

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**  
**Barnardo's**  
**Response to s21 Notice due 14 December 2018**  
**Updated to 31 January 2020**

**Introduction**

The Card Index System gives the name and date of birth of the child and where they were placed by Barnardo's. It does not state where the child was born. The Card Index System is a hard copy system which is searchable only by the surname of the child. Barnardo's archive holds some 800,000 records.

During the period 1900 to 1930, Barnardo's did not have a presence in Scotland. A small number of applications for admittance into the homes for children born in Scotland were received at Barnardo's headquarters in Stepney Causeway in London. These applications were either self-referrals by a family member or through an Agency such as the NSSPCC. If accepted, children were placed in residential homes in England.

Separate Scottish files were not established until after the Second World War when the Barnardo's first residential homes were opened in Scotland. Children based in Scotland had separate Scottish records of which the majority were archived on a Scottish microfilm or disk. Some children who only spent a short time in Scotland may not have had a Scottish file and their records would have been held centrally. The names of the children who did have a Scottish file were added to the Scottish Inquiry database in preparation for the Inquiry. Over 3,000 names appear in the Scottish Inquiry database. In preparing this section 21 response, Barnardo's reviewed its Scottish Inquiry database and identified any children that had been migrated from Scotland. Two additional documents appearing within the archive have also been located and cross-referenced against records in the archive to reveal the names of more children migrated from Scotland to Australia. These searches have identified the names of 46 children.

Barnardo's was given the name of one migrant by the Inquiry who was migrated in 1939. On checking the Card Index System, Barnardo's has confirmed that he was born in Scotland and was migrated to Canada. If the Inquiry is approached by any other migrants, Barnardo's undertakes to carry out a search of the Card Index System for their records.

To the best of Barnardo's knowledge, the total number of Scottish children migrated from a Scottish home or having spent time in a Scottish home before migration to Australia or Canada is 47. Given the size of its archive, Barnardo's cannot be certain that this is the true total, particularly for children migrated prior to the 1950s when the records of any children resident in Scotland/Scottish children formed part of the general archive.

All administration, including policies and procedures, was overseen from Stepney in London. The archived material and children's files show Barnardo's practice during 1900 to 1930. There were very few policy documents during this period.

1. A report addressing the following in relation to **Barnardo's** ("the Organisation") policies and procedures in respect of the migration of children whose care originated in Scotland, for the period 1 January 1900 to 31 December 1930:

- (a) What policies and/or procedures did the Organisation and its establishment(s) have in place in relation to child migration?

Barnardo's ran child migration programmes to Canada and Australia. The majority of children were migrated as part of Barnardo's Canadian and Australian migration programmes. Barnardo's also migrated children to New Zealand, South Africa, Jersey, Guernsey, America, the West Indies, Egypt, India, Ireland, British Guiana, Cyprus and Denmark.

#### Migration to Canada

In 1883 a home (Hazelbrae) and distribution centre for girls was opened in Peterborough, Ontario. Dr Barnardo spent three months visiting children placed in homes in Canada in 1884 and opened the Canadian office and boys distributing home in Toronto in 1887, from which the work of supervision and after-care was organised. Barnardo's also had a Reception Home in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where some boys were also sent.

The Barnardo children sailed to Canada aboard ships of the Allan Steamship Line in large groups named as 'Sailing Parties', leaving UK ports on a journey that would take them at least 10 days to complete, often longer in harsh weather conditions.

According to the sailing party lists, the children travelled in third class accommodation and were looked after by the crew and accompanying chaperones (both male and female). From 1920 onwards the superintendent and his wife Mr and Mrs Hobday accompanied each party of children; their names appear on the sailing lists.

They arrived at various ports such as Quebec City in Quebec, St John in New Brunswick and Halifax in Nova Scotia.

Upon disembarkation at Canadian ports, the children then boarded trains – the boys to Barnardo's Headquarters in Toronto, and the girls to Hazelbrae in Peterborough (later called the Margaret Cox Home) where they spent an initial period before placement.

On receipt of character references for an employer the superintendent of the Canadian home matched the available placements to the young person, taking due regard of age, physique and temperament. Following the matching process each young person was despatched to the farms for a trial period, usually one month. Thorough travel arrangements were made prior to departure which included someone to meet the young person at the end of their journey. Records suggest that the boys travelled mostly unaccompanied to their destinations.

Children migrated to Canadian foster homes largely took up occupation as agricultural workers or domestic servants. The prevailing view of Government and Barnardo's at the time was that "saved" from the poverty and degradation of slum life they would flourish if provided with an environment of healthy fresh air and wholesome work.

Siblings who were migrated to Canada often asked to be placed close to brothers or sisters and these requests were sympathetically received and wherever possible acceded to. Barnardo's never changed the children's names.

#### Migration to Australia

Barnardos Australia (previously known as Dr Barnardo's in Australia, and Barnardo's Australia) was founded in 1921 as the Australian branch of the charity in the UK. It provided training and support services for children brought out to Australia under the Child Migration

Programme.

The Board of Directors with corporate responsibility for Barnardo's in Australia was based in England from 1921 to 1996. In 1920/1921 an "Unofficial Committee" was established in Australia by Sir Arthur Rickard to raise funds locally and commence the child migration scheme. Subsequently an Official Australian Management Committee approved by Barnardo's UK and chaired by Sir Arthur Rickard was formed in Australia in 1923 to oversee the local Australian operations. The Australian Management Committee reported to the Barnardo's Board of Directors in the UK.

In 1921, the first party of 47 boys, all over 14 years of age, migrated to Australia. Following a brief stay in Sydney the boys were placed individually on farms in rural situations. In 1923 the first party of 32 girls aged between 12 and 14 years were placed in domestic service.

The migrated children settled in New South Wales on individual farms and homes and in Western Australia on the Fairbridge Farm School, a model farm for training younger children. On the farm the children lived in cottages. The founder, Kingsley Fairbridge, based his community on Barnardo's United Kingdom Girls Village Home. Between 1924 and 1938 a total of 408 children were sent to the Fairbridge Farm School in Western Australia.

In 1928 Barnardo's established a Farm School at Mowbray Park, near Picton in New South Wales, based on the cottage principle. Boys were trained as farm labourers and girls as domestic servants. The first party of girls arrived at Mowbray Park in 1938. No children were sent to Western Australia by Barnardo's after 1939.

Barnardo's established a branch in Sydney, New South Wales in 1922 to supervise these placements.

#### Candidates from outside of Barnardo's

In addition to candidates selected from the Homes, Barnardo's admitted many children specifically for migration from Public Assistance Committees and from Boards of Guardians, and various other charitable societies that had not got their own migration schemes. An undertaking was given to the overseas government concerned that any migrated child found to be unsuitable for any reason, mental or physical, was to be repatriated at the cost of these



homes.

#### Pre-migration preparation

Before migration to Canada ceased in 1939, all senior boys selected for migration were sent to the Liverpool Sheltering Home for training prior to migration. This establishment had been started by Mrs Birt, and was taken over by Barnardo's in 1925. The senior girls selected for migration were trained at the Girls Village Home in Barkingside.

All children who were migrated to Australia were brought together from across the country to the pre-migration centre at the village homes in Barkingside. They lived with the official escorts for about a month before departure.

(b) Was there a particular policy and/or procedural aim/intention?

Child migration programmes to Australia and Canada were carried out by Barnardo's and other agencies. They were accepted child care practice at the time. The State was actively involved in encouraging the programmes and making payments per child. The sending agencies, such as Barnardo's, and the State had a shared understanding of the problems and solutions of the day.

Dr Barnardo's reasons for undertaking child migration were a mixture of the practical and the idealistic. London was vastly overcrowded at the time, and poverty, disease and homelessness were rife. Thousands of children slept in the streets each night, and one child in five died before their fifth birthday. Dr Barnardo considered that sending children to live overseas relieved overcrowding at home and increased his ability to help more children, and to live up to his claim that 'no destitute child would ever be refused admission'. It was cheaper - keeping a child in Britain cost £16 compared to £10 in Canada - and it helped populate parts of the British Empire with English-speaking people.

Dr Barnardo also believed that migration 'confers upon the children themselves unspeakable blessings', giving them a fresh start away from the vice and squalor of Victorian slums. The prevailing ethos among children's organisations of the time was one of 'rescue', removing

them from undesirable surroundings and separating them from bad influences. Prior to the Second World War child migration schemes concentrated on a system of providing rural farm training for boys and domestic skills for girls.

Barnardo's recognises and accepts the significant and irreversible damage that has been done to some individuals by the child migration programme. It is Barnardo's constant aim to better protect the children it exists to help and the Charity values the opportunity the Inquiry has offered for questioning, learning and improvement.

Over a history spanning 150 years there will always be things Barnardo's wishes it could have done differently, or not at all. Barnardo's considers that the policy of child migration was misguided and wrong. However it was not seen as wrong at the time. It was done with good intentions. Furthermore, it was in accordance with, and encouraged by, the policies then in place of the governments of the United Kingdom and the receiving countries.

Barnardo's has learned always to face up to its past honestly. Barnardo's has a strong history of support to those it has cared for, and that support continues today.

(c) Where were such policies and/or procedures recorded?

Barnardo's has retained old ledgers in its archives which contains written guidelines and records of discussions at management level of child migration. There are few documents showing particular policies but its practice can be demonstrated from the children's files.

(d) What did the policies and/or procedures set out in terms of the following?

- Identification and checking the suitability of the places where children were sent
- Selection of children to migrate including age, gender and background
- Provision of information to the child and/or his/her parents before migration
- Provision of information and records to children and/or their parents once child had been migrated
- Obtaining consent of child
- Obtaining consent of parents of child

- Obtaining of consent of others e.g. Secretary of State
- Responding to requests for information from former child migrants
- Other issues

### **Identification and checking the suitability of the places where children were sent**

#### **Canada**

Thomas Barnardo tried to establish a strict system of vetting and inspection of placements. Farmers completed an application form and questionnaire and provided the name and addresses of two referees, one of which was required to be a member of the local clergy. Their homes were inspected and reported upon. The sleeping arrangements would also be investigated as were the members of the household.

Dr Barnardo also stipulated that children should be allowed time off to go to school, should attend church and should be treated as part of the family. He stipulated *“that continued supervision should be exercised over these children after they have been placed out in Canadian homestead; first by systematic visitation; second, by regular correspondence. Emigration in the case of young children without continuous supervision is in our opinion presumptuous folly and simply courts disaster. That in the case of total failure of any emigrants, the Colonies shall be safeguarded by the return at our expense, wherever possible to England.”*

This information can be found in ‘Children of the Empire’, a book by Gillian Wagner, published in 1982.

The Assistant General Superintendent dealt with the execution of Council and Committee of Management instructions and the checking of Home Office and Commonwealth Office requirements and co-ordination of work across the charity, including in Canada and Australia. The Child Migration Department in the UK oversaw the selection of children for migration and were sent copies of all reports on the placements of individual children. The offices in Toronto and Sydney were responsible for the day to day welfare of child migrants.

Prior to 1920, sole reliance was placed on Sending Agencies to perform the inspection function. We do not have an accurate figure for the number of Barnardo’s inspectors who

carried out this task, but a number of names of both male and female inspectors appear in reports in the case files.

Several people were employed by Barnardo's to carry out inspections. In the early days this was mainly on horseback. Inspectors sought to visit the children on the farms every 9-12 months to check on their welfare and to note the conditions under which they were living. Reports of their visits were recorded along with the sleeping arrangements. If there was any suspicion of ill-treatment, the children were to be quickly removed and placed back in Toronto or Peterborough. Barnardo's maintained a blacklist of farmers who were banned for life from ever receiving children into their care.

From 1920 onwards all children were inspected by the Dominion Government Juvenile Immigration. The welfare and living conditions of child migrants placed on farms or in domestic service were monitored by Barnardo's team of inspectors who visited children in their placements. They reported to the Canada Superintendents, who from 1920 were Mr and Mrs Hobday.

#### Australia

Children were either sent to the farm school, or a small group children's home run by Barnardo's. One former resident who was 18 at the time of migration went straight into work. Two siblings went with their foster carers and remained with them in Australia.

When Barnardo's undertook child migration to Australia, Barnardo's ensured that there was an organisation established in Australia using the same practices and principles which were in place in children's homes in the UK. Drawing from Canadian experience: young children were not moved straight into foster care in remote locations but kept in residential care, girls of working age were placed in groups, minimum wages were stipulated and young people outside residential care were visited monthly. In addition Barnardo's provided skilled inspectors from the UK.

Barnardo's Australian branch founded in 1921 carried out a similar inspection function to the branch established in Canada. A team of inspectors would visit children in placement. In addition there would be external inspections from the Federal Department of Immigration and internal including Australia Board members, and visitors from the UK. Barnardo's used

trained staff and was instrumental in establishing training in the industry and subsequently forming the Association of Child Care Agencies (ACCA) in NSW.

### **Selection of children for migration**

#### Canada

Very soon after starting his emigration scheme Dr Barnardo drew up a set of conditions which governed the choice of children sent to Canada. These conditions, repeated in his letter to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior dated 23rd February 1894, included the much used phrase concerning the children:

*“Only the flower of our flock shall at any time be emigrated to Canada – that is, those who are in robust physical and mental health, who are thoroughly upright, honest and virtuous; and who being boys, have been industrially trained in our workshops; or being girls, have had careful instruction in domestic pursuits.”*

This information can be found in ‘Children of the Empire’, a book by Gillian Wagner, published in 1982.

Barnardo’s has retained a Briefing dated May 1998 titled ‘Child Migration’. It contains a passage from Dr Barnardo’s work entitled ‘Something Attempted Something Done’ published in 1889, describing the birth of the migration policy of Dr Barnardo’s Homes:

*“At first only by ones and two and driblets my best boys and girls were scattered abroad over wide sea and land, as opportunity afforded – to Australia, to New Zealand, to South Africa, to the European Continent, to the United States of America, to Canada....The reports from the boys and girls who thus went out from me were highly satisfactory – far more so than I could have dared expect. These young people, who have been kicked, and cuffed, and buffeted in their earliest years, but who had been given time to gain their breath by the residence in the Homes, thrive apace out in the big world over the sea. It was certainly good for us at home to find an open and honourable door by which the children could be sent forth into life: experience has now proved that it was equally good for the children themselves. So, with confidence in the future, grounded more and more firmly on the records of the past, I enlarged my stream of emigrants year after year, and finally in the autumn of 1882, I*

*determined, in the interests of the Homes and of their inmates alike, to initiate emigration on a comprehensive scale on my own account.”*

Barnardo's understanding is that a representative from the Department of Immigration and Colonization in London visited various locations to talk about Canada and identify interested young persons. Following this initial expression of interest, application forms were completed for each young person and submitted to the Department. This included comments on educational achievement, character and disposition and health. The Department would then undertake initial interviews with each young person to ascertain suitability for migration.

Only the healthiest children were selected for migration and had to pass at least three medical examinations. An assessment of mental fitness was certified in writing. These certificates were forwarded to the Canadian Immigration Officer in England for review. Canada would only accept healthy immigrants and therefore required that physical examinations took place prior to sailing, on-board ship and at the port of arrival in Canada.

In 1924, a report by Margaret Bondfield MP recommended that children under the age of 14 should not be sent to Canada, but otherwise endorsed the scheme. Barnardo's adopted the recommendation and ceased the migration of children under 14.

#### Australia

Barnardo's has not been able to locate any documents which describe the selection of children for Australia prior to 1940.

#### **Provision of information to the child and/or his/her parents before migration**

Barnardo's did not have a written policy in relation to the information which ought to be provided to the child and/or his or her parents prior to migration.

All children who were migrated to Australia were brought together from across the country to the pre-migration centre at the village homes in Barkingside, where they lived with the official escorts for about a month before departure. Parents were invited to visit the children to say goodbye before they left.

## **Provision of information and records to children and/or their parents once child had been migrated**

### Canada

Barnardo's superintendent from 1920, Mr Hobday, issued each boy with a set of guidelines prior to placement. These took the form of a letter entitled "A letter to lads going to their situations" In this letter he describes the procedure for signing the first Agreement made between the farmer, the lad and the Barnardo's inspector during the first four to six weeks of placement. A copy of each Agreement was forwarded to the Department of Immigration.

Mr Hobday's guidelines state that: "If you are not being kindly and properly treated we can take you away and will do so... One of our inspectors will come to see you occasionally and if you have anything to complain of, this gentleman will be prepared to hear all you have to say, and look carefully into the matter, and upon receiving his report we will take any action that may be necessary."

There are no further policies in relation to providing information to children and/or their parents once a child had been migrated. Barnardo's practice was to encourage contact with families, and to encourage contact with Barnardo's. These practices are described more fully in part 2.

### Australia

Barnardo's has not located copies of any written policies in relation to the provision of information to a child or their parents in relation to migration to Australia. Barnardo's practices are discussed in part 2.

## **Obtaining consent of the child, parents and others**

Dr Barnardo's Memorandum on the Migration Work and Policy of Dr Barnardo's Homes 1940 records that in "the early days" many children were sent to the "Dominion" without the

consent of their relatives. The majority of children admitted to Dr Barnardo's prior to the turn of the century were waifs and strays taken from the streets without known family. In the Night and Day magazine of May 1879 Dr Barnardo argued that: "every boy rescued from the gutter is one dangerous man the less; each girl saved from a criminal course is a present to the next generation of a virtuous woman and a valuable servant." By sending the children abroad he could reduce costs, free beds and take in more waifs. From the 1900s, an admission history was prepared. If the child was placed in Barnardo's by a relative, the parent or carer signed an agreement handing over the child to the charge of the managers of Barnardo's. They were to be taken care of, maintained and educated in any of the "Branches" named at the head of the Agreement, or to be boarded out by the manager in the United Kingdom, Canada, or Australia.

The signature on the agreement gave consent to the child being transferred to Canada or Australia if the managers thought it desirable. The signature also gave "willing consent to Barnardo's to send the child at any time they may think proper to any person's care or home or situation or place of employment which may be provided for the child other than at Branches whether at home or abroad in the United Kingdom or in any of his majesty's colonies dependencies or dominions overseas."

Where a child entered the care of Barnardo's under the 1908 Child Act, the Secretary of State for the Home Department's permission to migrate was obtained. By section 21(6) of that Act, the Secretary of State would only give permission where it appeared to him that emigration would be of benefit to the child.

#### Australia

Barnardo's practice continued to evolve as it heeded the experiences of children migrated to Canada. In particular, these experiences emphasised the importance of consultation with families and siblings both before and after migration; where possible the placement of siblings together; and the maintenance of contact between migrated siblings, and family back in the UK.

#### **Responding to requests for information from former child migrants**



Barnardo's After Care Service, which dates back to the time of Thomas Barnardo, is there to help people who were cared for by Barnardo's when they were children. The Department has pioneered services for helping adults to come to terms with growing up in care, providing information, access to their original records and assisting them to trace family and relatives. People in Barnardo's care have been provided with information about their background for many years.

For child migrants this has also included provision of birth certificates and other documents to enable them to obtain a passport and travel abroad including to the UK.

In Australia the task is carried out by our sister organisation. Barnardo's UK holds the information on children prior to migration. Barnardos Australia maintains files on child migrants pertaining to their time after arrival in Australia. Barnardo's UK forwards files held in the UK on request. Barnardos Australia has an open file policy so that all child migrants have access to all information about them before and after migration. In 1983 Barnardos Australia appointed a specialist officer to support child migrants.

Since 1985 Making Connections has responded to requests for access to files from 722 Canadian and 1226 Australian child migrants, their families and descendants who migrated between 1920 and 1964. In the last five years requests from families and descendants have averaged over 400 per annum from Canada and 35 from Australia.

Barnardos Australia has worked actively to ensure that child migrants have been able to explore their personal histories, and has worked cooperatively with Margaret Humphries and the Child Migrant Trust. This cooperation is acknowledged by Margaret Humphries in her book "Empty Cradles".

Barnardos Australia aftercare programme provides a number of services to child migrants, including:

- Counselling, guidance and referral;
- Record retrieval of Australian and UK records;
- Assistance with reunion applications to international social services;
- Assistance with travel arrangements to visit the UK;
- Production of a twice yearly magazine called "Down Under". This is circulated to over 600 aftercare clients.
- Attendance at old boy and girl reunions;
- Welfare support of those in need, including visits to the sick and infirm,

and a drop-in facility.

## **Other issues**

### Education

Prior to 1924 children under 14 years (school leaving age) were migrated to Canada, and boarded out in foster homes. The children had to attend school and provision was made for their religious and spiritual education. Foster carers received a fee for each child, which was paid quarterly.

Barnardo's was insistent that its children attended school for at least 3 months of the year, which took into account the need in some months for extra help for the planting and later harvesting of crops, and when indoor duties would be heavier because of these busy periods. School Attendance Cards were issued by Barnardo's which the farmers had to submit to the teachers for signature, confirming that the respective Barnardo's children attended school for at least 3 months a year.

### Payment to farmers

In Canada, farmers were paid a monthly fee to provide the children placed in their care with board, lodging and clothing. The children also undertook "chores" - household chores for the girls and outside chores for the boys. These chores ranged from housework and looking after the farmer's children, to outside work such as general farm work including milking the cows.

### Children as wage earners

At the age of 14, boys migrated to Canada became wage earners and were "indentured" to farmers, and an appropriate rate of pay was negotiated for their services. Two thirds of the children's earnings were then banked in the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Toronto where they each had a separate account and where interest would accrue on their earnings. The remaining third of the child's money could be accessed through the employers for necessities.

This money remained in trust for them until they reached their 'coming of age' which in the case of Barnardo's, was at the age of 21 years. Some tried to access their trust funds early; most such requests were denied.

#### Marriage

In the event that a girl migrated to Canada wished to marry before her coming of age then special dispensation could be given to allow her to access her money in order to set up home with her husband.

(e) Who compiled the policies and/or procedures?

The earliest set of standards Barnardo's has located date from 1894 and were drawn up by Dr Barnardo in relation to the choice of children sent to Canada. Following his death, the General Superintendent was the Principal Officer responsible to the Council for the administration of all children in the care of the charity, including those children to be migrated. The policies of the organisation would have been circulated to members of staff by letters and memos.

(f) When were the policies and/or procedures put in place?

#### Earliest standards

The earliest set of standards Barnardo's has located date from 1894 when Dr Barnardo drew up a set of conditions which governed the choice of children sent to Canada. Following Barnardo's death in 1905, the General Superintendent was the Principal Officer responsible to the Council for the welfare of all children in the care of the charity and would have implemented policies. He was the channel through which instructions of the Council and its committees were conveyed to all members of staff employed for the care, training and education of children and staff.

(g) Were such policies and/or practices reviewed?

There is limited evidence within the archives that Barnardo's policies on child migration were reviewed between 1900 and 1930. In 1924, MP Margaret Bondfield published her report on the welfare of child migrants in Canada. In response, Barnardo's adopted the recommendation that children under 14 should not be migrated.

Barnardo's representative in Canada, Mr Hobday, liaised closely with the Juvenile Immigration Department whose inspectors visited child migrants annually. There is evidence in the child care records of these visits and correspondence between Mr Hobday and Mr Bogue-Smart, Chief Juvenile Immigration Officer when concerns were identified. Immediate action was taken by Mr Hobday and his team.

This close working helped to raise and maintain the standards of support given to child migrants, particularly boys on farms. This influenced development in practice and policies. One example is the development of Barnardo's procedures in relation to obtaining consent from the child's families and the maintenance of contact with relatives in the UK.

After the Second World War, there is evidence that Barnardo's continued to learn from its programme of migration to Canada and its practices evolved.

(h) If so, what was the reason for review?

The experience of child migrants in Canada from 1900-1930 influenced Barnardo's thinking in Australia. The isolation felt by some child migrants placed on farms highlighted the vulnerability of lads to abusive working conditions. In Australia Barnardo's set up its own farm school which kept boys together throughout their training and allowed them to attend the local school. Barnardo's sent representatives from the UK to visit child migrants in both Canada and Australia who reported back to Council regarding the welfare of child migrants. These reports also influenced thinking during this period.

(i) What substantive changes, if any, were made to the policies and/or procedures over time?

See above at h).

(j) Why were changes made?

See above at h).

(k) Were changes documented?

Yes.

(l) Was there an audit trail?

Yes. Changes to policies, procedures and practices at management level were recorded in the Committee of Management meeting minutes.

2. A report addressing the following in relation to Organisation's practice in respect of the migration of children whose care originated in Scotland, for the period 1 January 1900 to 31 December 1930:

(a) Did the Organisation and its establishment(s) adhere in practice to its policy/procedures in terms of child migrants relating to the following?

- Identification and checking the suitability of the places where children were sent
- Selection of children to migrate including age, gender, background
- Provision of information to the child and/or his/her parents before migration
- Provision of information and records to children and/or their parents once child had been migrated
- Obtaining consent of child
- Obtaining consent of parents of child
- Obtaining of consent of others e.g. Secretary of State
- Responding to requests for information from former child migrants

- Other issues

### **Identification and checking the suitability of the places where children were sent**

#### Canada

Prior to 1920, there was sole reliance on Sending Agencies performing the inspection function. The case files evidence that several people were employed by Barnardo's to carry out inspections. We do not have an accurate figure for the number of Barnardo's inspectors who carried out the task but reports of inspections carried out by male and female inspectors are contained within the case files.

The records show that inspectors sought to visit the children on the farms every 9 to 12 months to check on their welfare and to note the conditions under which they were living, including sleeping arrangements. Children were removed if any ill-treatment was suspected.

Achieving a frequency of visits of one every 9 to 12 months was problematic in practice, and left children vulnerable. Many were placed on remote farmsteads which were often cut off for months in winter.

From 1920 onwards all children were inspected by the Dominion Government Juvenile Immigration Department and there is evidence of these inspections in the files. We do not have an understanding of a systemic approach to visits and inspections or what they entailed, but evidence from the case files show that post-1930 one inspector had the main responsibility for visiting boys every 6 to 8 months. He produced reports and took photographs which were sent to family in the UK and appeared in the Ups and Downs magazine. Barnardo's Aftercare Inspectors visited the children in their placements and this practice is documented in two published biographies of two children migrated in 1923 and 1923.

#### Australia

The records indicate that Barnardo's continued to check the suitability of placements. By 1949, 49 young people had been repatriated to the UK for a range of reasons described variously as "immoral...unsettled...unsuitable...health...mental health...restoration with

family”.

Barnardo's retains copies of Farm School Progress Reports and Visitor Reports within its archives. These demonstrate that inspections were carried out by the Barnardo's Australian branch.

### **Selection of children to migrate including age, gender, background**

#### **Canada**

Barnardo's has retained copies of forms used to assist in the selection of children for migration to Canada. These included medical forms, records of the juvenile interview and a certificate of character.

After Margaret Bondfield MP released her report in 1924 recommending that children should not be sent to Canada, Barnardo's ceased its practice of migration of children under 14.

#### **Australia**

Barnardo's has not been able to locate any documents which describe the selection of children for Australia prior to 1940.

### **Provision of information to the child and/or his/her parents before migration**

There is little information in the archives in relation to the information provided to a child and/or his or her parents prior to migration. There is evidence that letters were sent to parents before sailing. Parents and relatives were invited to visit the children to say goodbye. Photographs were taken of the children and later sent to parents.

### **Provision of information and records to children and/or their parents once child had been migrated**

## Canada

Upon departure from the receiving home each young person was furnished with two stamped addressed postcards. The first was required to be sent when the young person reached their destination on the farm or situation. The second postcard was kept by the young person so he would have paper and a stamp should he wish to contact the Canadian manager with news or concerns. It was intended that this would pick up on ill treatment and facilitate the young person's removal from placement. There is an example of Barnardo's responding to a postcard making a complaint in 1923. Barnardo's advised that a member of staff had been instructed to visit the complainant to investigate conditions and adjust matters on his behalf.

In between visits the superintendent and inspector maintained regular written correspondence with the young people placed on farms. Examples of correspondence found in the case files include:

- Requesting bank book to enter wages and interest as they accrued
- Responding to requests from young people who had personally written or used the postcard system
- Responding to concerns raised by farmers
- Forwarding correspondence from relatives and interested parties in the United Kingdom

Barnardo's practice was to promote letter contact with family members and chided the children by letter if they had not corresponded with relatives as had been requested.

Barnardo's encouraged children to write or visit the Toronto Headquarters as they grew older, where they received a warm welcome and where a genuine interest was shown in their progression and family life. On most occasions photographs were taken of their visit for inclusion in the next edition of 'Ups & Downs.' 'Ups & Downs' was a magazine produced by Barnardo's for the Barnardo Boys and Girls who were migrated to Canada and to which a great many subscribed. It was a contact magazine which kept its readership informed of news of its peers, reproduced letters written by same, and printed photographs submitted of themselves and of later marriages and offspring, amongst other points of interest.

There is evidence in the case files that Barnardo's continued to provide advice and support post twenty-one to any adult who made a request. This was over and above Barnardo's legal



duty to those formerly in its care, but re-enforces the 'family' image that Dr Barnardo was so keen to portray.

### Australia

The case files show that letters were sent to parents before sailing and after sailing. Parents and relatives were invited to visit the children to say goodbye. Barnardo's practice was to take photographs of the children and send them to parents.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Barnardo's made extensive efforts to maintain family links. In correspondence sent to relatives requesting permission for migration, details were given on how contact could be maintained with the children, together with names and addresses of staff. Where parents expressed an interest in the child's welfare and wanted to keep in touch, Barnardo's responded positively and facilitated contact through visits and correspondence. There are examples of correspondence between Barnardo's and a mother in respect of correspondence with her sons in Australia. Barnardo's also encouraged letter writing between staff in UK homes and children who went to Australia.

### **Obtaining consent of child, parents and others**

There are examples in the case files of Barnardo's obtaining consent from a child's parents/guardians.

### **Responding to requests for information from former child migrants**

Barnardo's UK liaises with Barnardos Australia in the production of records. Barnardo's UK holds the records for former child migrants whilst they were in the UK. Barnardos Australia holds the records for the migrants once in Australia. Barnardos Australia liaises with the former child migrant and provides them with their full records and any support required.

Barnardo's UK holds the full files for child migrants who went to Canada. Making Connections liaises with the former child migrant in the provision of their records and any support. Support in Canada is provided through a group of volunteers.

Former child migrants who were migrated to Canada between 1900 and 1930 have received their records from Barnardo's Making Connections service through personal visits made by social workers to Canada. There have been no requests for records from Canadian child migrants in the last five years as it is believed only a handful are still alive.

A fee based service is now provided to the descendants of former child migrants in both Canada and Australia. This includes basic information about family background, placements and photos if they exist.

### **Other issues**

#### **Children as wage earners**

There is an example of an indenture agreement between the migrant and the farmers within Barnardo's archives. Two thirds of a child's wages were to be banked in their own account and on which interest would accrue. Within one of the case files, there is a document recording a payment into an account on 21 July 1925 as well as two pages in a savings book.

#### **(b) How was adherence demonstrated?**

Many of Barnardo's policies required completion of certain forms and applications before and during the process of migration. For example, when Barnardo's policy was to obtain a parent's consent to migration, a formal agreement required to be signed before a child would be approved for migration. Similarly, in 1924 when an MP recommended that children under 14 should not be migrated, Barnardo's policy changed and approval would not be given if the child was not over 14. The case files demonstrate that the appropriate procedures were followed and policies adhered to.

#### **(c) How can such adherence be demonstrated to the Inquiry?**

We have included specific reference to examples of adherence to policies above. These

examples have been taken from the case files of children migrated between 1900 and 1930.

(d) Were relevant records kept demonstrating adherence?

Yes.

(e) Have such records been retained?

Children's records have been retained as well as some administrative documents including Committee of Management minutes. The following is an overview of the documents held in Barnardo's UK archive:

Administrative documents: ranging from Thomas Barnardo's personal sermons through to the organisation of the charity from its foundation to the present. It records decisions and decision-making on policies, approaches to the care of children, legal affairs, financial affairs, staffing, re-organisations, publicity, appeals and fund-raising, the work of the regions and individual homes/units often with details of specially-designed buildings. The records also contain details of Barnardo's migration scheme to Canada and Australia.

Children's records: from 1866 to 1942 all admissions to Barnardo's Care were recorded in bound ledgers known as Location Books. The data is recorded by surname and then by admission date. From 1942 every child who was admitted to Barnardo's Care had their own individual paper file, known as *Black files*, which were held at Barnardo's head office in London. All the children's histories and case files were microfilmed in the 1980s and the original paper files destroyed. In 2015, microfilms ceased and records are now put onto CDs which are backed up at a scanning company.

Barnardo's UK holds care records for child migrants' pre and post migration. The Barnardo's office in Canada closed in 1960, 21 years after the last migration, at which point all available records were returned to the UK headquarters at Stepney Causeway in London.

In 1996 Barnardos Australia became an independent Australian Company with its own Board of Directors; however Minutes of Barnardos Australia Committee Meetings continue to be shared with Barnardo's UK.

Prior to 1996 all property and records in Australia were owned by Barnardo's UK. In 1996

Barnardos Australia became separately incorporated in Australia and a Deed of Agreement was signed allowing Barnardos Australia to continue to use the name “Barnardos” and transferring all assets then held in Australia to the newly incorporated Australian company. All records, files and other materials held in Australia at that time were considered to have been “assets” and therefore became the property of Barnardos Australia.

(f) If policy/procedure was not adhered to in practice, why not?

Barnardo's UK liaised closely with Barnardos Australia and the representative in Canada to ensure that policy and practice was adhered to. Visits from senior staff in the UK to both Canada and Australia provided reassurance and they reported to the Council. Independent Inspections were carried out by the Commonwealth governments in both countries which demonstrated compliance with standards.

(g) How many children were sent as child migrants from the Organisation's establishments, and where were they sent?

#### Canada

The total number of boys and girls who were migrated to Canada as part of Barnardo's official child migration programme between 1882 and 1939 is 29,076. Barnardo's has confirmed that one Scottish boy was migrated from an English home to Canada.

#### Australia

The total number of boys and girls who were migrated to Australia as part of Barnardo's official child migration programme is 2,784. This includes 502 boys who were migrated prior to 1921.

Barnardo's has identified 46 children who were born in Scotland or who were placed in a Scottish home who were then migrated to Australia after the Second World War.

### Other locations

Research in the old ledgers in Barnardo's archives has revealed that a few children went overseas between 1883 and 1913 to New Zealand, South Africa, Jersey, Guernsey, America, the West Indies, Egypt, India, Ireland, British Guiana, Cyprus, and Denmark. A variety of reasons are listed including the reuniting of children with family or relatives, adoption or bespoke arrangements of specific individual employment placements.

There is also a reference in the Dr Barnardo's Homes Annual Report of 1921 to "boys emigrated to Australia and South Africa" These children were not involved in child migration programmes, such as those relating to Australia and Canada. The details have however been included in the table below for completeness. It is not known whether any of these children originated in Scotland.

Country	Boys	Girls
British Guiana	1	0
Cyprus	1	0
Denmark	1	0
Egypt	2	0
Guernsey	5	0
India	1	0
Ireland	1	0
Jersey	6	0
New Zealand	7	1
South Africa	5	2
United States of America	3	2
West Indies	5	0

(h) What was their age and gender?

Barnardo's is not able to identify individual children who originated from Scotland in the archives before 1945. The age range of children who migrated to Canada between 1900 and 1930 would have been approximately aged 7 – 15. Post 1924 no children under 14 were migrated. There were a higher number of boys than girls sent to Canada as the demand was for boys to work on farms, rather than domestic service.

. For migration to Australia during this period, the age range would have been approximately 7 to 15, with more boys than girls.

(i) Over what time period were children migrated from the Organisation's establishments?

- Canada

Barnardo's child migration programme to Canada started in 1882 and ceased in 1939. Child migration was suspended in the latter part of 1915 for fear of enemy action during the First World War. The first post-war party sailed on 11 March 1920.

- Australia

Barnardo's child migration programme to Australia started in 1921, and ceased in 1965.

(j) Who funded the child migration?

Prior to the Empire Settlement Act 1922 Barnardo's paid for the passage and upkeep of children in Canada through voluntary donations to the charity.

The Empire Settlement Act 1922 provided assistance to support Child Migrations Programmes. Barnardo's received assistance from the UK and Canadian governments in the form of joint grants covering the full costs of passages to and railway fares in Canada. A further grant from the UK government covered one half of the cost of initial clothing.

In respect of children migrated to Australia, Barnardo's benefitted from the Assisted Passage Scheme agreed between the UK and Australian Commonwealth governments. Until 1939 Barnardo's received grants from the UK government for children resident at Mowbray Park Farm School, Picton to assist in their maintenance and a further grant per child leaving to assist with their aftercare. Capital grants were received to assist with items of expenditure necessitated in establishing the farm school at Picton.

(k) Who received the funding in relation to migrant children?

Please see above at j).

(l) In general terms, how much was this funding?

After the First World War, the government offered free passage to war orphans plus £20 to outfit each child and a grant of £37 to children not born of ex-servicemen. This information is taken from June Rose's book For the Sake of the Children.

(m) How did the Organisation/establishment respond to requests for information from former child migrants?

In 1994 Collette Bradford, Head of After Care, visited Canada when she met over 3,000 child migrants, their family and descendants. Visits were made annually until 2005. On some of these trips she was accompanied by social workers who would share records with child migrants, their families and descendants, listen to their experiences and attend reunions and memorials.

Strong links have been forged between Making Connections and organisations in Canada such as the Heritage Renfrew Home Children Committee providing support to child migrants and their descendants. In 2000 Barnardo's placed an advertisement in Canadian newspapers seeking 'Homechildren' who were sent to Canada between 1920-1939.