

APPENDIX 1

QUESTION 5.8

5.8 Known Abusers and Alleged Abusers

a) Does the organisation know of specific abusers, or alleged abusers, of children in foster care?

Yes.

b) If so, what are the names of the abusers, and/or alleged abusers?

*Please see document, 'Overview of CI Notifications'. This highly sensitive information is being provided on the basis of the protections afforded by the Inquiry's' General Restriction Order. For the avoidance of doubt there is only one individual known to NFAS convicted of abuse; his name is highlighted in the attached 'Overview of CI Notifications'.*

c) For each of these persons, please provide as much as possible of the following information:

*Please see document, 'Overview of CI Notifications'.*

- the period (dates) during which they are known or alleged to have abused children in foster care;
- if they were foster carers, or if not, their relationship with the foster carers or what other role they had during the period of abuse and/or alleged abuse
- the knowledge sought or received about them by the organisation at the point of approval/registration of foster carers and thereafter
- any information (including regarding abuse or alleged abuse) sought by, or provided to, third parties or future employers at any point after the allegation of abuse was made

d) Were known abusers, or alleged abusers, of children permitted to continue as foster carers?

*Seventeen of the twenty-six alleged abusers were permitted to continue as foster carers.*

e) If so, why was this considered to be appropriate?

*It was appropriate because following an investigation carried out by the placing authority on each allegation in eight cases the outcome was that no further action was required, in three cases the allegation was uncorroborated and the final six cases resulted in additional support /training /monitoring being put in place for the carers to continue their approval as Foster Carers.*

f) If so, what process of monitoring/supervision followed?

*Each Foster Carer Household would have as a minimum of one Face to Face monthly supervision session with their SSW, this could also be increased if felt necessary. They would also have at least two unannounced visits annually and again these can be increased if required. The children in placement would also be seen alone with their SSW and not their Foster Carer to give them an opportunity to express any concerns they had. Weekly telephone calls to the Foster Carers by their SSW would also take place.*

*The Foster Carers would return to the Fostering Independent Panel for an Annual review, if there were any actions to be carried out i.e. Training or extra support this will be implemented and monitored by their SSW and reported back to Panel at their next review.*