

# Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

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Deputy First Minister and  
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

By email to: [dfm@gov.scot](mailto:dfm@gov.scot)

14 June 2018

Dear Mr Swinney

## **Variation of Terms of Reference: paragraph 8**

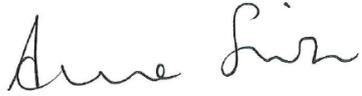
I am writing to ask you to vary paragraph 8 of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference. At present, it calls for me to report to the Scottish Ministers "within 4 years" of the October 2015, the date the Inquiry commenced. My appointment as Chair did not, however, occur until the end of July 2016.

As you know, the Inquiry's remit is very wide, with a time span of from "within living memory" to the end of 2014, and covering any residential child care (including provision by religious organisations, boarding schools, voluntary organisations, local authorities, health authorities, and the state), and the child migrant programmes. Investigations thus far have identified over 70 institutions relevant to our task. I anticipate that further institutions will be identified as our investigations progress. A large number of applicants have come forward and continue to do so. We have heard evidence regarding the establishment of a number of providers, research in relation to the nature and prevalence of child abuse, societal attitudes to children, relevant legislative history and inspection systems. Our second case study is drawing near to a close and our third case study will commence in the autumn. Meanwhile, much hard work, for example in relation to the preparation of other case studies, our researches and analyses of the thousands of documents recovered so far, continues.

Put shortly, we are working hard and making good progress. However, there is no prospect of my being able to report by the end of 2019. Nor is it possible to predict with any degree of accuracy when I will be able to do so. What I can do is assure you of my commitment to the remit of the Inquiry being discharged as efficiently and effectively as possible and would invite you to consider substituting a requirement to report "as soon as reasonably practicable" for the current four year period. You will,

no doubt, note that paragraph 8 does, in terms, envisage that a longer period than 4 years may be required.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne Smith". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

**The Rt Hon Lady Smith**