

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

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SCOTTISH CHILD ABUSE INQUIRY

CLOSING ADDRESS

By

THE RT HON LADY SMITH, CHAIR

Introduction

The following is the final section of the transcript of the Closing Submissions for the Sisters of Nazareth case study on 3 July 2018. This is the closing address made by Lady Smith intimating the end of Phase 2 of the Inquiry Hearings and outlining the next steps of the Inquiry's work.

Closing Address

Before we finish, not just for today but finish the hearings in this case study, I want to thank all who have participated. It has been hard work for everybody involved.

I'm very grateful to the witnesses who have engaged so helpfully and openly with us and to all members of the Inquiry team who have done so much so well to try and ensure its smooth running. I'm sorry there were one or two technical problems, for example such as with the first attempt at the video link with Aberdeen, but none of them were foreseeable and they have since been addressed.

As with the case study in relation to institutions run by the Daughters of Charity, now that the hearings in this case study have finished, I am intending to proceed to prepare findings in fact, and those findings in fact will be published in relation to the evidence presented to date that relate to the provision of care by the Sisters of Nazareth. That will be done as soon as a I can. Also, as with Daughters of Charity, it will take some months to get to the publication stage, I should warn you of that.

Can I just take a moment to say something about the publication of my

findings in relation to the Daughters of Charity case study. In accordance with normal inquiry practice, we are using outside publishers to produce the finished document. I can advise that the findings have been sent to the publishers and I'm expecting the publication process to be completed shortly, certainly so long as we have summer with us, which looks as though it's going to go for a few weeks yet, but it won't be long. I can't give you a precise date because we haven't got a precise date from the publishers, but it won't be very long.

Turning to our next case study, as previously indicated, we are going to look at the provision of residential care by three non-religious voluntary organisations: Quarriers Homes, Aberlour Childcare Trust, and Barnardos.

The case study will begin on 23 October and we expect it to continue, with some breaks, until about the end of January 2019. Details of the dates of hearings and the breaks will be published on our website in good time before the hearings begin. We will very soon be inviting applications for leave to appear at this case study, so I would invite all interested parties to watch the website for that.

Otherwise, in 2019, we will be returning to the unfinished parts of the phase 1 hearings. There will thereafter be a case study looking at the provision of care by male religious orders and a case study looking at the arrangements for children to be cared for outside Scotland under child migrant schemes.

I have previously explained we're investigating the provision of care by 69 institutions and there is an outline of them, of course, on the website. But you should be aware that we are in the course of and will be investigating a significant number of other institutions in addition to that 69 and details about them will follow soon.

Research is another important aspect of our work. A range of research has been commissioned. You can see, for example, some of the research commissions that are detailed on the website. In addition to those, there are others under way, for instance regarding the Scottish aspects of the UK child migration policies. When relevant research is complete, it is being placed onto the website, so you'll see it

appearing there from time to time once we've got to the end of our process of engaging with its authors.

Finally, let me return to the important matter of communicating with people who have not yet been in touch with the inquiry, who may be able to assist us. We are committed to encouraging anyone with any relevant information to get in touch and our communications campaign continues. To that end, you may be interested to know that one of the new initiatives we have arranged, and which you may wish to watch for, is a television advertising campaign, and that is due to run a little later this year.

I have nothing more I want to raise at this stage. This is the last opportunity for anybody to do so in the hearing context before I rise until October. Can I just check whether there's anything that anybody here who has leave to appear wants to ask me about.

As you all know, you know where we are, you know how to get in touch with the team, and I encourage you to do so if you have any queries in the meantime.

Otherwise, I renew the thanks I gave at the beginning of my remarks and I'll now rise.

Thank you.

The Rt Hon Lady Smith

3rd July 2018