

Posted to ChiefsNet 26/01/2026

FAO Chief Constables – Independent Inquiry into Grooming Gangs.

Chief Constables,

On **9 December 2025**, the Home Secretary appointed **Baroness Anne Longfield CBE** as Chair of the Independent Inquiry into Grooming Gangs (with panel members Zoë Billingham CBE and Eleanor Kelly CBE). The Inquiry will be established under the **Inquiries Act 2005** and will have full statutory powers.

What we are asking you to do now

- **Apply an immediate ‘do not destroy’ (legal hold)** to any material that **could** be relevant. Pause auto-deletion or routine disposal on applicable systems and paper holdings.
- **Identify potential sources** of material including operational case files (police incident logs, custody, BWV, call audio), multi-agency records (MASH/strategy meetings), organisational material (policies, minutes, risk logs, training), and communications (email, Teams/SharePoint/OneDrive, approved messaging used for business).
- **Nominate a local SPOC** in each business area to coordinate with the Information Governance team.
- **Maintain security and confidentiality** for all sensitive and survivor-related records while retaining them.
- **Document your actions** (systems placed on hold, locations secured, dates and responsible officers).
- **If in doubt, retain and seek advice.** Where relevance is uncertain pending final Terms of Reference, keep the material and contact IG.

Next steps

- Once the Terms of Reference are finalised, the Chair is expected to write directly to relevant bodies with detailed retention and disclosure instructions.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and professionalism in supporting this Inquiry and our shared commitment to protecting children and securing transparency.

CC Beck Riggs

[Annex Letter from Chair of the Independent Inquiry into Grooming Gangs to the Cabinet Secretary.pdf](#)

[Annex Draft Terms of Reference for Consultation.pdf](#)

[Letter Romeo Stephens Record Retention 14012026.pdf](#)

[Romeo Stephens Record Retention support note Chiefsnet.docx](#)