

Newsletter

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry



Foreword by Lady Smith

Since the last newsletter, the public hearings in our composite case study in relation to Quarriers, Barnardos and Aberlour Child Care Trust have been completed, my findings in relation to the Sisters of Nazareth case study have been published, the second of a series of case studies into institutions run by male religious orders (Christian Brothers, the Benedictines and the Marist Brothers) has commenced and the Inquiry's wide ranging ongoing work of investigation and analysis with a view to fulfilling our Terms of Reference continues.

Towards the end of the year, we plan to move to our case study into child migration which will continue into 2020. Thereafter we plan to progress to case study hearings in relation to our investigations into abuse in boarding schools and in foster care.

Those who were, are and will be children in care in Scotland remain at the heart of our work. The identification of abuse, giving a voice to those who were abused and learning

from the facts that these voices establish are of critical importance. An applicant who gave powerful, convincing evidence about being abused in care said: "I stand here today not as a victim but as a survivor of systematic abuse in the Scottish care system... Hopefully, I am a voice for other survivors who for whatever reason cannot be here today." He was, indeed, a resounding voice but he was more than that; his reflections will also be of great value when it comes to assessing how best to protect children in care from abuse. He was one of very many witnesses whose engagement with the Inquiry has been and continues to be invaluable.

I would encourage anyone who has evidence to offer in relation to any of the investigations listed on our website to get in touch. We want to hear from you. I know that some people have already made a report to the police or to other agencies/ persons and may have been involved in other investigations. That does not matter – please also talk to us.

“Those who were, are and will be children in care in Scotland remain at the heart of our work.”

UPDATE

Engaging with the Boarding Schools case study

The Inquiry is investigating abuse at residential boarding schools throughout Scotland, including Fettes College, Gordonstoun, Keil School, Loretto School, Merchiston Castle School, Morrison's Academy and Queen Victoria School.

A case study is planned for later in 2020.

Talk to us



The Inquiry wants to ensure that all available evidence is gathered.

If you have any relevant information about any boarding school in Scotland 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 online sign language interpreter at
www.contactsotland-bsl.org

Talk to us phone lines now open:

Mondays 10am–4pm

Tuesdays to Thursdays 8:30am–5:30pm

Fridays 10am–4pm

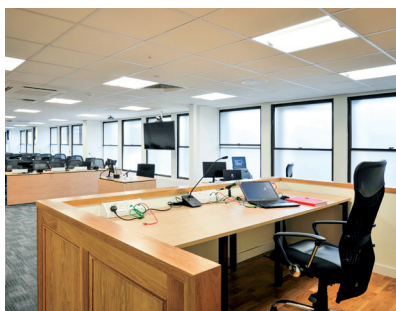
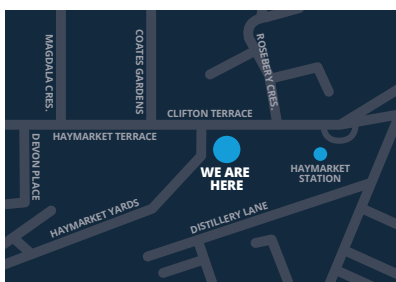
How to find us

The public are welcome to attend hearings. 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. If you want to come, you don't need to let the Inquiry know in advance.

Our hearings venue is at:

3rd Floor
Rosebery House
9 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5EA



How to talk to us:

We urge anyone with relevant information to share to get in touch with us. You can contact the Inquiry's witness support team:



by phone on
0800 0929 300



by email at **talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot**



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

UPDATE

Male Religious Orders: Hearings

On **4 June, at Rosebery House** in Edinburgh, the Inquiry began hearing evidence relating to Phase 4 of its investigations into residential child care establishments run by **Male Religious Orders**. There are three separate case studies in this phase of evidence.

The first part of Phase 4 hearings commenced with a case study about residential child care establishments run by the **Congregation of Christian Brothers**, with a particular focus on **St Ninian's Falkland, Fife**. The second case study began in mid-July, examining residential child care establishments run by **The Order of Benedictines**, with a particular focus on **Carlekemp Priory School, North Berwick**, and **Fort Augustus Abbey School**. Hearings relating to this case study resumed in early September following a short summer break. The third case study, which will begin in October, will look at the **Marist Brothers** and their provision at **St Joseph's College, Dumfries** and **St Columba's College in Largs**.

The Inquiry will usually sit four days a week, from Tuesday to Friday.

UPDATE

Child Migration case study

On Monday 25 March the Inquiry heard the evidence of James Albert McGregor, as part of the Child Migration case study. Evidence was heard in the Inquiry hearing suite in Rosebery House, Edinburgh via video link from Australia.

This case study, which will examine the abuse of children whose departure from Scotland was part of the child migration programmes, is planned to start in late 2019. For various reasons the evidence of this witness, who has waived his right to anonymity, was heard in advance.



UPDATE: Phase 1, part c

In April, evidence was heard from expert witnesses as a continuation of Phase 1 evidence. Over the course of one week, the Inquiry heard from Professor Norrie on the legislative framework post 1995 and other material contained in the appendices to his report; Professor Levitt with regards to the central government inspection systems in place between 1969 – 1992; and Professor Kendrick who covered the development of residential care services for children between 1900–1995.

Communications campaign update

Child Migrants

The Inquiry team continued outreach to the child migrant communities overseas. Earlier this year, the Inquiry team made visits to Australia and Canada to take statements from former child migrants and other witnesses which will contribute to the Child Migration case study scheduled to start in late 2019.

Prisoners

The Inquiry continues to work closely with the Scottish Prison Service and the Prison Service in England and Wales to ensure it can receive information and hear evidence relevant to the Inquiry's work from individuals in prison.

Arrangements are in place to ensure interviews can be conducted safely and discreetly.

Familiarisation Video

The Inquiry has produced a short video to help those giving evidence at the hearings familiarise themselves

with the Inquiry suite before they arrive. The video covers what will happen at the Inquiry, from getting here to giving evidence, as well as detailing who else will be in the room.

The video can be viewed on the Inquiry's website.



INFORMATION: Redress

UK Government Child Migrant Payment Scheme

On 31 January 2019, HM Government announced an ex-gratia payment scheme for former British Child Migrants. The UK Government announced the ex-gratia payment scheme will cover the whole of the UK, regardless of the UK nation from which the former child migrant was sent, with all applications being handled by the Child Migrants Trust.

The UK Government also determined that each eligible former child migrant will receive a payment of GBP £20,000.

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry is independent of both the Scottish and UK Governments, and is separate to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) which examines

how institutions in England and Wales handled their duty of care to protect children from abuse.

Scottish Government Advanced Payment Scheme

On Thursday 25 April 2019, the Scottish Government announced an Advanced Payment Scheme. The scheme will be open to anyone who was in care as a child and was abused in care in Scotland before December 2004. Payments will be made on a discretionary basis to those who have a terminal illness or who are age 70 or over.

Consultation on statutory redress scheme

On Monday 2 September 2019, the Scottish Government launched a consultation on the statutory scheme.

To find out more information, visit www.gov.scot/publications/pre-legislative-public-consultation-financial-redress-historical-child-abuse-care/




For the avoidance of any doubt, the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry's Terms of Reference do not cover redress or compensation in any way.

The overall aim and purpose of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry is to raise public awareness of the abuse of children in care. It has and will continue to provide an opportunity for public acknowledgement of the suffering of those children and a forum for validation of their experience and testimony.



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 3x1 Group:

-  by telephone at **0131 225 7700**
-  or **0141 221 0707**
-  or by e-mail at **SCAI@3x1.com**

CASE STUDY FINDINGS

Sisters of Nazareth

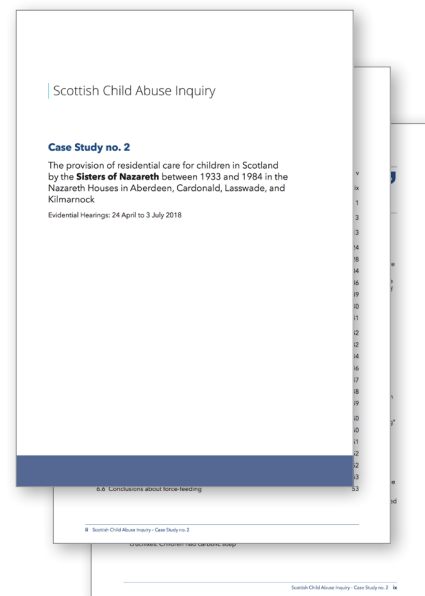
On 30 May 2019 the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry published the Chair's findings into residential institutions run by the Sisters of Nazareth (SoN) between 1933 and 1984. Lady Smith has concluded that children did suffer abuse.

During the case study, the Inquiry considered evidence about the nature and extent of any relevant abuse at institutions run by the SoN in Scotland, with a particular focus on Nazareth Houses in Aberdeen, Cardonald, Lasswade and Kilmarnock.

The Inquiry also examined any systems, policies and procedures in place at these institutions, and how these were applied.

The 27-day case study took place from 24 April 2018 to 3 July 2018, during which time the Inquiry heard evidence from 39 applicant witnesses. Two witnesses also spoke to the experiences of their family members, while evidence from a further 29 applicant witnesses was read into proceedings. The Inquiry also heard evidence from one witness by listening to a tape recording she had made prior to her death.

The publication of the findings was extensively covered by print, online and broadcast media across the UK and internationally.



FAQs

In this newsletter we are focusing on frequently asked questions from anyone with questions relating to the Sisters of Nazareth (SoN) Findings

Q I provided a statement after the case study concluded. Will my evidence still be included?

A Your evidence is still important to the Inquiry. In these findings, Lady Smith explains that applicants and other witnesses have come forward to SCAI with relevant evidence, both during and since the conclusion of the evidential hearings in the case study. This evidence is not included as part of these findings but will be considered by the Inquiry as part of the overall assessment of the nature and extent of abuse of children in residential care.

Q I was in care at a SoN institution that wasn't included in the case study. Will my evidence still count?

A Yes, all evidence is important to the Inquiry. The focus of this case study was on Nazareth Houses in Aberdeen, Cardonald, Lasswade and Kilmarnock. If you have signed a statement relating to another institution, that evidence will be taken into account by the Inquiry.

Q I have applied to give evidence but have yet to provide a statement. Will my evidence still count?

A Yes, your evidence is important to the Inquiry. All signed statements will be taken into account by the Inquiry.

Q What happens next?

A Applicants and other witnesses continue to come forward to the Inquiry with relevant evidence and their evidence will be considered as part of a continuing process.

Findings from case studies are published on the SCAI website.

