



21 November 2025

The Prime Minister
The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP
By Email

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of survivors of abuse at the Shirley Oaks children's home in London to ask you to take more action to expose and tackle the underlying corruption within the system that led to and covered up their abuse.

As the crime and policing lead spokesperson for the Green MPs, this issue concerns me greatly. And as a former representative for all Londoners, I found this example of systematic abuse – with over 700 people reporting abuse within just one children's home – along with the delays, cover-ups and failures in police investigations, one of the most awful scandals that I saw exposed in my time there.

A Daily Mirror story in October about the scandal examined the roles played in this case by alleged members of the Freemasons and Catenians secret societies,¹ and the Shirley Oaks Survivors Association (SOSA) tells me that they have tried repeatedly to ensure their evidence on these issues is considered at the highest level. They are very dissatisfied that the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) did not go far enough into these organisations' influence, and that there remain many lines of enquiry that need more examination.

SOSA members, supporters, and their legal representatives from Imran Khan and Partners, have also recently written to a number of Labour MPs, including the Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls. However, the survivors say they do not have faith that institutions including the Home Office are suitable to examine this aspect of the abuse and lack of justice they suffered. This is why I have written to you directly today.

I am aware of other cases of institutional abuse where there are similar allegations about links between perpetrators and authorities through secret societies denying or delaying action against abusers. I note particularly the delays in justice following the horrific Medomsley youth detention centre child abuse case in Gateshead, for which the Minister for Youth Justice has recently apologised.²

I therefore believe that a wider public inquiry would be appropriate to look more broadly at systemic issues of corruption and public harm linked to secret societies. The recent announcement of proposals to add Freemasonry to the Met Police declarable associations policy, and the comments by Sir Mark Rowley to the London Assembly that: "We have information, intelligence that tells me we do need to confront it... I see evidence of it being linked to misconduct," suggest there is a growing appetite among those currently in positions of power to take on this issue, and I hope that this is true.³



Siân Berry MP
Member of Parliament for Brighton Pavilion
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The Shirley Oaks Survivors Association asks you to meet with its members, hear about their experiences, receive more evidence they want to share, and allow them to make their own requests for action. I hope you will contact them to arrange this. Their details are provided in the email accompanying this letter.

I believe that an open and determined effort to examine the activities and influence of groups like the Freemasons and Catenians deserves cross-party courage and co-operation, and I am very happy to be of any assistance in making this possible.

Yours sincerely,

Siân Berry MP
Green Party, Brighton Pavilion

¹ Paedophile who abused boy before his death 'protected by Freemasons'. Mirror, Oct 2025
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/paedophile-who-abused-boy-before-36120902>

² 'Possibly the most prolific sex offender in British history': the inside story of the Medomsley scandal. Guardian, Nov 2025 <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/nov/20/possibly-the-most-prolific-sex-offender-in-british-history-the-inside-story-of-the-medomsley-scandal>

³ Met Police chief may force officers to reveal Freemason ties ahead of damning TV exposé. London Standard, Oct 2025
<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/met-police-freemasons-misconduct-london-mark-rowley-sadiq-khan-b1250148.html>