

(Emailed)

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Our Ref:
GDW/E0546.00040

Date:
1 July 2022

Dear Madam

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry – East Dunbartonshire Council

1. We write further to the evidence given by Caroline Sinclair, Chief Officer and Chief Social Work Officer for East Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership on 18 May 2022.
2. During the course of her evidence Ms Sinclair was taken to the table included at answer 1.6(h) of the Part A response. Lady Smith queried the numbers in this table as they did not – on the face of it – add up. Ms Sinclair undertook to provide an explanation of this table along with updated figures.
3. For ease we have copied the contents of the table below:

Numbers as at	Registered Carers	Children in placement	Placements			
			Respite	Short term	Permanent	Continuing Care
07/11/2019	16	27	2	9	6	2

4. This table shows that on 7 November 2019 there were 27 children in placement with 16 registered carers. However the confusion arises when these placements are broken down into the four categories of placements (as this totals only 19).
5. This discrepancy is due to the fact that carers can be registered under different categories simultaneously. This explains why, though there are only 16 registered carers, these are recorded as being 19 different placements.
6. Further, for recording purposes at this time, sibling groups were registered as one placement even if there were multiple children. As such, though there were 27 children in placements, any sibling group would account for only one entry in the categories of placements. For example,

there may have been three siblings in a respite placement, but these would only show as one entry.

7. East Dunbartonshire Council accept that presenting the information in this way is unhelpful. Their social work recording system has since been developed to afford a greater degree of accuracy. It has been developed to better define separate categories and provide clarity for recording to reflect the different types of placements.
8. The updated figures are:

Numbers as at	Registered Carers	Children in placement	Types of Placements			
			Respite	Short Term	Permanent	Continuing Care
07/11/2019	14	26	0	15	9	2
07/11/2020	11	19	0	9	6	4
07/11/2021	12	22	0	9	8	5

9. These figures were put together after a manual review of the files. The types of placements recorded reflects the number of children in placement at the date in question. The carers are counted only once but reflects that some carers will have sibling groups or more than one child placed with them.
10. The council acknowledges that the figures for 2019 are different to those previously submitted. The data in the original table was taken from the council's Fostering and Adoption Annual Report dated September 2019. At the time of the report the data had not been validated. In reviewing the files manually for the purpose of providing updated information to the Inquiry the council have taken the data directly from their Carefirst electronic case management system. The council is confident that the data in the table above is correct, and apologises that it differs from the original submission.
11. We trust this letter is of assistance to the Inquiry but do let us know if there are any additional queries.

Yours faithfully



Clyde & Co (Scotland) LLP