

Anonymous submission of 9 January 2023

PE1979/M: Establish an independent inquiry and independent national whistleblowing officer to investigate concerns about the alleged mishandling of child safeguarding enquiries by public bodies

As a long-term local authority employee working in children's service, who has seen a dramatic decline in child safeguarding in the past twenty years within the field, I would like to share my unfaltering support for this petition.

This decline led me to make the difficult decision to whistleblow to my employers in 2021. This has resulted in very lengthy inspections, internal investigations, police investigations, which are currently still ongoing. Meanwhile the children at risk continue being served by the unfit for purpose statutory service, where their health and safety is still compromised regularly.

A more robust infrastructure is needed to respond to whistleblowers' concerns and put the child's safety and wellbeing at the forefront of all investigations. This would also assist in removing the focus of investigations from the exposed service being given repeated opportunity to mitigate their actions in an elongated bureaucratic maze to retain their senior management titles and high salaries.

An independent inquiry infrastructure with overall jurisdiction over children's services whistleblowers is urgently needed for the best outcomes for Scotland's children, as they do not deserve to become unwitting pawns in the current failing systems.