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F.A.O Ms Andonovski
Inquiry into the Management of Child Sex Offender
Information
Parliament of the State of Victoria
Spring Street
East Melbourne
VIC 3002

By email only to: csoinquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au

15 June 2021

Dear Ms Andonovski

I write further to your email of 2 June regarding the two matters taken on notice, following live evidence provided by Mr Jones of the NCA on 26 May 2021.

- 1. MR GRIMLEY (page 14): In relation to disclosure schemes: How many times have disclosure schemes been accessed and how many disclosures have been made from those times? How many disclosures have been made that have resulted in people being protected or moving from that relationship and have potentially prevented an offence from occurring?**

The NCA has liaised with the Home Office in respect of this request. The Home Office has explained that:

Data on the use of the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme are held by individual police forces, though activity is ongoing to improve the consistency of data collection regarding the Scheme. Nevertheless, there is evidence to suggest that many thousands of applications have been made under the Scheme since it was introduced in 2011. In the event that the subject of the application has convictions for sexual offences against children, poses a risk of causing harm to the child concerned and disclosure is necessary to protect the child, the police will reveal details confidentially to the person most able to protect the child (usually parents, carers or guardians). However, the success of the Scheme should not be judged simply by the volume of disclosures, as many applications will not meet the necessary criteria but the police may still be able to pursue

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wider investigations or activities to ensure children are protected. Since the introduction of the Scheme, it is assessed that several hundred disclosures have been made to members of the public, with many other safeguarding actions being taken by the police to protect children at risk of harm, including (but not limited to) securing Sexual Harm Prevention Orders, Sexual Risk Orders and even criminal prosecutions.

2. THE CHAIR (page 17): In relation to the online reporting tool: Please provide statistics on the outcomes around the traffic on the portal.

As explained in Mr Jones's evidence on 26 May, ClickCEOP is a safeguarding channel, rather than a crime reporting mechanism, although arrests and convictions will ensue from some referrals made to local safeguarding agencies and police forces. This is not however the sole outcome as the nature of the reports varies, and can range from safeguarding and a subsequent police investigation into contact and/or online child sexual abuse, to the provision of online safety advice, and signposting to the Thinkuknow education website, depending on the nature of the report.

In the three month period from 1 February 2021 to 2 May 2021 1,627 public reports were received by the NCA. Of these reports:

- 593 reports (36.5%) were received from children.
- 611 reports (37.5%) were received from parents/carers.
- 280 reports (17.2%) were received from professionals (teachers or those working in child protection).
- 143 reports (8.8%) were received from others (e.g. concerned adults / anonymous individuals / members of the public).

In 2020/21 the NCA received over 6,000 public reports (compared to around 5,400 in 2019/20 - an increase of more than 10%). In 2020/21 **1,245** children were safeguarded in the UK and protected as a result of public reports. As I explained in evidence on 26 May, the NCA does not collect criminal justice outcome data in respect of public reports.

Finally, the NCA is grateful for confirmation that the requested amendments have been made to the transcript.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Pollock

**Legal Department
National Crime Agency**