

# Safeguarding Update from the Lawn Tennis Association

24/11/2017

In response to media reports published relating to the case of a former tennis coach jailed earlier this year and the safeguarding role of the LTA. Our full statement in response is below.

“Nothing is more important to us than the safety of children who play tennis. Creating a secure, respectful environment for those in our sport is our top priority as an organisation.

“We have always been committed to having the best safeguarding procedures possible at every level of the game, but in this case the actions we took were not enough, and we apologise sincerely for the impact on all those affected. Following the conclusion of the legal case, we have decided to undertake a wide-ranging, independent inquiry into Wrexham Tennis Centre and this case. The inquiry will look at what lessons everyone in tennis can learn and we will publish its findings once it is complete.

“We are also continuing to engage and work with those who have been directly affected by what happened to ensure they have the support they need and that we, and tennis clubs nationwide, set and uphold the highest standards possible in this area.”

## Further information

- Following the arrest of Dan Sanders in January 2017, the LTA commissioned an independent audit into safeguarding procedures at Wrexham Tennis Club.
- In early June this year the LTA appointed a new Head of Safeguarding, a former senior police officer with experience in child protection work. Following the recommendations of an independent Safeguarding review carried out by a QC earlier this year, an action plan has been developed. Much progress has been made in this area already.
- In October 2017, following Sanders’ conviction and in response to conversations with many people who have had involvement with the club, the LTA took the decision to undertake a further independent wide-ranging review into Wrexham Tennis Centre. We are in the final stages of selecting a preferred supplier to undertake this inquiry.

Further information about our Safeguarding procedures can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/safeguarding](http://www.lta.org.uk/safeguarding).

The LTA would encourage anyone who wishes to report a Safeguarding concern to call us on 0208 487 7113 or if a child is in immediate danger to contact the police. You can also report to the NSPCC anonymously on 0808 800 5000.