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Home News UK Fears of child sex abuse 'cover-up' as Theresa May rejects calls for super inquiry

Fears of child sex abuse 'cover-up' as Theresa May rejects calls for super inquiry

THERESA May has been accused of a child sex abuse cover-up, after rejecting demands for a super-inquiry which could investigate claims made against top Tories.

By CHARLOTTE MEREDITH

00:00, Wed, Nov 7, 2012



Home Secretary Theresa May was condemned

The Home Secretary yesterday announced a new police inquiry into allegations of child abuse in north Wales in the 1970s and 1980s.

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Theresa May says many Britons

by MPs for rejecting calls for a super inquiry []

Despite giving

details of three new probes – including a police watchdog review of the botched investigations into pervert DJ Jimmy Savile – Mrs May rejected pleas to merge the eight different inquiries launched in the wake of the scandal.

The Home Secretary claimed a single inquiry would get in the way of police re-investigating care home abuse in North Wales.

Tom Watson, the Labour MP who has raised allegations against three top Tories and a paedophile ring with links to Downing Street, told Mrs May “a narrowed-down investigation is the basic building block of a cover-up”.

The angry MP argued that there should be no limitations to the probe, saying: “Many sickening crimes will remain uninvestigated, and some of the most despicable paedophiles will remain protected by the Establishment that has shielded them for 30 years.”

Many sickening crimes will remain uninvestigated

Tom Watson

Stating all historic abuse should be included in the inquiry, he added: “Whether you were raped and tortured as a child in Wales or in Whitehall you’re entitled to be heard.”

Despite jeers from Tories, he continued: “Can she live

with being what she has just announced – the next stage of a cover-up?”

Tory ex-Children’s Minister Tim Loughton joined Mr Watson’s calls for the single super-inquiry, saying: “Rather than waking up to find a new institution involved in this mire every week, is it not now time to have an over-arching and robust public inquiry into all failings in child protection in various institutions during the latter part of the 20th century?”

Elfyn Llwyd, leader of the Welsh Nationalists, also added support, saying: “We need a further, overarching public inquiry.”

Speaking in the Commons, Mrs May admitted the scale of the abuse coming to light is “absolutely horrific”.

She insisted: “The Government is treating these allegations with the utmost seriousness.

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"Child abuse is a hateful, abhorrent and disgusting crime, and we must not allow these allegations to go unanswered."

However, Steve Messham, who claims he was tied up and raped by a Tory aide in the North Wales care home scandal, said he did not trust the Conservatives to get to the truth.

He said: "When the inquiry was announced that was a Tory government, we're back to a Tory government, let's just see how it goes."

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