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Rt Hon Lady Smith
Chair, Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

20 January 2020

Dear Lady Smith,

I am enclosing the evidence I gave to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) in July 2017, as I believe my statement is of equal applicability to the migration of children from Scotland. I recognise that the abuse of vulnerable Scottish child migrants – and the damage that was inflicted – deserves separate investigation, and I applaud the work being done by the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry to address this.

While I personally have no child migration statistics specific to Scotland, I wanted to add to my previous statement to IICSA and bring my views up to date, and I hope that doing so will be of help to your Inquiry.

I am told that all Scottish child migrants known to the Child Migrants Trust (CMT) have now received their redress payments, but there will still be migrants not yet in contact with the CMT. The redress payments should not just have been for policy failures, but also for the consequences of abuse – some by the institutions child migrants were sent from, and most of all by the institutions to which they were despatched.

The fact that the remit of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry extends beyond sexual abuse to psychological, emotional and other forms of abuse may encourage you to make concrete recommendations about extending the redress payments.

The redress scheme should certainly not have justified any reduction in, or time limit to, support for the CMT and for the travel scheme. Indeed, I understand that more than 80 child migrants have request travel support for reunion following the end date of the Family Restoration Fund. Although I do not know the figures for requests from Scottish child migrants, I think that your Inquiry may wish to comment on the need to extend the duration of the travel scheme.

Yours sincerely,