

## SCOTTISH CHILD ABUSE INQUIRY PRELIMINARY HEARING

The Rt Hon Lady Smith, Chair of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, today gave a comprehensive update on the work of the independent Inquiry and the significant progress it has made to date at its preliminary hearing in Edinburgh.

Detailing the substantial work the Inquiry has undertaken, Lady Smith confirmed that five organisations have been named as Core Participants (see notes to editors below for full list) and orders and requests have been issued to a number of organisations for relevant information. Since last spring, the Inquiry team has been taking witness statements from people who have been in touch to tell them about abuse – focusing on the elderly and infirm. External expert research has also been commissioned to inform the Inquiry's work.

The Chair revealed details of the investigations currently underway, confirming that over 60 residential care establishments for children are being investigated by Inquiry staff ahead of future public hearings. These are among more than 100 locations that have been identified where abuse of children has been said to have taken place.

Regarding these current investigations, Lady Smith confirmed that they include institutions run by faith based organisations, other major care providers, boarding schools and local authorities (see notes to editors below for full list).

Lady Smith also reiterated that child migrants are expressly included in the Inquiry, with staff working closely with the Child Migrants Trust to identify and contact people in countries like Canada, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere who may have suffered abuse in Scotland or after being sent abroad as part of past care arrangements. The Chair also confirmed that the Inquiry would be taking steps to increase its visibility in these and other countries to ensure those with evidence to give have the confidence to do so.

Details were announced of the focus of public hearings to be held later this year. The public hearings will proceed in phases, with the first commencing on 31 May 2017. Phase one will cover:

- Interim reports of commissioned research
- The State's role in, and responsibility for, children in residential and foster care in Scotland
- The history and governance of organisations providing residential and foster care
- The background to, and reasons for, the establishment of survivor groups

Lady Smith confirmed that there would be further phases of hearings that will concentrate on those establishments currently subject to investigations by the Inquiry.

Arrangements for the hearings venue are currently being finalised but will take place in dedicated accommodation at a central location in Edinburgh.

Panel member Glenn Houston gave details on the Inquiry's forthcoming publicity campaign to encourage people to get in touch with the Inquiry. He detailed the steps that would be taken to increase work with relevant organisations, the production of a range of publicity material and public information campaigns across Scotland.

Lady Smith concluded the preliminary hearing by appealing to anyone who has relevant information, whether they have been abused themselves or know others who have, to contact the Inquiry via the methods below.

**By post to:**

PO BOX 24085, Edinburgh, EH7 9EA

**By email to:**

[talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot](mailto:talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot)

**By telephone at:**

Freephone 0800 0929 300

The phone line is open during the following times:

Monday - 10:00 to 16:00

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 08:30 to 18:30

Friday - 10:00 to 16:00

For those not able to attend the preliminary hearing, a recording of the full event is available online at [www.childabuseinquiry.scot](http://www.childabuseinquiry.scot).

**ENDS**

**For media enquiries please contact:**

**3x1 Public Relations**

**T: 0131 225 7700 / 0141 221 0707**

**E: [SCAI@3x1.com](mailto:SCAI@3x1.com)**

## **Notes to Editors**

The overall aim and purpose of the Inquiry is to raise public awareness of the abuse of children in care, particularly during the period covered by the Inquiry. It will provide an opportunity for public acknowledgement of the suffering of those children and a forum for validation of their experience and testimony. The Inquiry will do this by fulfilling its Terms of Reference which are set out below.

1. To investigate the nature and extent of abuse of children whilst in care in Scotland, during the relevant time frame.
2. To consider the extent to which institutions and bodies with legal responsibility for the care of children failed in their duty to protect children in care in Scotland (or children whose care was arranged in Scotland) from abuse (regardless of where that abuse occurred), and in particular to identify any systemic failures in fulfilling that duty.
3. To create a national public record and commentary on abuse of children in care in Scotland during the relevant time frame.
4. To examine how abuse affected and still affects these victims in the long term, and how in turn it affects their families.
5. The Inquiry is to cover that period which is within living memory of any person who suffered such abuse, up until such date as the Chair may determine, and in any event not beyond 17 December 2014.
6. To consider the extent to which failures by state or non-state institutions (including the courts) to protect children in care in Scotland from abuse have been addressed by changes to practice, policy or legislation, up until such date as the Chair may determine.
7. To consider whether further changes in practice, policy or legislation are necessary in order to protect children in care in Scotland from such abuse in future.
8. Within 4 years (or such other period as Ministers may provide) of the date of its establishment, to report to the Scottish Ministers on the above matters, and to make recommendations.

## **Core Participants**

The following organisations have applied for and been granted Core Participant status:

1. Former Boys and Girls Abused in Quarrier's Homes (FBGA)
2. In Care Abuse Survivors (INCAS)
3. Quarrier's
4. The Chief Constable of Police Scotland
5. The Scottish Government

## **Current investigations**

### *Institutions run by religious orders*

- Benedictines
- Sisters of Nazareth
- Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul
- Christian Brothers
- Sisters of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
- De la Salle Brothers
- Marist Brothers
- Church of Scotland (Crossreach)

### *Other providers*

- Quarriers
- Barnardo's
- Aberlour Child Care Trust
- Widower's Children's Home

### *Boarding schools*

- Fettes College
- Gordonstoun
- The former Keil School
- Loretto School
- Merchiston Castle School
- Morrison's Academy (when it was a boarding school)

### *Local authority establishments*

- Clerwood Children's Home, Edinburgh
- Colonsay House, Perth
- Nimmo Place Children's Homes, Perth
- St Margaret's Children's Home, Fife

- Linwood Hall Children’s Home, Fife
- Kerelaw Secure Unit, Glasgow
- St Katherine’s Secure Unit, Edinburgh
- Larchgrove Remand Home, Glasgow

**Definitions:**

1. ‘Child’ means a person under the age of 18.
2. For the purpose of this Inquiry, “Children in Care” includes children in institutional residential care such as children’s homes (including residential care provided by faith based groups); secure care units including List D schools; Borstals; Young Offenders’ Institutions; places provided for Boarded Out children in the Highlands and Islands; state, private and independent Boarding Schools, including state funded school hostels; healthcare establishments providing long term care; and any similar establishments intended to provide children with long term residential care. The term also includes children in foster care.

The term does not include: children living with their natural families; children living with members of their natural families, children living with adoptive families, children using sports and leisure clubs or attending faith based organisations on a day to day basis; hospitals and similar treatment centres attended on a short term basis; nursery and day-care; short term respite care for vulnerable children; schools, whether public or private, which did not have boarding facilities; police cells and similar holding centres which were intended to provide care temporarily or for the short term; or 16 and 17 year old children in the armed forces and accommodated by the relevant service.

3. “Abuse” for the purpose of this Inquiry is to be taken to mean primarily physical abuse and sexual abuse, with associated psychological and emotional abuse. The Inquiry will be entitled to consider other forms of abuse at its discretion, including medical experimentation, spiritual abuse, unacceptable practices (such as deprivation of contact with siblings) and neglect, but these matters do not require to be examined individually or in isolation.