



The Rt. Hon. Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for the Home
Department
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1 4DF

Councillor Howard Sykes MBE

Our ref: HS/JS/4760

Date: 20 July 2022

Dear Home Secretary,

RE: Independent inquiry into child sex exploitation failings in Oldham

I am sure you will have read the Newsam and Ridgeway report into historic cases of child sex exploitation in Oldham published on June 20th this year. I am sure you will have been as horrified as I was, to read about how victims of those most heinous crimes were further let down by the serious failings of Oldham Borough Council and Greater Manchester Police.

Quite understandably, the reaction to the report in Oldham has been one of deep anger. People here feel that some of the most vulnerable young people in our society have been let down by the very institutions that exist to protect them.

GMP were also found guilty of similarly serious and serial failings in the first Newsam and Ridgeway report, looking into Operation Augusta in South Manchester and Rochdale. A further report is due into Rochdale, and there is little evidence to suggest that this will not find the same failings again.

It is clear from the authors' very own words that GMP did not cooperate with the production of the review and so many questions remain unanswered. A full and independent public inquiry into the findings of the Newsam and Ridgeway reports is now needed in order to get the answers that victims and their families deserve; and to ensure that every organisational, procedural, and professional failing is identified to ensure these awful failings can never be repeated.

I am writing to you, as Home Secretary, to ask you to grant the full and independent inquiry that Oldham and Greater Manchester need.

Leader of the Real Opposition. Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group Oldham Council.
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Transport in Greater Manchester.
Member for Shaw Ward. Member for East Ward Shaw & Crompton Parish Council.
5 Ballard Way, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 8DU

Address all correspondence to: Room 338, Level 3, Civic Centre West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UL

E: howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk **W:** howardsykes.mycouncillor.org.uk

Twitter: @Howard_Sykes **Facebook:** @Councillor.Howard.Sykes **T:** 0161 770 4016

I hope you will use your position to show people in Oldham that failure to protect children can never be accepted in our public institutions. It is only through meticulously investigating these failings that we can have true accountability and begin to earn back the trust of the people of Oldham.

If you are unable to grant this enquiry, please could you explain your reasoning?

I look forward to your reply with interest.

Yours Sincerely,



Howard Sykes

Leader of the Real Opposition. Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group Oldham Council.
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Transport in Greater Manchester.
Member for Shaw Ward. Member for East Ward Shaw & Crompton Parish Council.
5 Ballard Way, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 8DU

Address all correspondence to: Room 338, Level 3, Civic Centre West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UL

E: howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk **W:** howardsykes.mycouncillor.org.uk

Twitter: @Howard_Sykes **Facebook:** @Councillor.Howard.Sykes **T:** 0161 770 4016