

Professor Alexis Jay
Chair
Public Inquiry into group-based child sexual abuse

Via Inquiry Secretary David.Anderson@gov.scot

Date: 18 May 2026
Our reference: SHRC202616

Dear Professor Jay,

Scottish Human Rights Commission

On behalf of the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC), I write following the announcement in February 2026 that subsequent to your work on the national review of group-based abuse, you will lead a public inquiry into Scotland's response to group-based child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Members of the Commission considered this news at our last meeting on 13th April 2026 with keen interest.

As you may be aware, the SHRC is Scotland's human rights watchdog, with a statutory mandate to promote human rights for everyone. Access to Justice is a core strategic priority for the SHRC, as are the rights of specially protected groups, and we welcome the opportunity that a public inquiry may provide for victims to access redress for any harms they may have experienced, in line with the requirements of the international human rights framework.

We also have a significant interest from the perspective of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the SHRC has a specific mandate in following its incorporation into Scots law in 2024; and with respect to the Convention on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEDAW) and the Istanbul Convention.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposals through these lens to the approach being developed for this review at this early stage.

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My office will be happy to schedule a time for us to meet and discuss these matters further at your convenience over the summer.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. O'Hagan', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Angela O'Hagan
Chair
Scottish Human Rights Commission