

List 016



The Scottish Parliament

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

Peter Peacock MSP
Minister for Education and Young People
Scottish Parliament
PHQ, Room 3.19
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

PETER PEACOCK

21 MAY 2004

PRIVATE OFFICE

Gerald Byrne

*URGENT RESPONSE
REQUIRED.*

Room 5.16

PHQ

George IV Bridge

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TRANS.

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19 May 2004

Dear Peter

At its meeting on 12 May 2004, the Public Petitions Committee further considered petition PE535 by Mr Christopher Daly, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to (a) make an inquiry into past institutional child abuse, in particular for those children who were in the care of the State under the supervision of religious orders and (b) make an unreserved apology for said State bodies and to urge the religious orders to apologise unconditionally.

The Committee agreed to write to you seeking an urgent response detailing any progress that has been made in considering conducting an inquiry on this issue and of the timetable for any such inquiry.

You may wish to note that the Committee also agreed to write to the First Minister expressing disappointment that the Executive has failed to respond to the Committee, despite a number of reminders since its initial request in March 2003.

I should therefore be grateful if you would arrange for your views on these matters to be provided both in hard copy and in electronic form urgently.

For your information, the Official Report of the Committee's meeting will be available on the Scottish Parliament Website from 19 May 2004.

Yours sincerely

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Michael McMahon MSP
Convener of the Public Petitions Committee