

Neilands S (Susan)

From: Verrall M (Maureen)
 Sent: 22 December 2003 10:14
 To: Byrne G (Gerald); Neilands S (Susan); MacLean CR (Colin); Minister for Education and Young People
 Subject: FW: ALLEGATIONS OF HISTORICAL ABUSE AT LIST D SCHOOLS
 Importance: High

Gerald; Susan

c.c. Colin MacLean
 David Stewart

We'll need to put supplementary advice to the Minister for his return in January. My initial reaction is that the appointment of an independent expert falls on the same basis as an enquiry or commission; i.e. that Ministers know what the problems were, there would be little, if anything, more to be learned, current procedures have changed so much since the alleged abuses that the circumstances could not be repeated now and all effort should therefore be focused on providing what help we can to the victims of the historical abuse. This was pretty much the view of all the Ministers at the meeting they had in September. However, when we spoke to the Minister in November he was concerned that we be absolutely clear about the views of FM before going public, so we need to think about whether there would be anything to be gained from the appointment of an independent - even if only in handling and presentational terms - before going back to the Minister. Can we have a word when we are all here on 5/1? Thanks

Maureen

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

From: Ritchie MD (Martin)
 Sent: 22 December 2003 09:50
 To: Minister for Education and Young People
 Cc: Deputy First Minister & Minister for Enterprise; Minister for Justice; Minister for Health and Community Care; Minister for Finance and Public Services; Deputy Minister for Justice; Deputy Minister for Education and Young People; Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care; First Minister; Deputy Minister for Finance, Public Services and Party Business; Solicitor General; Lord Advocate; PS/Perm Sec; PS/ED; PS/HD Health; PS/LPS; PS/FCSD; Johnson RML (Rachel); MacLean CR (Colin); Verrall M (Maureen); Rainey C (Catherine); Gallie J (John); Hutchison J (Jinny); McLeod DG (Dave); Carmichael E (Elizabeth); Robertson FJ (Fiona)(Sols); Nelson G (Gillian); Ross N Campbell (Nell); St Clair JB (John); McNicol G (Gordon); Ellis T (Tim); Neale MP (Michael); Cackette PH (Paul); MacKenzie J (Jane); Taylor I (Ian); Press First Minister; Press Education; Press Justice; Press Finance and Public Services; Press Health; Anderson L (Lindsay); Freeman J (Jeane); Clark M (Matthew); Hastie P (Peter); Phillips D (Danny); Policy Unit Mailbox
 Subject: RE: ALLEGATIONS OF HISTORICAL ABUSE AT LIST D SCHOOLS

David,

Copy as above.

The First Minister has seen Mr Peacock's minute of 18 December and associated papers and has commented:

"Are the 4 options in the minute of 23 September the only options? Have Ministers considered appointing an expert (without a working group or committee) to review the position, recent developments and recommend any procedural changes which might be advisable to reassure people now?"

Grateful for Mr Peacock's views on this.

Martin

Martin Ritchie
 APS/FM