



Home Office

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John Johnson  
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19 December 2018

Dear Mr Johnson

**Freedom of Information request reference: 51227**

I am responding to your emails of 8, 9 and 22 November in which you request information about safeguarding. Your request, which is set out in the attached Annex, has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

In the first part of your request, you have asked what action the Home Office would take if we were contacted with concerns that highlighted a need to conduct safeguarding. You have clarified that by 'safeguarding', you mean taking steps to ensure vulnerable adults and/or children do not suffer harm or abuse and that if such people are at risk, the necessary steps are taken to mitigate those risks.

Any action the Home Office would take would depend on the particular circumstances and the question is too broad and hypothetical to answer under the FOIA. However there are procedures in place, for example if an allegation is made in relation to child sex abuse or child sexual exploitation the matter is referred to the police as per the recommendations from the Wanless Withtham Review.

With regard to the second part of your request, the Safeguarding Unit to which you refer has changed its name to the Tackling Exploitation and Abuse Unit. The Unit is headed by the Deputy Director Christian Papaleontiou who has ultimate responsibility for the Unit. Our main focus is on issues that involve child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation.

In answer to the third part of your request, the Tackling Exploitation and Abuse policy documents can be found at [Tackling Child Exploitation March 2015](#) and [Tackling Exploitation and Abuse Progress Report 2017](#).

Section 21(1) of the FOIA exempts the Home Office from having to provide you with this information, because it is already reasonably accessible to you. If you have any difficulties

in accessing this information at the source which I have indicated, please contact me again.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to [foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk), quoting reference 51227. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely,

**Tackling Exploitation and Abuse Unit**

## **Annex: Original request**

- If a person contacted the Home Office with concerns that highlighted a need to conduct safeguarding, what actions would the Home Office take?
- Please confirm who is ultimately responsible for the safeguarding unit at the Home Office and what their title is (please note that the safeguarding unit in question corresponded via the Direct Communications Unit based at 2 Marsham Street).
- If you could also include a copy of the Home Office Ministerial Department Safeguarding Policy with your reply, I'd appreciate it.