeguarding team so that the appropriate legal and professional approach is then undertaken:

#### Safeguarding

*If your concern is related to the health or wellbeing of a child, young person, or at risk adult, it should always be reported to the Safeguarding team in the first instance. The Safeguarding team are responsible for following up all safeguarding reports and concerns, according to their own policies and procedures, as well as legal and statutory obligations, which may be different from those laid out here. For this reason it is appropriate that any concerns of this nature should be handled by the Safeguarding team, and not under this policy.*

*To contact the safeguarding team please with your concern please either email [safeguarding@labour.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@labour.org.uk) or contact the helpline on 0207 783 1123. Alternatively you can raise a safeguarding concern through one of the designated regional safeguarding leads. Further information and contact details of both regional safeguarding leads and the safeguarding unit can be found on the 'Safeguarding Resources for Labour Party Staff' on the party intranet.*

## **Recommendation 5**

**All political parties registered with the Electoral Commission in England and Wales must ensure that they have a comprehensive safeguarding policy. All political parties must also ensure that they have procedures to accompany their policies, in order that politicians, prospective politicians, staff and volunteers know how to enact their party's policy, which must be published online. All political parties must update their policies and procedures regularly, and obtain expert safeguarding advice when doing this. The Electoral Commission should monitor and oversee compliance with this recommendation.**

The Labour Party has developed robust and comprehensive safeguarding policies and procedures. The Labour Party Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure guides our approach to how the Labour Party will protect children and promote their welfare. Our procedure clearly sets out how politicians, prospective politicians, volunteers and members should act if they are concerned about the welfare of a child, the behaviour of an adult towards a child or if they have any other safeguarding concern.

Our Safeguarding Unit manages the investigation of any safeguarding concern raised to the party and follows a clear procedure for the Management of a Safeguarding Allegation Involving a Child. All of our policies and procedures were developed in consultation with, and have been reviewed by experts from the NSPCC.

Our policy and procedure is supported by three e-learning modules which give an overview of safeguarding, our four safeguarding principles and the safeguarding processes and procedures at the Labour Party. This e-learning is available to all members and members of staff. Our policy is also supported with specific guidance for how our members, volunteers and politicians should organise party meetings, campaigning and other organisational activities that involve children. We have developed and circulated comprehensive guidance for staff members organising events where children will attend or otherwise interact or engage with activities.

The Labour Party Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure is reviewed on an annual basis by the party's National Executive Committee which holds organisational accountability for safeguarding. Our policies were most recently reviewed and re-adopted in March 2020. The Labour Party regularly reviews our safeguarding provision consulting with experts for

safeguarding advice when necessary.

We also recognise that awareness and understanding of policy and procedure is essential for the approach outlined to be effective in protecting children as much as possible. As such, we will continue to promote awareness and understanding through regular communications with members and dedicated training for staff and elected representatives.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JRE', with a horizontal line underneath and a period at the end.

David Evans  
General Secretary