



House of Commons
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SW1A 0AA

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

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Sarah Champion challenges Prime Minister over Rotherham abuse scandal

Sarah Champion has this week raised the Rotherham abuse scandal in Prime Minister's Questions for a second time. Sarah, who is the Member of Parliament for Rotherham, has previously called for urgent action from the Government to support Rotherham victims. She has also requested that the Government ensure procedures are in place nationally to prevent a repetition of such widespread abuse occurring elsewhere.

Rising to speak in Prime Minister's Questions this Wednesday, Sarah challenged David Cameron on the lack of support being directed to Rotherham victims from central Government. She said:

"Two Ofsted reports released today show that local authorities are not equipped to deal with child sexual exploitation. In addition, South Yorkshire police officers are being investigated for failing victims of abuse. I raised all these issues in April. I have raised them with Ministers and at PMQs. What will it take for this Government to help vulnerable people?"

In response, David Cameron commended Sarah on her work on the issue, and argued that more joined up working was needed between agencies. He replied:

"First, let me commend the honourable Lady for the work that she has done on this issue. It is important that we learn the lessons from what happened in Rochdale (sic)—and, indeed, in the city of Oxford, near to my constituency, and elsewhere. The report released today is important, because the most important lesson that it draws is that we have to get every agency—whether it is the police, social services or schools—working together. That is not happening in enough of our towns and cities, and it needs to. In terms of what this Government are doing, the Home Office is leading this important effort and getting Departments to work together. I am convinced that we will make good progress."

Speaking after Prime Minister's Questions, Sarah commented:

"I am intensely frustrated with the promises being made to support Rotherham victims by people in Government. All they are is meaningless rhetoric unless they actually deliver. I have held meetings with treasury Ministers who promised funding for the victims. I held a one to one meeting with Theresa May over the matter, and I

have raised it in Prime Minister's questions previously. Despite numerous promises made to me, the Government has not yet been forthcoming.

"The many victims of child sexual exploitation need our support now. They should not have to wait. They have already been let down by local authorities and the local police. The Government should learn from this and give them the resources so badly needed to help them move forwards."

ENDS

To read the full exchange, follow this link:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/commons/todays-commons-debates/read/unknown/94/>

For more information contact:

Dawn Elliott

Research Manager to Sarah Champion MP

Email: dawn.elliott@parliament.uk

Telephone: 01709-331038