

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

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

Room 5.16
Parliamentary Headquarters
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

28 March 2003

Dear Trevor

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

At its meeting on 25 March 2003, the Committee considered responses from the Scottish Executive and the Cross-Party Group on Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse in relation to 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.

Whilst the Committee noted with interest that the Executive is considering conducting some form of inquiry into cases of abuse in institutions in Scotland, it expressed concern that there is no indication as to the timetable for a decision on how it intends to take this extremely important matter forward. The Committee would therefore urge the Executive to develop its thinking on this issue and to provide the Committee with an update on progress early in the new session, if possible by mid-June.

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.

The Official Report of the Committee's meeting is now available on the Scottish Parliament Website.

I am grateful for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

STEVE FARRELL
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee

Contact Telephone Number (Clerk):

[REDACTED]

Fax Number:

[REDACTED]

Email Address (Clerk):

[REDACTED]