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Dear Lady Smith

**The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry  
Response to s21 Notice re Child Migration  
Report by Aberdeenshire Council**

Aberdeenshire Council has focused principally on the updated information provided by the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry to review records for the period 1945 to 1970. All archive council committee material has been researched and details as appropriate are contained within this response. Of specific note, evidence was found of limited child migration during the mid to late 1930's which to date constitutes the majority of information available on child migration from this area. Apart from one individual migrated from the care of Oldmeldrum Parish Home, and foster care being present in a small number of other cases, the remainder would appear at this time to have been migrated from a family setting.

In line with the response at Question 1 below, Aberdeenshire Council is currently systematically researching individual Parish records for the period 1900 – 1930, where evidence threads have indicated a migration from that area during a latter time period. To date no additional materials have been found regarding child migration.

1. Aberdeenshire Council was constituted under the Local Government etc (Sc) Act 1994 and came into being on 1 April 1996. In the period 1/1/1900 to 31/12/1930, functions that would now fall under the relevant local authority were exercised to some extent by 82 different parish councils in the present-day Aberdeenshire Council area. A list of the 82 parish council records was attached to a previous response. Records of the relevant parish councils are held by the archive service of Aberdeen City Council, with whom Aberdeenshire Council has a service level agreement. Unfortunately, the parish council records are not indexed and it is impossible to search for specific entries in the records that may relate to child migration from the Aberdeenshire Council area, other than to search through each and every record. This continues but it has not been physically possible to search through every individual record to date. An initial search of the records has

found no policies or procedures or other information relevant to the questions (a) to (l).

2. Reference is made to the answer to question 1 above in terms of the parish councils established for the present-day Aberdeenshire Council area for the period 1/1/1900 to 31/12/1930. To date, no policies or procedures have been found and accordingly no information can be provided in terms of questions (a) to (m).
3. Reference is made to the answer in question 1 above in terms of the parish councils established for the present-day Aberdeenshire Council area for the period 1/1/1900 to 31/12/1930. To date, no records, correspondence, policies, procedures, reports, file notes, minutes or other documentation of a similar nature showing or tending to show any information relating to the migration of children abroad of children whose care originated in Scotland who had resided in any establishment operated by any of the said parish councils. Aberdeenshire Council is not aware of any of the said parish councils operating any such establishments and accordingly no information can be provided in answer to questions (a) to (p).
4. There is no evidence of child migration within Aberdeenshire during this time period.
5. A full inventory and individual appendices accompany this response. The majority of appendices relate to individuals subject to child migration during the mid to late 1930's.
6. All source documentation, where it exists, is believed to be contained within the Archive records for Aberdeenshire Council and its predecessor organisations.
7. All documents are copies from the source ledgers contained within the Archive records for Aberdeenshire Council and its predecessor organisations. All copies are in PDF format and prepared in compliance with the requirements set by the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry Document Management Team.
8. With regard to identifying all children who resided in any establishment operated by any of the parish councils or local authorities in the Aberdeenshire area who were migrated abroad from 1/1 1900 to 17/12 2014, to date, there is evidence of one child migrated directly from a care establishment, Oldmeldrum Parish Home, being under the governance of Aberdeenshire Council, or its predecessor organisations during the time period. A small number of children were in foster home care under the governance of the relevant authority, with the remainder migrated from a family setting. Examination of the archives available for predecessor organisations have, to date, identified evidence of children migrating to organisations with establishments in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. A full lists of individuals, together with available documentation, are contained in individual appendices attached to this response.

If there is anything further we can do regarding this specific timeframe please let me know.

Yours sincerely



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Interim Head of Children's Services

