

From: [Programme Tabula](#)
To: [Programme Tabula](#)
Subject: Grooming Gangs Comms
Date: 13 March 2026 12:49:16
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[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 \(1\).docx](#)
Importance: High

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Good afternoon all,

I hope you are well.

Please see the below From **S.40(2)** RMPG Chair on communications to forces around Grooming Gangs:

“FAO – Records Management Practitioners Group

As I am sure most of you have received the Chiefs Net communications (Attached), I thought we should look at this and what forces have or where forces need support in their decision-making processes around this area. I have had some communications with forces, and I been asked if we as RMPG can come up with some consistent approach to this to recommend back to forces.

We are trying to work through this with Temp CC Riggs, who leads on CPIA portfolio. As an interim supportive measure, we would advise that the following measures are put in place with immediate effect:-

- 1. Processes to stop any deletion of information that may have value to the Inquiry.*
- 2. The suspension of all automated deletions on systems that may have information relating to the Inquiry.*
- 3. If forces wish to continue to dispose of information prior to the full terms of reference and guidance, they will need to be certain that no data that ‘could’ be relevant to the Inquiry is disposed of, and I would recommend that forces document their decision-making process around this.*
- 4. Until such time as these processes are in place or the Inquiry comes back with more detailed guidance forces should pause and evaluate.*
- 5. Forces should also document decisions where deletion is placed on hold and communicate this.*
- 6. Engage with legal and Data Protection / Information Management Departments on the issues about retaining relevant to the public Inquiry.*

I have now had further update from the Inquires team director:

- *The Inquiry's Terms of reference should be finalised and agreed by the end of this month.*
- *In terms of sensitive information that the Inquiry may want to see, this is governed by the Inquiry's Act and Inquiry's Rules. Once the Terms of Reference have been agreed, the Solicitor to the Inquiry would ordinarily be responsible for establishing the MOUs*

by which the Inquiry intends to exercise its powers under the Act. The Chair has numerous powers she can use to protect sensitive information through restriction orders, redactions, and closed hearings for example.

- *It would be that the NPCC would need to agree this with the Inquiry Solicitor at some point moving forward. All this should / will be channelled through the NPCC instructed solicitor.*

If you require any help, support or further guidance please email

S.31(1)

Regards

S.40(2)

Please note, actions, notes, and further papers from the recent RMPG meeting will be circulated as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

S.40(2)

Delivery Officer

National Data and Analytics Office (NDAO)

Email: S.31(1)



50 Broadway,

London,

SW1H 0BL



S.31(1)

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