

**Carson R (Rona)**

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**From:** First Minister  
**Sent:** 30 November 2004 16:11  
**To:** Laing SG (Shirley)  
**Subject:** FW: Institutional Abuse - Apology

**Importance:** High

You may have this by now but just in case....

Siobhan

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kelly OD (Owen) **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** 30 November 2004 16:01  
**To:** First Minister; Minister for Education and Young People  
**Cc:** Minister for Parliamentary Business; Lord Advocate; Solicitor General; Kellet MC (Michael); Campbell D (Douglas) (Special Adviser); Edgar R (Rachel); PS/Solicitor; Layden P (Patrick); McNicoll G (Gordon); Foubister SR (Stuart); PS/ED; PS/LPS; PS/Perm Sec; Deputy First Minister & Minister for Enterprise; Minister for Communities; Minister for Justice; Minister for Health and Community Care; Edgar R (Rachel); MacLean CR (Colin); Phillips D (Danny); Ghibaldan S (Sam); Freeman J (Jeane); Lewis E (Liz); Solicitor General  
**Subject:** RE: Institutional Abuse - Apology  
**Importance:** High

PS/Mr Peacock

Copy as above

## INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE – APOLOGY

Following his conversation with Mr Peacock, the First Minister is clear that:

- we need written advice today on what he can say tomorrow, cleared with all interested Ministers and the Law Officers, that accurately quantifies any risks;
- he does not want to make a statement that does not include an apology and this needs to be reconciled with the need to avoid acceptance of liability for compensation payments;
- soundings need to be taken from the churches concerned, to ascertain what their response would be. This need not involve briefing them on what Ministers are going to say – just ask how they will respond to the calls for apologies that will inevitably come from the debate tomorrow; and
- Mr Peacock needs to be in a position to explain clearly at Cabinet tomorrow how this issue will be handled, in Parliament, in the media and legally.

I would be happy to discuss.

OWEN KELLY  
PS/First Minister