
From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 05 November 2025 19:20
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]<[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gbnews.uk>
Subject: Scottish Government response

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Please find below our response to your inquiry.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We fully recognise the devastating impacts such abuse has on victims and their families. That is why we formed the expert National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group which brings together key services and expert stakeholders including Police Scotland and Professor Alexis Jay to inform and improve our collective response to this horrendous form of abuse. It is uniquely positioned to assess current challenges and make informed recommendations to tackle child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE). The decision to conduct a grooming inquiry remains under review, and legislating through the Victims, Witnesses and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill was not the right route to address this most serious of issues.”

Many thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Duty Comms Officer | Scottish Government
Tel: 0131 244 0222 | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gbnews.uk>
Sent: 04 November 2025 15:17
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: GBN Request: Grooming gangs in Scotland

Dear [redacted S.38(1)(b)],

Thanks for taking my call just now. As discussed, we intend to broadcast a report with a grooming gang victim from Glasgow.

The piece will include criticism about the government's decision to vote against an amendment to hold an inquiry into this pattern of offending. We will hear from Joani Reid MP, who has called for an audit of group-based CSE in Scotland, similar to the review conducted by Baroness Louise Casey in England and Wales earlier this year.

Joani Reid MP will state that the Scottish government are “refusing to look” at the problem and will criticise “the lack of interest and commitment to checking that it’s

not a problem". She will say the Scottish government's own strategic Group has said that we don't have available data in Scotland, "so they are refusing to look into an issue which their own group has told them that they do not have sufficient data on." She will call for a rapid case review to look at the available data and says: "then we can decide whether we need a national inquiry. And the fact that they have point blank refused to do that suggests that they don't want to look."

Separately, we will hear criticism of Angela Constance, who stated that there were "no current police investigations" into grooming gangs similar to the pattern exposed in many towns in England, where predominantly Pakistani men have targeted vulnerable white children.

The grooming gang victim who has spoken to us has said that her experience challenges Ms Constance's claim, because it demonstrates that the police might not have any investigations as the force has missed opportunities to look into them. She said that, with her experiences in mind, it made her feel sick when she heard the dismissal of this pattern of abuse in Scotland.

She said: "And just like the other girls in Scotland, I've been there and lived it. Something needs to be done ... it's just going to keep happening and keep happening. And if it happened all these years ago, I can guarantee it's still happening now."

Please can you provide a response to both of these criticisms by 5pm tomorrow?

You can reach me on [redacted S.38(1)(b)] if you would like to discuss any details.

Thanks and best,
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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