

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL

SCOTTISH CHILD ABUSE INQUIRY

FOSTER CARE CASE STUDY

PART D – ABUSE AND RESPONSE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 19/10/2023

Background

Midlothian Council submitted, on 30/09/2020, its response to Parts B, C and D of the questionnaire issued by the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry in relation to the foster care case study. In November 2022, the Council submitted supplementary information in respect of Part D, advising the Inquiry of information of which it had been made aware since the submission of the original response. Since November 2022, some new information has emerged, which the Council wishes to bring to the attention of the Inquiry.

David William Alison ([REDACTED] /1949)

David William Alison and [REDACTED] acted as foster carers for Midlothian Council from 2000 to 2016. In December 2019 Police Scotland advised Midlothian Council that an investigation was being carried out into an allegation of sexual abuse against David Alison by three adult women who had been fostered as children by Mr David Alison (DA) [REDACTED]. Midlothian Council cooperated fully with the investigation and supplied all information in its possession as was requested. The supplementary information (*headed APPENDIX 3 - Supplementary response to "Appendix 2 – Responses to Part D questions 5.8 to 5.10" submitted to the Inquiry on 30/09/2020*) submitted in November 2022 was intended to inform the Inquiry comprehensively of the additional information of which we had, in the interim, been made aware. We can now advise the Inquiry that David William Alison was convicted on 04/05/2023, at Edinburgh Sheriff Court, of offences of Lewd, Indecent and Libidinous Practices and Behaviour against two of the complainants, and was sentenced to sixteen months imprisonment.

IWF [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] /1965)

IWF [REDACTED] acted as a foster carer for Lothian Regional Council and for Midlothian Council from 1994 to 2011. She had also been approved as an adoptive parent and had adopted a child placed with her when resident in Edinburgh. Prior to 2006 a number of concerns had been raised in respect of her practice. These had been

investigated but had either not been substantiated nor thought to be of sufficient severity to deregister her as a carer. A young child (D) was placed in 2006. Again several incidents of concern had been raised and investigated in relation to this placement, but had not been substantiated nor assessed as sufficiently serious to warrant review of the carer's status. In 2008 she applied to adopt D following the breakdown of an attempt to place him with a relative and a return of the child to her care. During the course of the adoption assessment, it transpired that she had falsified a number of factors in relation to her own past history. Child D was immediately removed from her care and she was deregistered as a foster carer. This information was also included in the supplementary report submitted by Midlothian Council in November 2022.

In May 2023 Midlothian Council was made aware that a complaint from an adult who had been cared for as a child by IWF [REDACTED] was being investigated by Police Scotland. The Council provided all relevant information held on record. We have now been advised that IWF [REDACTED] has been charged and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. The police enquiry is continuing and is seeking to trace and interview all children placed with her and their social workers.

Marion Macleod
19 October 2023