



Home Office

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP,  
Minister of State for Policing, Fire,  
Criminal Justice and Victims

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[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Mims Davies MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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08 APR 2016

CTS Reference: M3654/16  
Your Reference: cw/Affl001/2

05 APR 2016

*Dear Mims*

Thank you for your letter of 9 March to the Home Secretary on behalf of your constituent Mr Affleck of 2 Suffolk Green, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 3ES regarding child sexual abuse. I am replying on behalf of the Minister for Preventing Abuse, Exploitation and Crime.

In your letter you requested copies of our responses to Mike Thornton's letters dated 2 February and 10 April 2015. Unfortunately I am unable to provide you with those, but I can respond to the issues raised in Mr Thornton's letters.

I am extremely sorry to hear of the terrible abuse Mr Affleck suffered as a child. We are clear that if child abuse takes place it must be thoroughly and properly investigated and those responsible brought to justice. In the past these horrific crimes were not always given the priority that they should have had, but now child sexual abuse is rightly centre stage as an issue that we must tackle.

You may be aware that the Home Office has a protocol agreement in place with the police which sets out that all information disclosed to us - relating to child sexual abuse - will be passed to a central point in the police. This is to ensure that the police have all of the information available to them for the purpose of their investigations. For this reason, a copy of your letter and its attachments has been forwarded to Operation HYDRANT for further investigation.