



The National JII Project - October 2025

Headline report

The National Oversight Group for Joint Investigative Interviewing – Supporting continuous improvement in joint investigative interviewing policy and practice across Scotland

Key Statistics



- 3,674 joint investigative interviews undertaken between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025; 84% of which were undertaken using the Scottish Child Interview Model.
- 82% of all interviewers remain in the role for at least 2 years.
- 142 social workers and police officers currently in roles that include responsibility for conducting joint investigative interviews.
- 30% increase in applications for evidence in chief by prior statement using JII between November 2024 and July 2025.

Disability data



- Pre-project baseline data showed 6.6% children recorded as disabled. Based on one year testing new indicators with 7 JII partnerships – 42.6% children recorded as disabled.
- This work was presented at the annual ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect which took place 6-9 October 2025, in Vilnius, Lithuania.
- Dr Alex McTier, CELCIS, is applying for further funding to build on this work and this is supported by the National JII Project.

Broader Developments



- The National JII Project has secured some additional money from the Bairns' Hoose Fund to extend our Speech and Language Therapist support, and this has been communicated to all local partnerships.
- A final draft of revised *National Guidance for Joint Investigative Interviewing* is nearing conclusion, and a targeted consultation is expected to take place in the early part of 2026.

Challenges and risks



- Interview equipment – regularly reported issues
- Staffing – succession planning challenging
- Interviewer training places – significant demand from social work
- Gaps in justice data required to support continuous improvement
- Funding – sustainability of developments within context of short- term funding