

much thought to at this point in time and that he felt it was more important to put appropriate support services in place and to gain a better evidence base.

Lastly, on the issue of an **apology**, the Minister discussed with INCAS what sort of apology they were looking for and who should make this. It was clear that INCAS felt any apology should come from the First Minister on behalf of the State and should be heart-felt. The Minister indicated that at this stage an apology has neither been ruled in or out of his thinking.

**Tracking:**

Recipient	Delivery
Donnelly LM (Louise)	Delivered: 24/11/2004 16:50
Nelson G (Gillian)	Delivered: 24/11/2004 16:50
Anderson L (Lindsay)	Delivered: 24/11/2004 16:50
MacLean CR (Colin)	Delivered: 24/11/2004 16:50
Edgar R (Rachel)	Delivered: 24/11/2004 16:50
McKinlay FE (Fiona)	Delivered: 24/11/2004 16:50
McCue L (Louise)	Delivered: 24/11/2004 16:50

Aug 25 - 26, 2004  
KMK 1/56, 11.12

KMK 1/56

**Laing SG (Shirley)**

**From:** Laing SG (Shirley)  
**Sent:** 24 November 2004 16:50  
**To:** Dohnelly LM (Louise); Nelson G (Gillian); Anderson L (Lindsay)  
**Cc:** MacLean CR (Colin); Edgar R (Rachel); McKinlay FE (Fiona); McCue L (Louise)  
**Subject:** NOTE OF MINISTER'S MEETING WITH INCAS ON 23RD NOVEMBER 2004

**Importance:** High

Louise  
 Lindsay  
 Gillian

Copy as above.

As promised please find attached a brief note of yesterday's meeting. I hope this is helpful.

SHIRLEY LAING  
 ED-LACY 1

24<sup>th</sup> November 2004

**NOTE OF A MEETING WITH INCAS HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2004**

Peter Peacock met with Helen Holland, the Vice-Chair of the In Care Abuse Survivors Group (INCAS) and the petitioner, Mr Chris Daly, yesterday to talk through a number of issues in advance of the Committee Debate on Petition PE 535.

The Minister covered a range of issues and the various actions the Executive was taking. Some of these actions around access to information you will already be aware of. Others which were mentioned such as the establishment of a short term working group to look at the support services available for survivors and identify where gaps in provision exist and what needs to be done to address this have been discussed for some time and are non-contentious.

One new suggestion arose yesterday. The Minister suggested that he wished to appoint a **rappporteur** to inquire into why abuse was allowed to happen. Funded by the Executive this might be a Parliamentary appointment (the parliament's role remains subject to discussion). The rapporteur would examine past inspection reports and records (from central Government and other organisations) to gain an understanding of why the systems then in place did not prevent the abuse or identify its extent. They could then compare past practice to the current position and identify any issues which would merit further consideration. The report of the rapporteur could be presented to Parliament and the Executive and would, in any event, be made public.

In addition to the rapporteur the Minister also felt that any enhanced **counselling services** should be able to report back, in anonymised form, on a regular basis. This information would add a separate strand to the rapporteur's report allowing them to start to gain an insight into the nature and extent of abuse that occurred?

The Minister touched briefly on the issue of **compensation** by saying that this is not something he has given