

## INDEPENDENT REVIEW into Child Sex Abuse Allegations in Football

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**06 January 2017**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On 6 December 2016, I was asked by the FA to lead an independent review into child sex abuse allegations in football.

The scope of the Review as set out in the Terms of Reference is as follows:

*To consider the extent to which The FA was aware of any of the issues relating to non-recent child sexual abuse which have been brought to light in the press relating to the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, and up until around 2005;*

*To consider what steps The FA took to address safeguarding/child protection issues in the sport up until 2005, and to consider any failings by The FA at the time, in particular whether it failed to act appropriately to anything raised with it relating to child sexual abuse, in relation to any football club (at any level of the game including grass roots clubs) or alleged abuser that may come to light.*

*To consider the steps those clubs (that is any club at any level of the game including grass roots clubs) which are identified as linked to alleged sexual abusers took at the time of any incidents, and are taking to investigate what that club did or did not know and/or did or did not do in relation to child sexual abuse which have been brought to light in the press relating to the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, and up until around 2005; in the event the Review finds such steps to be lacking the Review will look to extend its scope.*

*To consider what lessons can be learned by The FA and/or the clubs arising out of the investigations that are taking place/have taken place.*

*To make recommendations as appropriate.*

As part of the Review, I am inviting your club (and all other non-professional clubs affiliated with the FA) to provide to me any information that you think may be of assistance. In particular, we are interested to hear from clubs that may have received complaints or had concerns in relation to child sex abuse in the period 1970-2005, and to learn whether the matter was referred to the FA.

If you do have relevant information to provide, I would be grateful if you could complete the attached pro-forma and return it to me by **15 March 2017**.

Your responses will be treated in confidence by the Review and in accordance with relevant data protection principles. However, if matters disclosed raise allegations of criminal conduct, I will refer the same to Operation Hydrant.

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If (in the first instance), you prefer not to identify any names (e.g. of persons who expressed concerns or made complaints, or of persons complained about or about whom concerns were expressed), please make this clear. I will discuss with you in further correspondence how this situation can be managed.

I thank you in advance for assisting me in this Review.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clive Sheldon".

Clive Sheldon QC