

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 10:24 PM
To: sentencingcouncil
Subject: Good Character References

To Whom It May Concern

I write to you to express my deeply impassioned plea to eradicate Good Character references from the sentencing of convicted criminals.

As a teacher of 20+ years, I have recently had the devastating experience of having not one, but two long term colleagues convicted of child sex offences. One was a historical offence and the other, current and ongoing abhorrent behaviour in the procurement and distribution of child sex material. What has disturbed and disgusted me was the good character references provided for the historical case, by a handful of my current colleagues. The impact that this would have had on the victim is unfathomable. Not only this, but surely as educators, this is a conflict of interest? Surely the safety of our students is paramount, above and beyond protecting those adults who work among us.

Good Character references are irrelevant; with our increasing awareness and knowledge surrounding grooming behaviours, we now know the level of manipulation that these perpetrators inflict on the entire communities that surround and support them. Our justice system absolutely must do better in protecting victims and delivering justice to perpetrators who have already been found guilty of the crimes they are accused of. Abolishing good character references is the only right decision, but in failing this, restricting those who can provide them must be a minimum.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission. I would request please that all of my details be kept confidential.
