

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

30 May 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

First Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry hearings begin in Edinburgh

The first hearings for the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry will commence tomorrow, Wednesday 31 May, in Edinburgh.

The first phase hearings of what is one of the most far reaching public inquiries to take place in Scotland will see opening statements from the organisations granted Leave to Appear by the Chair, the Rt Hon Lady Smith. This will be followed by expert witnesses who will discuss:

- The legislative and regulatory framework governing children in care in Scotland up to 1968
- The early development of care services in Scotland
- Societal attitudes towards children
- The nature and prevalence of child abuse in Scotland

Hearings will be also held on Thursday 1 June and Friday 2 June and thereafter, they will take place four days each week. This phase is expected to last for about seven weeks and a detailed running order can be found in the notes to editors below.

Hearings will take place in Edinburgh at the Inquiry's hearing venue, situated on the 3rd floor of Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5EZ.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearings although 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 and it is not necessary to notify the Inquiry of attendance in advance. The hearings venue will open to the public at 9.30am each day of hearings, ahead of a 10am start. At 11:30 am there will be a 15 minute break. The morning session will conclude at 1pm and then break for an hour for lunch. The afternoon session will run from 2pm until 4pm with the hearing venue closing at 4.30pm.

Further information about public access can be found on the Inquiry's website.

For those not able to attend hearings, a word-for-word transcript will be available for each hearing day on the Inquiry website, www.childabuseinquiry.scot

The Inquiry continues to encourage anyone who has relevant information, to get in touch with the Inquiry's witness support team:

- by phone on Freephone 0800 0929300
- Phone line available: Monday 10:00 to 16:00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 08:30 to 18:30 Friday 10:00 to 16:00
- by email at talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot
- by post at PO Box 24085, Edinburgh, EH7 9EA

ENDS

For media enquiries please contact:

3x1 Public Relations

T: 0131 225 7700 / 0141 221 0707

E: SCAI@3x1.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

Timetable: Inquiry Hearings Phase 1 – May to July 2017

Week 1: (31 May - 2 June) Opening statements from those granted leave to appear:

- In Care Abuse Survivors (INCAS)
- Former Boys and Girls Abused in Quarriers Homes (FBGA)
- Quarriers
- Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul
- Sisters of Nazareth
- Good Shepherd Sisters
- De La Salle Brothers
- Christian Brothers
- Benedictines
- Marist Brothers
- Bishops Conference of Scotland
- Conference of Religious – Scotland
- Church of Scotland Social Care Council (CrossReach)
- Barnardo's
- Aberlour Child Care Trust
- Scottish Ministers

Expert witnesses:

- The legislative and regulatory framework governing children in care in Scotland up to 1968
- The early development of care services in Scotland
- Societal attitudes towards children
- The nature and prevalence of child abuse in Scotland

Week 2: (6 - 9 June) Context:

- The State's areas of responsibility for children in residential and foster care in Scotland
- The relationship between the Bishops Conference and the Conference of Religious and religious orders and role in the provision of residential care

Week 3: (13 - 16 June) History and governance of religious institutions:

- Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul
- Sisters of Nazareth
- Good Shepherd Sisters
- De La Salle Brothers

Week 4: (20 - 23 June) History and governance of religious institutions:

- Christian Brothers
- Marist Brothers
- Benedictines
- Church of Scotland / CrossReach

Week 5: (27 - 30 June) History and governance of major care providers:

- Quarriers
- Barnardo's
- Aberlour Child Care Trust

Week 6: (4 - 6 July) Establishment and work of survivor groups:

- In Care Abuse Survivors (INCAS)
- Former Boys and Girls Abused in Quarriers Homes (FBGA)
- Campaigning for the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Week 7: (11 - 12 July) Closing submissions

About the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

The overall aim and purpose of the Inquiry is to raise public awareness of the abuse of children in care, particularly during the period covered by the Inquiry. It will provide an opportunity for public acknowledgement of the suffering of those children and a forum for validation of their experience and testimony. The Inquiry will do this by fulfilling its Terms of Reference which are set out below.

1. To investigate the nature and extent of abuse of children whilst in care in Scotland, during the relevant time frame.
2. To consider the extent to which institutions and bodies with legal responsibility for the care of children failed in their duty to protect children in care in Scotland (or children whose care was arranged in Scotland) from abuse (regardless of where that

- abuse occurred), and in particular to identify any systemic failures in fulfilling that duty.
3. To create a national public record and commentary on abuse of children in care in Scotland during the relevant time frame.
 4. To examine how abuse affected and still affects these victims in the long term, and how in turn it affects their families.
 5. The Inquiry is to cover that period which is within living memory of any person who suffered such abuse, up until such date as the Chair may determine, and in any event not beyond 17 December 2014.
 6. To consider the extent to which failures by state or non-state institutions (including the courts) to protect children in care in Scotland from abuse have been addressed by changes to practice, policy or legislation, up until such date as the Chair may determine.
 7. To consider whether further changes in practice, policy or legislation are necessary in order to protect children in care in Scotland from such abuse in future.
 8. Within 4 years (or such other period as Ministers may provide) of the date of its establishment, to report to the Scottish Ministers on the above matters, and to make recommendations.

Definitions:

1. 'Child' means a person under the age of 18.
2. For the purpose of this Inquiry, "Children in Care" includes children in institutional residential care such as children's homes (including residential care provided by faith based groups); secure care units including List D schools; Borstals; Young Offenders' Institutions; places provided for Boarded Out children in the Highlands and Islands; state, private and independent Boarding Schools, including state funded school hostels; healthcare establishments providing long term care; and any similar establishments intended to provide children with long term residential care. The term also includes children in foster care. The term does not include: children living with their natural families; children living with members of their natural families, children living with adoptive families, children using sports and leisure clubs or attending faith based organisations on a day to day basis; hospitals and similar treatment centres attended on a short term basis; nursery and day-care; short term respite care for vulnerable children; schools, whether public or private, which did not have boarding facilities; police cells and similar holding centres which were intended to provide care temporarily or for the short term; or 16 and 17 year old children in the armed forces and accommodated by the relevant service.
3. "Abuse" for the purpose of this Inquiry is to be taken to mean primarily physical abuse and sexual abuse, with associated psychological and emotional abuse. The Inquiry will be entitled

to consider other forms of abuse at its discretion, including medical experimentation, spiritual abuse, unacceptable practices (such as deprivation of contact with siblings) and neglect, but these matters do not require to be examined individually or in isolation.