



“ I am very grateful to all those who have attended private sessions and provided signed statements ”

Foreword by Lady Smith

Finding out about the abuse of children in care, hearing the voice of survivors, making systems and institutions safe for all children, preventing abuse in care and identifying appropriate responses to those who have suffered the impact of being abused as children in care, remain firmly at the centre of our work here at the Inquiry.

To achieve these aims, we continue to gather and carefully study evidence from many sources and many witnesses.

We are also continuing to commission research, building on what was referred to during the first part of Phase 1 of our hearings between May and July this year.

Some witnesses – particularly the very many who have provided accounts of their experiences as children in care – may be wondering what is happening with their statements and when they will hear whether they are also going to be asked to give evidence at a hearing.

I am very grateful to all those who have attended private sessions and provided signed statements. Those statements are invaluable. Without them, I would not be able to gain the insight I need into the circumstances of children in care for the last 80 or more years.

All statements, along with all the other evidence we continue to gather, are being analysed and decisions are being made about the best way to use them.

This includes planning the sequence for case studies in which survivors will be asked to give evidence in person at hearings relating to the institutions where they lived. As much notice as possible about the sequence will be provided.

As we move to the start of Phase 2, I would like to thank all those individuals who have and continue to come forward with relevant evidence.

I would also like to record my gratitude to the dedicated Inquiry team as they continue with their work.

UPDATE

Engaging with the Sisters of Nazareth case study

Beginning on **Tuesday 28 November 2017**, Phase 2 will investigate residential child care establishments run by organisations within the Roman Catholic Church starting with the **Daughters of Charity**, before moving on to the Sisters of Nazareth.

The Sisters of Nazareth

In spring 2018 and as part of Phase 2, the Inquiry will examine residential child care establishments run by the Sisters of Nazareth including:

- Nazareth House in Aberdeen
- Nazareth House in Cardonald
- Nazareth House in Kilmarnock
- Nazareth House in Lasswade

Talk to us

The Inquiry wants to ensure that all available evidence is gathered. If you have information or experiences of establishments run by the Sisters of Nazareth please contact our witness support team as soon as possible.

The Inquiry's witness support team can be contacted:

 by phone **0800 0929 300**  by email **talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot**

 by post **SCAI, PO Box 24085, EH7 9EA**

 British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us direct through an online sign language interpreter at **www.contactsotland-bsl.org**

UPDATE

Hearings to recommence

The Inquiry began hearing evidence again on **31 October** at Rosebery House in Edinburgh and sat for four days.

In this part of Phase 1 investigations, the Inquiry heard evidence from witnesses relating to local authority child care services (over a combined period spanning the 1950s to the 1990s) and a former Chief Social Work Adviser and Chief Social Work Inspector.

The Inquiry also heard from Professor Norrie on the treatment of children and young persons under state regulation of their residence and from Professor Levitt on inspection arrangements between 1930 and 1968.

On **28 November** the Inquiry will then move on to the start of the second phase, and the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul case study. The Inquiry will examine evidence it has gathered, researched and analysed with a particular focus on:

- Smyllum Park in Lanark
- Bellevue House in Rutherglen

The hearings will run until **Friday 15 December** with a break over the Christmas period. The Hearings will then resume on **9 January 2018** for two to three weeks. Hearings are usually Tuesday-Friday from 10am until 4pm.

FAQs

In this newsletter, we are focusing on **frequently asked questions** from people who want to tell us about abuse...



Q. Can I tell the Inquiry if I witnessed the abuse of a child in care?

A. Please get in touch with us if you witnessed a child in care being abused. Witnesses cover a wide range of people – you might be a former staff member of an institution that provided care for children, or someone who visited or helped children in care. You might be a former child in care yourself.

Q. What does the Inquiry do?

A. The Inquiry collects evidence and information about abuse of children in care. We do this, among other ways, by speaking to people at what the Inquiry calls 'private sessions'. The Inquiry also collects documents from people and organisations. These include records about the care of children and reports of abuse, procedures, policies, the law, and records of other investigations. The Inquiry holds hearings where evidence is heard.

How can I give information to the Inquiry?

A. You can contact us and offer to give a witness statement, or we may get in touch with you. In most cases we will want to interview you and prepare a witness statement about what you have told us. Sometimes we may ask you instead to prepare your own witness statement. We will let you know what the statement should cover and any documents you should refer to.

Q. Is there support available?

A. Our witness support team is available to help anyone who is a witness to the Inquiry. They can support you as you prepare to give a witness statement and attend an interview. They also support all witnesses giving evidence at hearings.

Q. Will everyone know that I have given evidence to the Inquiry?

A. In some situations the Inquiry must protect a witness's identity. For example, if you were a child in care, we will not make public your identity. If you are not already covered by one of these situations, you can apply to the Inquiry to protect your identity and tell us why you feel this protection is needed.

Q. Does the Inquiry share any information with the police?

A. We have to tell Police Scotland the identity of anyone we are told has abused children. This is because Police Scotland must be able to assess the current risk that person may pose to children and/or vulnerable adults. We also have to tell Police Scotland any information we receive which suggests that anyone is currently at risk of harm or that there is a risk to their life. Again, this is so that Police Scotland can assess the risk.

Q. Do I need to have a lawyer to give evidence?

A. You don't need a lawyer to tell about abuse of children in care that you witnessed.

Q. What will the Inquiry do with my witness statement?

A. The Inquiry considers carefully all witness statements and other evidence that it obtains. We will publish on our website in due course all witness statements. These will be appropriately redacted to, for example, protect identity. 'Redacted' means that some words in the statement are blacked out.

In later newsletters we will focus on frequently asked questions by other types of witness.



Communications Campaign Update

A three month awareness campaign encouraging people to engage with the Inquiry is underway on CalMac Ferries servicing the west coast of Scotland and the Western Isles.

Digital panels will be illuminated displaying the contact details for the Inquiry, inviting survivors and people who may have relevant information to come forward.

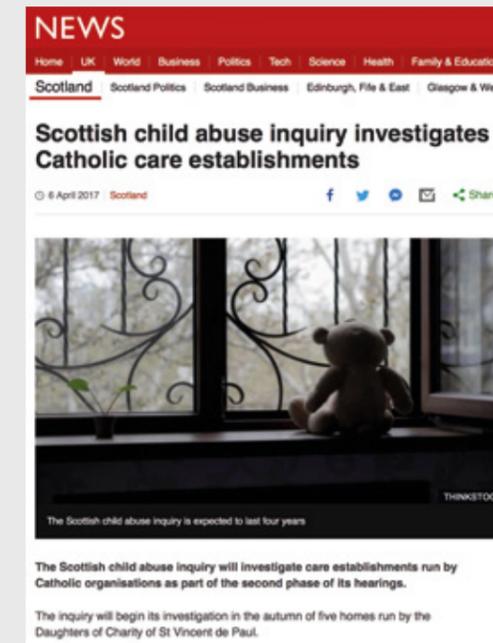
Traditional poster sites on ferries, which carry over 2.3 million people a year, as well as positions in the passenger terminals will also display the "Talk To Us" campaign details.

In total 10 ferries will highlight the awareness campaign, including those that travel from Ardrrossan to Arran, Oban to Barra and Mallaig to Skye. Two of the operator's passenger hubs have also been selected to raise awareness.

The latest part of the campaign will supplement the significant efforts that have already been rolled out across Scotland. Radio adverts making members of the public aware of the Inquiry's work and asking people to come forward have been played 5,861 times and reached 2,468,000 listeners.

Meanwhile a bus shelter campaign has seen the "Talk To Us" details displayed from Aberdeen to Musselburgh, and Elgin to Bridge of Weir. By the half-way point in the campaign over 10 million people will have viewed the advertising.

The Inquiry team has also been engaging closely with national and local newspapers, as well as the BBC and STV, to engage with as many survivors as possible.



Materials available to stakeholders

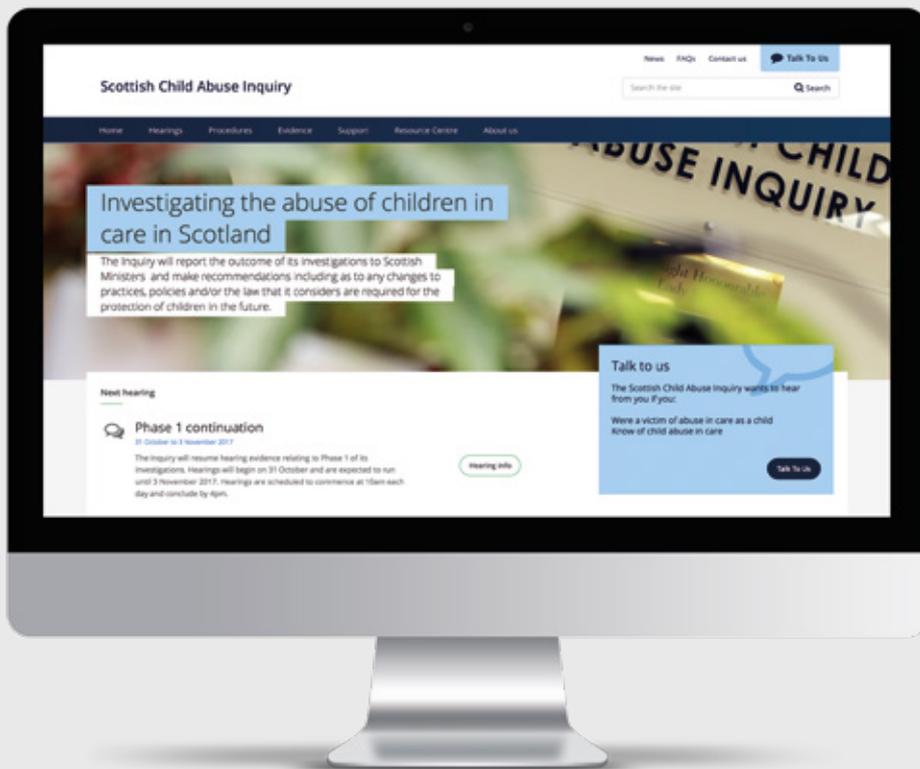
The Inquiry has created a series of leaflets and posters, as well as social media graphics, to raise public awareness about what the Inquiry does and ensure that those who may have information they wish to share know how to get in touch with the Inquiry.

If your organisation would like to obtain any of the publicity material please contact us.

Contact 3x1 Group:

- phone 0131 225 7700 or
- phone 0141 221 0707
- email SCAI@3x1.com





New website details

A new version of the Inquiry's website is now live. It includes greater resources that can be easily accessed, as well as being more user-friendly.

The Inquiry is keen the website is used as a practical source of easy-to-understand information, with a redesign focused on encouraging greater use.

New features include an easy-to-read location map of the institutions being investigated. The site provides easier access to documents relating to the Inquiry, an up-to-date guide of the work that has been carried out, and a 'latest news' section, where you can find out what dates have been selected for future hearings.

In another effort to improve our accessibility, the Inquiry is now using a Video Relay Service (VRS) offered by the British Sign Language (BSL). This connects deaf BSL users through Scotland using the VRS. It provides an easy and flexible way of interacting with deaf BSL users who wish to contact the Inquiry.

The hope is that these improvements will ensure that the website is a more accessible and valuable tool.

Visit: www.childabuseinquiry.scot

How to find us



Members of the public are welcome to attend hearings. If you want to come, you don't need to let the Inquiry know in advance. Please be aware that in some situations the Chair may decide to hold hearings in private without the public present.

There is no reserved seating in the public area of the hearings venue.

Our hearings venue is at:

3rd Floor,
Rosebery House,
9 Haymarket Terrace,
Edinburgh
EH12 5EZ

How to talk to us

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