

From: [Rebecca Riggs](#)
To: S.40(2)
Subject: FW: Question on letter sent by Home Office Permanent Secretary to Gavin Stephens on 14 January 2026
Date: 07 February 2026 12:38:46
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Letter Romeo Stephens Record Retention 14012026.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Team,

FYI and awareness. We are yet to understand if this will impact Staffs but it would be good to be on the front foot for this Inquiry, similar to the UCPI inquiry, when we know the ToR we will be able to understand what this means for us locally. I have no doubt they will draw on historic cases but perhaps lean towards SYP, GMP, WMP & MPS.

S.40(2) from a national perspective we are both likely to be in frame for giving evidence. I'm mindful we will likely need to demonstrate how the policing journey has evolved from a hydrant CSE Taskforce perspective

S.40(2) – One to consider from NVCPP/college APP & policy etc.

I think governance this will feed into Gavin and S.23(1) but we may need our own structures beneath to ensure we capture all that might be required!

It's early days and I am yet to meet any of the Inquiry team but happy to discuss over a call if needed.

Becky

From: S.40(2)
Sent: 05 February 2026 16:34
To: Rebecca Riggs
Subject: FW: Question on letter sent by Home Office Permanent Secretary to Gavin Stephens on 14 January 2026
Importance: High

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OFFICIAL

Dear Ma'am

I hope all is well. Further to the below request I have received from the Home Office – I have checked Chiefs Net and can see that the below article (and attached PDF letter – along with a couple of other supporting attachments) was published on Chiefs Net on 26 January 2026 – I will send this onto the Home Office – I just wanted to make sure you were sighted.

Regards and thanks

S.40(2)

Executive Assistant to Gavin Stephens, Chair
& Gemma Stannard, Strategic Hub Lead

S.31(1)



50 Broadway, London,
SW1H 0BL

www.npcc.police.uk

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](#)

OFFICIAL

From: S.40(2), S.31(1)

Sent: 04 February 2026 17:35

To: S.40(2), S.31(1)

Cc: S.40(2), S.31(1)

Subject: FW: Question on letter sent by Home Office Permanent Secretary to Gavin Stephens on 14 January 2026

You don't often get email from S.40(2), S.31(1) [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi S.40(2),

My name is S.40(2) from the CSE Response team. I am emailing you as you are on S.40(2) out of office. I am emailing about a letter sent by the Home Office Permanent Secretary to Gavin Stephens on 14 Jan 2026. The letter (attached in draft form) flagged the need for full transparency and cooperation with the Independent Inquiry into Grooming Gangs, the need for relevant bodies and agencies to start preparing to meet their legal obligations to provide relevant records to the inquiry when requested, and a request for the NPCC to cascade this message to all Chief Constables.

Data retention, and whether Chief Constables have been notified of their need to retain relevant records, was raised at the Home Affairs Select Committee today. Could you please confirm whether and when this message was disseminated to Chiefs? If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks

S.40(2)

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