



Anne Longfield OBE
Children's Commissioner for England
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Dear Anne Longfield OBE,

The Home Office's NRPF Policy

We are writing to you on behalf of the Unity Project¹, to ask you to exercise your powers under s2 Children Act 2004 in relation to the Home Office's policy of imposing the 'no recourse to public funds' condition on grants of limited leave to remain to people granted such leave under the '10 year parent route'.

This request is prompted by the work that the Unity Project has done over the past couple of years with hundreds of parents of young children, all of whom have suffered severe hardship as a result of this policy. The work informed a report which was published last week, a copy of which is enclosed, but which is also available online². You may have seen it reported in the Guardian³. We urge you to read the report if you have not already done so.

The report makes it clear that the Home Office's policy is causing grotesque suffering, to an extent that warrants further investigation of its legality. Numerous legal challenges to the policy have been brought by individuals affected by it, but each one has been settled, with the Home Office agreeing to lift the NRPF condition, often after the children in question have suffered several months of destitution, but thus avoiding legal scrutiny of the policy.

Earlier this year, in response to one such case, the Home Office agreed to review the policy and pay the family compensation for the discriminatory impact of the policy (a copy of the final Order is **enclosed**), but despite numerous requests from us for

¹ <https://www.unity-project.org.uk/>

² <https://www.unity-project.org.uk/research>

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jun/13/no-recourse-public-fund-damning-immigration-report-criticises-home-office-child-poverty>

details of the review, none has been forthcoming, suggesting that it is not in fact taking place.

You will no doubt be aware that Victoria Climbié, whose tragic death ultimately led to the creation of your role, had no recourse to public funds. One former Director of Children's Services at a local authority in the North of England described the Laming Report as having "no recourse to public funds running through it like a stick of rock".

This all, in our view, points to an urgent need for you to exercise your powers to investigate the policy and protect the children whose welfare is being harmed by it. We would be grateful if you would consider this request accordingly, and look forward to your response.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DPG', written in a cursive style.

DEIGHTON PIERCE GLYNN

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