

Nelson G (Gillian)

From: Donnelly LM (Louise)
Sent: 25 November 2004 15:02
To: Anderson L (Lindsay); Nelson G (Gillian); Edgar R (Rachel)
Cc: Layden P (Patrick); Henderson RM (Richard) (Solicitor); McNicoll G (Gordon); Nicoll L (Lindsey)
Subject: FW: HISTORICAL ABUSE
Importance: High

This went to wrong Louyse. It will be an FM statement to the Parliament.

It has some of the earlier refs which we had suggested should come out incl reference to children being "sent". We will wish to recommend again that that come out. I will suggest:

"in the very places where they hoped to find care and protection".

Or

"Those children deserved care and protection not the physical, emotional and sexual abuse they found there. In place of refuge they faced trauma."

Also further down reference to PP setting out in the debate proposals for ... "to inquire into the background of what happened to them individually and collectively." I thought it was not to be an inquiry into individual cases. I will suggest it be dropped but PP's brief for debate is going to have to be ready to deal with that!

Anything else or new points?

I am expecting Rachel to phone back at next break in conference say 10- 15 mins from now i.e. 3.15.

L

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

From: Edgar R (Rachel)
Sent: 25 November 2004 14:38
To: Donnelly LM (Louise)
Subject: Fw: HISTORICAL ABUSE
Importance: High

 Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

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

From: Minister for Education and Young People
 <MinisterforEducationandYoungPeople@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>
To: Edgar R (Rachel) <[REDACTED]>; McConnell-Trevillion L (Louyse)
 <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thu Nov 25 12:18:59 2004
Subject: HISTORICAL ABUSE

Rachel

Louyse,

As discussed with Rachel, grateful for any comments on the Minister's proposed changes to the 'apology'.
As you are aware grateful for urgent comments.

Happy to discuss.

David

X [REDACTED]

Can you get Rachel to check this out with the lawyers.

Presiding Officer

With your permission I wish to make a statement.

Presiding Officer
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As everyone in Scotland and this Parliament knows I am a proud Scot, as I have said often I believe we are the best small country in the world and that Scotland has and will continue to make a huge contribution to the world.

However, as I have also made clear there are or, as in this instance, there have been dimensions to Scottish life in which we can take no pride and which we need address as part of moving Scotland forward and building the strong inclusive society we all want to see.

It is all too clear. It is clear from recent criminal convictions. We now know that some children, all too many children in Scotland, were abused in Scottish residential care homes in the past. Many children suffered physical, emotional and sexual abuse in the very places they were sent for care and protection. The traumatic affects of their experience is all too clear to see as they try, each day, to deal with what happened to them.

Those children, adults today, These young people deserve nothing less than a full recognition of what happened to them and an apology for what happened to them. They should not have been abused, they were badly wronged. Such abuse of vulnerable young people whenever or wherever it took place is utterly deplorable, completely inexcusable/unacceptable and was inexcusable.

Presiding Officer

We should be eternally grateful to those who, despite their pain, have brought to our attention what happened to them. Let's be thankful but not complacent that there is now a much greater awareness in our society that such abuse of young people can happen. It is that recognition of the potential for abuse that has led to alterations to the statutory and regulatory structure in which establishments operate and how we monitor them. But simply changing the legal framework for protection is not enough.

Presiding Officer

Much of the abuse we are now aware of happened many years ago, but it therefore falls to this generation of Ministers to say quite clearly that where young people were abused when being looked after this was utterly completely unacceptable.

Presiding Officer

That is why I want to take the opportunity today I offer a sincere and full apology on behalf of the Government in Scotland and the people of Scotland to those people who were subject to such abuse and neglect; who did not receive the level of love, care and support that they were entitled to and who have carried that burden all of their lives.

My strong hope is that for many this recognition that they were wronged and this apology on behalf of the Government in Scotland and their fellow people in Scotland will help them as they move forward in life..

Others will also want to consider whether they ought to apologise for any abuse which took place in the homes for which they, or their predecessors, were responsible and I strongly encourage them to do so.

Presiding Officer

This abuse should never have happened and I share with others profound sorrow for the damage experienced by individuals. We are committed to minimising the risk of abuse to children and young people currently in residential establishments in Scotland. That is why we are ensuring that inspection, regulation and standards are in place to prevent, detect and deal with abuse. And we are anxious to do the right thing by the survivors of past abuse.

In the Committee debate that follows this statement, Peter Peacock will set out a number of proposals we have been developing with survivors of abuse to support them more effectively in a range of ways and to inquire into the background of what happened to them individually and collectively.

Presiding Officer

We should take pride in the survivors of abuse, they are truly remarkable people who, despite having suffered in ways no one should have to suffer, are making a great contribution to ensuring Scotland is a better and safer place in the future.

From today I hope they can move forward in their lives certain in the knowledge we in Government, in this Parliament, among the people of Scotland recognise they were wronged and that we will do more to support them in the future than we have ever done in the past. That is why officials are continuing to explore with the In Care Abuse Survivors Group a range of matters where we can better support survivors and gain from their insights and experiences as we continue to develop our policies.”]

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