



MandateNow

‘Whatever happened to the NSPCC?’

12.07.14

The NSPCC indicated it wished to meet MandateNow to discuss our proposals which are designed to transform the legislative foundations on which child protection in Regulated Activities is grounded. Mandatory reporting exists in 86% of European Countries and 81.8% of developed countries have varying forms of Mandatory Reporting. Despite the government’s conviction that the framework is working, a position which is loyally supported by the NSPCC, the Home Secretary has found it necessary to announce a non-statutory inquiry into child abuse in England. The sheer scale of known, suspected, and unreported abuse of children in Regulated Activities, is simply astonishing. Little is working in a framework on which no reliance can be placed.

In January 14 the NSPCC issued a briefing paper

http://mandatenow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/mandatory-reporting_wdf-consideration-of-the-evidence-010114.pdf which robustly rejected Mandatory Reporting for reasons that stand little scrutiny. We responded to its paper here: <http://mandatenow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/response-to-nspcc-mrca-policy-position-paper.pdf>

But then appeared a burst of media about child abuse in Regulated Activities which arrived with the conviction and sentencing of Peter Wright the former headmaster of Caldicott who was the fourth perpetrator from that school to be found guilty of child sexual abuse. More headlines followed including this in The Times just a fortnight later.

http://truevisiontv.com/uploads/websites/39/wysiwyg/Independent_schools_page_1_20_Jan_2014.pdf

Max 10C min 2C

Monday January 20 2014 | thetimes.co.uk | No 71098

Only 60p to subscribers £1.20

Sort out your finances
Collect our expert guides
every day this week Pullout inside



The women who dress Kate and Pippa
 Times2

130 private schools in child abuse scandal

Attacks on hundreds of boys at elite establishments

Andrew Norfolk
 Chief Investigative Reporter

Teachers at 130 independent schools have been implicated in sex crimes against hundreds of children, an analysis by The Times reveals today. Experts warn of a looming scandal over the abuse of boys in boarding schools during the past half century.

The list features dozens of Britain's leading public schools as well as 20 elite prep schools that regularly send children to Eton College. Included are 64 mainstream private-sector establishments, most of them boarding schools, where at least one male teacher has been convicted of sexually abusing boys, and a further 30 at which a member of staff was sentenced for possessing child abuse images.

Analysis of past crimes, scandals and police investigations at 130 schools reveals a significant surge in criminal prosecutions since 2012, often for offences that happened many years ago. Should the pattern continue, it is likely to damage schools' reputations and finances. With annual boarding fees averaging £27,000, many are increasingly reliant on income from the 25,400 foreign pupils who occupy more than a third of boarding school beds.

Across the UK, about 6.5 per cent of schoolchildren are educated in the independent sector. Fifty of the 253 independent schools that make up the Headmasters' and Headmistresses'

Conference (HMC), Britain's private-sector elite, have been connected with child abuse.

One specialist linked the significant growth in complaints to an increasing national awareness of the lasting damage caused by such crimes. Britain's middle classes had belatedly decided that it is "socially respectable" to discuss childhood abuse, it was claimed, while the head of a victims' campaign group suggested that traditional male "stiff upper lip" attempts to shrug aside sexual trauma were increasingly viewed as outdated. In the past 20 years, one or more men who taught at 62 independent schools, including Haberdashers' Aske's, Ampleforth, Wellington College, King Edward's School Birmingham and The Oratory School, Reading, have been convicted of sex crimes — from indecent assault to gross indecency and buggery — against 277 male pupils.

Prosecutions involving 18 of those 62 schools came to court in the past two years. Former teachers from a further four independent schools have been charged and are awaiting trial.

Eton, Marlborough, Millfield, Chislehurst and Tonbridge are among 30 other schools where a male teacher has been convicted of possessing child abuse images. Downside School, Somerset, features in both categories. Another 36 private-sector schools have been linked to child abuse. They continued on page 5, col 1.



Bring it back: Donatella Versace's flamboyantly embellished creations kicked off the four days of Paris Fashion Week last night in spectacular style. News, page 15

I need time, Hollande tells 'broken' first lady

Adam Sage Paris

President Hollande has told France's first lady that he needs time to decide whether to end their relationship, according to the magazine that is determined to give her side of the story. In the latest account of the rift in the Elysée Palace, Paris Match reports that Valérie Trierweiler is a broken woman, fearful about her future as her semi-official role at the apex of the French State draws to an end.

"Devastated, humiliated, she has been caught between her immense distress and her impetuosity; her questions about her future and her anger," the magazine reported. "Today

François can't be faithful. Ségolène warned Valérie World, page 33

Valérie Trierweiler is perhaps at the end of a journey.

The article was signed by Catherine Schwab, a deputy editor at the French weekly where Ms Trierweiler still works as a book reviewer.

According to Ms Schwab, the President met his partner in hospital on Thursday night and refused to make a commitment to either of his lovers. "What are they waiting for? That's the whole problem," Ms Schwab wrote.

Ms Trierweiler left hospital on Saturday mid, rather than returning to her quarters in the Elysée, she was taken to La Latérale, a presidential residence in Versailles.

President Hollande spent the weekend at his power base in Corrèze, in southwest France, still dodging questions about his relationship with Julie Gayet, 41, a film actress, which was disclosed by another magazine, Closer.

At a press conference last week, he promised to clarify Ms Trierweiler's status before a state visit to the US next month.

IN THE NEWS

New Rennard threat
 The latest activist to complain that she was harassed by Lord Rennard has said that she will leave the Liberal Democrats if the peer wins back the party whip today. News, page 4

Brave husband killed
 A British yachtsman on an around-the-world trip has been found dead in the sea off St Lucia. Police said he had been defending his wife from robbers. News, page 5

Talks 'an Assad ploy'
 Residents of besieged suburbs in Damascus warned that the Syrian Government was trying to manipulate peace talks in Switzerland with hollow offers of ceasefire. World, page 30

Chris Chataway dies
 Chris Chataway, a pacemaker during Roger Bannister's 1954 sub-four-minute mile record and later a Tory minister and businessman, has died aged 82. Obituary, page 50; Sport, page 61

Hat-trick sinks United
 A Samuel Eto'o hat-trick gave Chelsea a 3-1 home victory over Manchester United. David Moyes said that his team "have to improve all-round". The game, pages 2-5



The inadequacies of the legislative framework were being exposed.

The NSPCC seemed to be caught off guard. It was, and continues to be, disconnected from the realities of child abuse in Regulated Activities. It started making overtures to meet MandateNow in April, but seemed to expect us to

deliver a monologue while the NSPCC's starting point remained implacably opposed to Mandatory Reporting as it had stated only a few months earlier. Its position therefore needed to be understood for which dialogue is needed, involving NSPCC describing and justifying its position. No one else seems to be asking these questions, it's just accepted the NSPCC's position 'must' be correct and coincidentally, in accordance with Government policy.

Tom Perry, the founder of MandateNow, decided to state the position on his personal account and was joined by Jonathan West who has worked with MandateNow for some years.

#MRCA = Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse

#RA = Regulated Activity

The exchange started:



The screenshot shows a series of tweets from May 15, 2015. Tom Perry (@Tom_Perry) initiates the conversation by stating that the NSPCC and its CEO, Peter Wanless, have declined to debate MRCA in regulated activities (RA), which he finds unhelpful. Peter Wanless (@PeterWanless) responds, expressing regret but claiming to be an open-minded debater. Jonathan West (@JonathanWest_) then points out that Peter Wanless is not debating the evidence against mandatory reporting, which is based on the NSPCC's public position. Peter Wanless replies that he is willing to debate anything relevant. Jonathan West asks for the basis of suggesting the abolition of mandatory reporting in NI, even if Peter Wanless has changed his mind. Finally, Peter Wanless reads Jonathan West's blog and states that he has never imposed conditions on discussion, only indicating where time might be best spent.

Tom Perry @Tom_Perry · May 15
@NSPCC and its CEO @peterwanless decline to debate #MRCA in #RA's. It's unhelpful, and suggests a selective commitment to child protection
Details Reply Retweet Favorite More

Peter Wanless @PeterWanless · May 15
@Tom_Perry I'm sorry but that is untrue. I am debating the issue with a completely open mind pretty much daily with all sorts of people.
Details Reply Retweet Favorite More

Jonathan West @JonathanWest_ · May 15
@PeterWanless @Tom_Perry But you won't debate the evidence against mandatory reporting that @NSPCC's public position is based on.
Details Reply Delete Favorite More

Peter Wanless @PeterWanless · May 15
@JonathanWest_ @Tom_Perry @NSPCC I will and am debating anything anyone deems relevant.
Details Reply Retweet Favorite More

Jonathan West @JonathanWest_ · May 15
@PeterWanless @Tom_Perry @NSPCC Including basis for suggesting abolishing mandatory reporting in NI? Even if you've now changed your mind?
Details Reply Delete Favorite More

Peter Wanless @PeterWanless · May 15
@JonathanWest_ @Tom_Perry read your own blog. I've never imposed any conditions on discussion; just indicated where time might be best spent
Details Reply Retweet Favorite More



Jonathan West @JonathanWest_ · May 15

@PeterWanless @Tom_Perry I disagreed and you seemed unwilling to change your position on discussing NSPCC's evidence.

Details

↩ Reply 🗑 Delete ★ Favorite ⋮ More



Jonathan West @JonathanWest_ · May 15

@PeterWanless @Tom_Perry If we only discuss evidence for mandatory reporting it's only half a debate. I need to see why you oppose(d) it.

Details

↩ Reply 🗑 Delete ★ Favorite ⋮ More



Jonathan West @JonathanWest_ · May 15

@PeterWanless @Tom_Perry I'm not concerned with your reasons for not debating that evidence, my problem was with the fact of it.

Details

↩ Reply 🗑 Delete ★ Favorite ⋮ More



Jonathan West @JonathanWest_ · May 15

@PeterWanless @Tom_Perry If that opposition is no longer in existence, then we can have a whole debate.

Details

↩ Reply 🗑 Delete ★ Favorite ⋮ More



Jonathan West @JonathanWest_ · May 15

@PeterWanless @Tom_Perry Can you confirm your willingness to describe the evidence used by @NSPCC to oppose mandatory reporting if we meet?

Details

↩ Reply 🗑 Delete ★ Favorite ⋮ More



Tom Perry @Tom_Perry · May 15

@JonathanWest_ Back to this knot again. The debate which isn't because @PeterWanless + @NSPCC does not wish 2 explain its position on #MRCA

Details

↩ Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More



Peter Wanless @PeterWanless · May 15

@Tom_Perry @JonathanWest_ @NSPCC Tom I have offered to meet to discuss MR no conditions. Don't think I can be clearer.

Details

↩ Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More



A series of emails followed:

Dear Mr Wanless, 21 May 2014
following our exchanges on Twitter on 15 May (attached), Jonathan West is in the process of assembling a draft agenda for your consideration and input. We will perhaps be circa 5+ people, the names of whom Jonathan will confirm in advance of the meeting once the agenda agreed. I propose we meet in chambers located twenty minutes from your Curtain Rd office. These arrangements will be subject to competing diaries, accommodation availability, and no doubt the usual collection of factors that make such meetings so challenging to arrange.

Let's firstly agree the agenda then proceed with participants and availability to establish a meeting date. I hope you consider this a sensible approach. Do you have a PA who can liaise these matters for you?

I look forward to your reply.
Sincerely
Tom Perry

Two days later Peter Wanless replied.

Dear Tom

23 May 2014

Look forward to hearing from you again when you are ready to make a proposal. It all feels terribly formal but let's see what is suggested. I'm happy for you to liaise directly with me but have copied my PA into this exchange as well.

Best wishes.

Peter

It took a few days' work to put together an agenda; Jonathan sent it to Peter Wanless on 5th June.

Hi Peter

5 June 2014

Here is what I propose for the agenda for our meeting. Note that I have put some bullet points under item 4, items of concern to Mandate Now. I would appreciate it if ahead of time you could provide some bullet points for item 3 to expand on the issues which have caused NSPCC to oppose mandatory reporting until now.

1. Introductions

2. To develop a constructive dialogue and relationship with the common goal of the safety of children attending Regulated Activities of all types.

3. Issues of primary concern to NSPCC regarding safeguarding in Regulated Activities including those matters which have driven NSPCC to oppose mandatory reporting. [NSPCC to present]

4. Issues of primary concern to Mandate Now: [Mandate Now to present]

- Abuse in regulated activities not being reported in part because of the inadequate 'regulatory' framework. [abuse within the RA, and abuse outside the RA but noticed and reported by it] [L]
- Poor child protection policies and protocols [P]
- Poor child protection/safeguarding inspection of schools [P]

- Inadequate training supervision and support of staff, DSO's and Governors [P]
- Poorly resourced LADOs / Children's services + poor training [P]
- Key:
- [L]: Legislation
[P]: Practice

5. Reporting legislation :

- What benefits/disadvantages does the status quo provide? [NSPCC]
- What benefits / disadvantages does mandatory reporting introduce. [Mandate Now]

6. Practice + Policy issues :

- Enhancing the role of LADO's + training for this role
- Child protection inspections of schools
- Placing staff, DSO, Governor, training on credible foundations

7. Common ground

8. Next steps

Regards
Jonathan

Mr Wanless replied a week later

Hello Jonathan

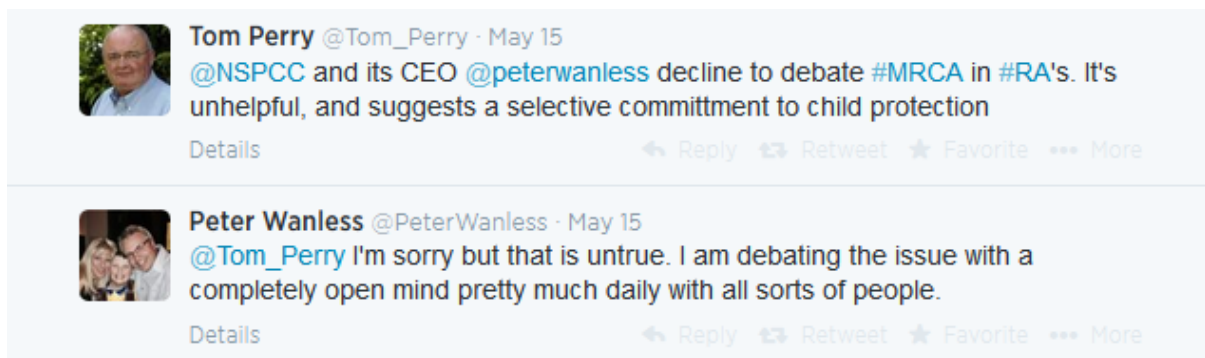
12 June 2014

I'm conscious I've not replied to your message but I have been involved in some meetings that will, I hope, better clarify the ground at our end and make for a more productive meeting. I will have some comments on how you have chosen to lay things out below and/but I will be happy to list risks identified by those who have argued against advocating for mandatory reporting (in regulated settings) so we can explore together the strength of those points against the case for a new mandatory reporting requirement.

Best wishes.
Peter

**Since when nothing further has been heard from the NSPCC
'Whatever happened to the NSPCC?'**

This returns us to the beginning



THE NSPCC STRAPLINE IS:

“Everything we do protects children, prevents abuse and transforms society so it’s safer for all children.”

office@mandatenow.org.uk