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## PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

Trevor Lodge  
 Scottish Executive Health Department  
 1E-09, St Andrew's House  
 EDINBURGH

Room 5.16  
 Parliamentary Headquarters  
 EDINBURGH  
 EH99.1SP

19 August 2003

Dear Trevor

I am writing in relation to petition PE535, by Mr Christopher Daly. This petition is calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to (a) make an inquiry into past institutional child abuse, in particular for those children who were in the care of the State under the supervision of religious orders and (b) make unreserved apology for said State bodies and to urge the religious orders to apologise unconditionally.

At its meeting on 25 March, the Committee considered responses from the Scottish Executive and the Cross-Party Group on Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse in relation to petition PE535 by Mr Christopher Daly. Whilst the Committee noted with interest that the Executive is considering conducting some form of inquiry into cases of abuse in institutions in Scotland, it expressed concern that there is no indication as to the timetable for a decision on how it intends to take this extremely important matter forward. The Committee was therefore keen to urge the Executive to develop its thinking on this issue and to provide the Committee with an update on progress early in the new session.

A letter inviting your comments was issued on 26 March, however I note from our records that a response is still outstanding. As you will appreciate, the Committee is keen to further consider the petition in the light of the Executive's comments. I should therefore be grateful if you would arrange for your comments on these matters to be forwarded to me by 19 September 2003. Should you be unable to meet this deadline, I would be grateful if you would let me know of the reasons for this in order that I may inform the Committee of progress.

I am grateful for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

**JOANNE CLINTON**  
 Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee

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