



Rt Hon Andy Burnham  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

15th September 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

This country has seen repeated examples of the State failing to protect its most vulnerable citizens and covering up its failings. The victims of Grenfell, the Infected Blood Scandal, Horizon, and as you know only too well, the Hillsborough families, were each denied justice, accountability and dignity because governments and public bodies repeatedly chose to close ranks.

We write to you today as a group of bereaved families and a survivor of an appalling suicide grooming forum that exists for only one purpose: To groom, coerce and instruct vulnerable people to take their own lives, and to celebrate when those lives end. **Multiple agencies have failed to act and we live with the consequences of those failures every day. We demand a full public inquiry; nothing less will honour our children, the survivors, or expose the failures that cost their lives.**

Our pain and suffering may not be as well-known as those mentioned above, but the preventable harm that we have endured is frankly unimaginable. Over a five-year period, we know of at least 164 people who have died because of this appalling forum and the poisonous substances it promotes as suicide methods. There are likely to be countless more.

Each of our loved ones was drawn into a dark, nihilistic online world that continues to be easily accessible to this day. They were groomed, exploited, instructed and actively encouraged to take their own lives. Most accessed a poison that can be easily imported and that, because of weakened regulation, remains readily available.

The deaths of each of our loved ones were only the start of the continuous trauma we have been left to endure. We must not only bear the pain of their loss but the agony of knowing that their deaths were preventable. They were victims not only of a deadly forum and nihilistic criminals, but also the failure of successive governments that acted too slowly to heed warnings - if at all.

Repeated opportunities to act upon the risk to life posed by the substance and forum were missed. Three government departments - the Department for Health and Social Care, the Home Office and DCMS - were issued with Prevention of Future Deaths reports that raised relevant matters of concern 43 times. Coroners raised concerns

about either the substance or the forum with public bodies some 65 times. Why were so many opportunities missed while people continued to die and suffer harm? The failings do not stop there. Over many years, successive governments dithered and delayed the passage of the Online Safety Act. When regulation finally came into force, Ofcom showed itself to be either unwilling or unable to act with the urgency that was so desperately required. Further lives were lost while its investigation dragged on, and it has been left to bereaved families and supportive organisations to apply pressure at every stage of the process. Ofcom has now ultimately thrown in the towel on their investigation. Its CEO seems to think repeatedly saying sorry is a reasonable substitute for treating us with the dignity and respect that we are due.

Over the last 12 months, our trust in government has been eroded as our opportunities for justice and accountability have been systematically taken away.

We hoped we might see justice with the extradition and prosecution of Kenneth Law, who used the forum to sell a poisonous substance to at least 79 UK victims who went on to take their own lives. Instead, the Crown Prosecution Service and National Crime Agency decided not to act.

We hoped that government departments might finally take action to strengthen regulation of the forum and address weaknesses in the frontline and UK Border Force response. After months of sharing our stories and experiences with ministers, repeatedly recounting the trauma of our years-long struggle for justice and accountability, the ministers we spoke to were moved to new portfolios. As survivors and bereaved families, we find ourselves back to square one.

Our family members and survivor were victims of a forum, but also of a scandal that saw successive governments choose not to act in the face of inherently preventable and reasonably foreseeable harm. This is institutional failure that cuts across multiple government departments and public bodies. The scale of these failings requires nothing less than a public inquiry to fully understand not only why changes were not made that could have saved our loved ones, but to also prevent further young lives from being lost in a similar way.

In your work with the Hillsborough families, we saw from afar that you were unflinching in your commitment to seeking justice and accountability, to ensure that much-needed lessons were learnt, and to restore dignity and hope to bereaved families who were let down and ignored for far too many years.

As Prime Minister, we ask that you afford us the same. We urge you to reconsider the decision of your predecessor and grant us a statutory public inquiry. We also ask to meet with you, so we can share our determination to ensure that no more families experience the preventable harm that we have had to endure.

A copy of this letter is also being sent to the Home Secretary, Culture Secretary and Health Secretary.

Ilse Belien- Survivor of suicide grooming forum and poisonous substance

<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Bob and Mary Pritchard- Grace Pritchard, died aged 23, 17

Leah Clarkson and Karl Wachter - Jude Una Clarkson Wachter, died aged 16,  
20 November 2024

<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Sharon and Neil Nevens- Grace Nevens, died aged 22, 4

Graham Caisley and Anna Nikolin- Vlad Nikolin-Caisley, died aged 17, 7th May 2024

<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Chris and Jo Barber- Leo Barber, died age 16, 28

<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Pete, Amanda, Matt and Sami Aitken- Hannah Aitken, died aged 22, 14 Dawn

Birch and Sarah Dornford-May- Adam Birch, died aged 28, 15th March 2023 John

Lee- Claire Lee, died aged 41, 7th March 2023

<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Shelley Macpherson- Beth Langton, died aged 22, 18

<sup>st</sup> January 2023

Louise Nunn- Immy Nunn, died aged 25, 1

<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Adele, Özlem and Martin Walton- Aimee Walton, died aged 21, 14

<sup>nd</sup> April 2022

Deborah Tucker- Dan Tucker, died aged 24 22

<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Lucy Matthews- Beth Matthews, died aged 26, 21

<sup>th</sup> October 2021

David Parfett- Thomas William Parfett, died aged 22, 28

<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Gilly Bell- Berenice Nadika Bell, died aged 28, 20

Alison Webb- Lucas Webb, died aged 16, December 12th 2020