

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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Ms Mary Harron

7th October 2020

By email

Dear Ms Harron

Council Meeting – 30th September 2020

Thank you for submitting a question for the above Council meeting.

You ask “I support the petition calling on the Council to investigate the obstacles placed in the way of an adult survivor of CSE who submitted a petition for the Council meeting today.

Will the Leader personally investigate why this false statement was issued on 15th September 2020:


The petition has been uploaded to the Rotherham MBC website”.

It seems that there has been a genuine misunderstanding around the term ‘uploaded’ and our guidance to petitioners will be checked to ensure that it is clearer in future. This petition was uploaded to the website but as per the scheme could not be made visible until approved by the Monitoring Officer.

I have looked into this matter and I understand that there were some delays in agreeing the narrative with the petitioner which meant this process couldn’t be completed before the closing deadline.

However, I note that despite the petition not being publicised on the Council website, it still received enough signatories to be presented before Council last week.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council