

# National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7QCD2D

**Name:** Claire Linnett

**Submission Text:**

1. All Magistrates, Registrars, and Judges involved with child abuse matters have basic knowledge of the indicators of child abuse.
2. Children have access to help from police and Docs at any time they require it. Police refused to speak with my child saying the investigation was closed. Docs also refused. This meant there was no legal means of protecting him.
3. If a child makes a disclosure of sexual abuse to police officers they should be placed in protective care while the matter is dealt with, irrespective of whether there are recovery orders in place.
4. Evidence at Trial should be heard from people who have met the child.
5. If reports before the court have been amended, the original writer should acknowledge that they have been amended. Reports from Contact centres should be written by people with direct and regular experience of working with the child.
6. It should be possible to lodge second and further appeals based on errors of fact.
7. All Docs interviews should be taped, and mandates of government agencies published on the internet.
8. Independent Child Lawyers should be dispensed with. Courts do look objectively at sexual abuse cases, but rely on the opinions of the ICL. Legal aid should be available to both parents subject to means tests.
9. Police officers interviewing children should not be wearing guns during the interviews.
10. Children involved in sexual abuse cases should undergo complete psychological assessment early in the proceedings. If recommended by a psychologist the child should have ongoing counselling.