

# Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

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## General Restriction Order

The Chair has power under section 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005 to make a restriction order, which restricts disclosure or publication of any evidence or documents given, produced or provided to the Inquiry.

The Chair has considered the sensitive and/or personal nature of the evidence being provided to the Inquiry by applicants and others (and likely to be provided by them in the future). The Chair has had regard to the risk of harm being occasioned to those applicants and/or to any persons by whom they allege they were abused. The Chair has concluded that it is conducive to the Inquiry fulfilling its Terms of Reference to issue a restriction order and makes this order.

The Inquiry has now reached a stage in its investigations where the terms of the General Restriction Order require to be expanded to allow the Inquiry's work to progress. This order expands the terms of the order dated 17 October 2016 and replaces it.

1. Evidence or documents given, produced or provided to the Inquiry which identify applicants (including names and any other identifying details) must not be disclosed and/or published without the consent of the applicant concerned.

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, members of the Inquiry team may disclose the identities of applicants to any persons or organisations named by applicants in their witness statements as having been involved in any abuse alleged and to the legal representatives of any person or organisation so named, strictly on a confidential basis and only for the purpose of protecting any legitimate interest they may have in the work of the Inquiry.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, members of the Inquiry team may disclose the identities of applicants to any persons or organisations who they believe hold information relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, in order to recover information to assist the Inquiry with its investigations. This may be done only on a strictly confidential basis and only for the purpose of progressing the work of the Inquiry.

4. Evidence or documents given, produced or provided to the Inquiry which identify any persons who are the subject of allegations of abuse must not be disclosed and/or published prior to the publication of any Report or Reports by the Inquiry. The Chair may make a further order restricting the disclosure of such identities in any such Report and may make an order restricting disclosure of them after its publication.

5. Notwithstanding paragraph 4, the identities of persons convicted of abuse, or who have admitted abuse, or who are the subject of allegations of abuse, which falls within the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, may be disclosed by members of the Inquiry team to any persons or organisations who they believe hold information relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, in order to recover information to assist the Inquiry with its investigations. This may be done only on a strictly confidential basis and only for the purpose of progressing the work of the Inquiry.

6. The restriction in paragraph 4 does not apply to disclosures by members of the Inquiry team to Police Scotland of the identities of those who are the subject of allegations of abuse to enable assessment by Police Scotland of current risk to children or vulnerable adults.

7. The restrictions in paragraphs 1 and 4 do not apply to disclosures made by members of the Inquiry team to Police Scotland of the identities of any persons to enable assessment by Police Scotland of current risk of harm to any person or risk to any person's life. The restrictions in paragraphs 1 and 3 do not apply to disclosures made by members of the Inquiry team to Police Scotland of information that has been provided to them indicating that persons protected by those restrictions have been subjected to harassment or intimidation.

In this order:

"applicant" means any person who wishes to give or gives evidence of having experienced abuse in circumstances falling within the Inquiry's Terms of Reference whether in a written statement or otherwise; and

"abuse" means abuse as defined in the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

29 March 2017