

	<b>Argyll and Bute Addendum</b>			
<b>Retrospective Acknowledgement/Admission</b>				
		<b>1930-75</b>	<b>1975-96</b>	<b>1996&gt;</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Abuse</b>			
a)	Does the local authority accept that between 1930 and 17 December 2014 any children cared for in foster care were abused?	<p>We are deeply saddened to read the evidence of Ann, provided to the Inquiry on day 295, about her regrettable experiences in care and of the abuse she related; as we have been by the evidence from the many other brave and courageous victim of abuse in foster care in Scotland who have given evidence to the Inquiry. Initial searches of our archive records did not identify references to abuse of children in foster care in minutes and reports of the Children's Officer from 1950 onwards. Our independent archive service Live Argyll has been unable to identify any relevant records prior to 1950. Further searches identified allegations of abuse by one child in foster care during this period. It is with a deep regret that the Local</p>	<p>Inquires have not identified indications of systematic abuse of children from Argyll and Bute in the care of SRC. Our inquiries have identified two SRC foster carers living in Argyll who were investigated and subsequently convicted of sexual abuse. However as soon as allegation were made to officers of Argyll and Bute Council appropriate steps were taken to investigate and support and protect any children involved. It is with a deep regret that the Local Authority accepts that there has been abuse of children while in foster care with Strathclyde Regional Council from the area now covered by Argyll and Bute Council</p>	<p>We have identified a number of complaints and allegations of abuse of children in foster care some of which were upheld. It is with a deep regret that the Local Authority accepts that there has been abuse of children while in foster care with Argyll and Bute Council</p>

		<p>Authority accepts the statements made by Ann and the information in records in respect of [REDACTED] and we accept that there have been children in the care of Argyllshire County Council who were abused during this period.</p>		
b)	<p>If so, what is the local authority's assessment of the extent and scale of such abuse?</p>	<p>See 3.1a) above</p>	<p>Inquires have not identified indications of systematic abuse of children in the foster care. Information regarding any allegations from children may well be contained within individual case records. Without the specific names of children it is not possible to form a view about this question</p>	<p>Inquires have not identified indications of systematic abuse of children in foster care. Information regarding any allegations from children may well be contained within individual case records. Without the specific names of children it is not possible to form a view about this question</p>
c)	<p>What is the basis of that assessment?</p>	<p>This is based on the information currently available to us from minutes of the Children's Committee and reports of the Children's Officer from 1950 onward, (no relevant records identified prior to this) and searches of</p>	<p>This is based on the information currently available to us</p>	<p>This is based on the information currently available to us</p>

		archive records and information provided to the inquiry, in our addendum to the original S21 response in respect of ██████████ and on the evidence presented by Ann on day 295 of the Inquiry.		
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Systemic Failures</b>			
a)	Does the local authority accept that its systems failed to protect children in foster care between 1930 and 17 December 2014 from abuse?	It appears that the abuse Ann related to the Inquiry was not known to Argyllshire County Council at the time and there was therefore no opportunity for the council to undertake a learning review at the time. We have undertaken a detailed review of the somewhat limited records held in respect of Ann's time in care , along with Ann's evidence of the abuse she related to the inquiry the hands of her foster carers. We have been unable to identify, from our records or from Ann's evidence, that the abuse was raised with the Children's Officer, or other professionals, at the time, and there do not appear to be any obvious indicators	Inquires have not identified indications of systematic abuse of Argyll and Bute children in SRC foster care. We have insufficient information about the 2 identified foster carers convicted of sexual abuse to form a view about systems to protect the children prior to the allegations being made to officers of Argyll and Bute Council. We do note that professional practice in connection with the care and supervision of children in foster care, along with the legal and regulatory frameworks, assessments and supervision of foster carers, attitudes to the place of children in society, to children in care and to child abuse have	While we have identified a number of allegations of abuse during this period (see 5.8 and D5.9) there is no indication that between 1996 and 17 December 2014 children were abused whilst in foster care as a result of failures in systems.

in the records that Ann was being abused by the foster carers that were missed or ignored at the time and we have not identified any specific learning in respect of Ann's care. Extensive independent inquiries at the time in respect of ██████████ did not identify any failings by Argyllshire County Council. We do note that professional practice in connection with the care and supervision of children in foster care, along with the legal and regulatory frameworks, assessments and supervision of foster carers, attitudes to the place of children in society, to children in care and to child abuse have developed very significantly in Scotland since the time Ann and Dougald were in care. We would expect that the changes in systems and processes across Scotland since the time Ann and Dougald were in care would make it considerably less likely that the abuse related would happen

developed very significantly in Scotland. We would expect that the changes in systems and processes across Scotland would make it considerably less likely that the abuse identified would happen today and that if abuse did happen there is a much higher likelihood that it would be identified and appropriately responded to.

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b)	What is the local authority's assessment of the extent of any such systemic failures?	We have not identified any systemic failures and we do note that professional practice in connection with the care and supervision of children in foster care, along with the legal and regulatory frameworks, assessments and supervision of foster carers, attitudes to the place of children in society, to children in care and to child abuse have developed very	see 3.1.a and 3.2a above	As 3.1.a and 3.2a above

		significantly in Scotland since the time Ann was in care. We would expect that the changes in systems and processes across Scotland since the time Ann was in care would make it considerably less likely that the abuse Ann related would happen today and that if abuse did happen there is a much higher likelihood that it would be identified and appropriately responded to		
c)	What is the basis of that assessment?	see 3.1 a and 3.2 a above	see 3.1 a and 3.2a above	As 3.1.a and 3.2a above
d)	What is the local authority's explanation for any such failures?	see 3.1.a , 3.2 a and 3.2.b above	see 3.1.a and 3.2a above	Based on the information available to us at this time we have no reason to believe that there has been systemic failures to meet the needs of children in foster care or to keep them safe from abuse.
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Failures/Deficiencies in Response</b>			
a)	Does the local authority accept that there were any failures and/or deficiencies in its response to abuse, and allegations of abuse, of children in foster care between 1930 and 17 December 2014?	see 3.1.a , 3.2 a and 3.2.b above	We are satisfied that the response by Argyll and Bute Council to the disclosures of children in respect of abuse by 2 foster carers was appropriately responded to once officers of Argyll and Bute Council became aware of them.	We have not identified failures or deficiencies in response to allegations abuse of children in foster care while under the management of Argyll and Bute Council/HSCP.

b)	What is the local authority's assessment of the extent of any such failures in its response?	see 3.1.a , 3.2 a and 3.2.b above	see 3.1.a above	As 3.1.a above.
c)	What is the basis of that assessment?	see 3.1.a , 3.2 a and 3.2.b above	Review of the records available to us in respect of 2 carers referenced above.	As 3.1.a and 3.2.a above.
d)	What is the local authority's explanation for any such failures/deficiencies?	see 3.1.a , 3.2 a and 3.2.b above	see 3.1.a above	As detailed in 3.1.a and 3.2.a above
<b>3.4 Changes</b>				
a)	To what extent has the local authority implemented changes to its policies, procedures and practices as a result of any acknowledgement in relation to 3.1 - 3.3 above?	see 3.2a above	Inquires have not identified indications of systematic abuse of children from Argyll and Bute in the care of SRC. Information regarding any allegations from children and how they were responded to may well be contained within individual case records. We have insufficient information available to us to form a view on this question with regard to the period the fostering service was operated by Strathclyde Regional Council.	Policy and practice has evolved to reflect national guidance, best practice the requirements from inspection along with legislative or regulatory changes .