



The Scottish
Parliament

Jackie McKee:

Could I have a draft
reply + PS minute by
7 November please.

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

Trevor Lodge
Scottish Executive Health Department
1E-09, St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH

Room 5.16
Parliamentary Headquarters
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

9 October 2002

Dear Trevor

I am writing in my capacity as Clerk to the Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee.

At its meeting on 8 October, the Committee considered petition PE535 by Mr Christopher Daly. This petition is 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 unreserved apology for said State bodies and to urge the religious orders to apologise unconditionally.

The Committee agreed to seek the Executive's comments on the general issues raised in the petition, in particular requesting details of its position on the petitioner's calls for both an apology to victims of child abuse in the circumstances described and for the initiation of a related inquiry.

I should therefore be grateful if you would arrange for your comments on these matters to be provided as soon as possible, both in electronic form and in hard copy.

You may be interested to know that the Committee also agreed to seek the views of the Cross-Party Group on Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse in relation to the issues raised in the petition.

A copy of the petition is enclosed and the Official Report of the Committee's meeting will be available on the Scottish Parliament Website from 16 October 2002.

I am grateful for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

STEVE FARRELL
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee

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20 AUG 2002

SCOTS PARLIAMENT

Public Petition to
The Scottish Parliament

INQUIRY AND APOLOGY
FOR ADULT SURVIVORS OF INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE IN SCOTLAND

Steve Farrell
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

We the undersigned petitioners ask the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to commence an inquiry into past institutional child abuse. Survivors were subjected to systematic abuse including, sexual assaults, physical and emotional abuse, while they were as children resident in an institution in respect of which State bodies had regulatory or supervisory functions. In particular those in the care of the State under the supervision of religious orders.

We also ask the Scottish Parliament to make an unreserved apology for said State bodies. And to urge the religious orders to apologize unconditionally.

Terms of Reference for the Scottish Parliament / Scottish Executive.

*To afford victims of institutional child abuse in Scotland an opportunity to tell of the abuse they suffered to a sympathetic experienced forum.

*To establish a picture of causes, nature and extent of physical sexual and emotional abuse of children in institutions from around 1940 or before until the present, including the antecedents, circumstances, factors and context of such abuse, the perspectives of the victims and motives and perspectives of the persons responsible for committing the abuse.

*To compile a report and make public, on the activities and findings of the inquiry, containing such recommendations as the inquiry considers appropriate including actions which should be taken to address the continuing effects of the abuse examined by the inquiry.

*To appoint specialist advisers supply information or elucidate areas of complexity, to conduct investigations, hold hearings, both private and public and conduct or commission research for the purpose of carrying out these terms of reference.

Principal Petitioners

Christopher G Daly