

The Rt Hon Lord Steel of Aikwood
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Email: DPA

19 March 2019

Dear Lord Steel

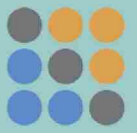
Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse - Westminster Investigation

Thank you for attending the Inquiry's Westminster hearing on 13 March 2019 to give evidence. I am now writing to you to respond to your subsequent two emails to the Inquiry dated 14 March 2019.

The Inquiry held its hearing into allegations of child sexual abuse and exploitation of children residing at or attending Cambridge House, Knowl View School and other institutions where their placement was arranged by Rochdale Borough Council in public in October 2017. The hearing received widespread press and media coverage, as did publication of the investigation report that followed in April 2018. That report was laid before Parliament as part of the Inquiry's Interim Report later that month. It is a matter of public record and a document available to Parliamentarians in particular.

I am sorry to hear that you felt you had difficulty hearing Counsel's questions when giving evidence. All speakers voices are amplified and Counsel to the Inquiry specifically said to you before you gave evidence that you should ask him to pause or clarify any question which you could not hear or understand. You did so on only one occasion and when you did so, he repeated the question.

When you gave evidence, Counsel to the Inquiry provided you with several opportunities to clarify what matters you discussed with Cyril Smith in 1979. Your evidence was given under oath and is clearly recorded on the hearing transcript. In those circumstances, the Inquiry considers it is neither practical nor necessary to invite you to give evidence again.



INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

I ask that you copy this letter to your party in the event that you seek to explain your evidence to the Inquiry during the course of its disciplinary investigation.

Yours sincerely

DPA

Martin Smith
Solicitor to the Inquiry