

## Anonymous submission of 3 January 2023

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

I am writing to contribute to the above petition.

There are many reasons why I believe the current procedures need to be reviewed and altered. Some of these have their foundations in my personal experience.

As a teacher, the parent of a young child made an allegation against me several years ago. The individual concerned was known by the police for making similar allegations against members of their force on numerous occasions. Despite this, the case was badly mishandled, taking considerably longer than the procedures outlined in the documents relating to these matters. (In fact, the procedures were both misread and ignored). Eventually, the matter was resolved by allowing me to leave the profession with over 4 years 'pension'. I have also received an apology - on several occasions - from the child who was at the centre of the matter, saying sorry for both they and their parent's behaviour. This was more difficult to prise from the local authority though it did eventually come.

Despite this, the phenomenon appears to be continuing with several of my former colleagues having been the victims of similar allegations over the last few years. It should be noted that the school in question has received the worst HMI report I have ever seen.

Yet the inconsistencies go beyond it. A number of years ago a registered teacher whom I know went drinking in a hotel bedroom with two teenagers. Despite this behaviour, standard procedures were not followed and the teacher was not suspended by the GTC. Neither, as far as I am aware, were they subject to any relevant disciplinary procedures. Was this because the individual concerned was a Member of Parliament at this time?

In short, are these regulations only put in place for those who do not possess 'power'? And not for those who are elected parliamentary representatives or senior members of the GTCS?

Trusting that you take this contribution in the spirit in which it is intended.