

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

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Notice - Inquiry first phase hearings starting on 31 May 2017

This notice provides information about the scope and purpose of the Inquiry's first phase hearings starting on 31 May. There is also information about how to apply for what is called "leave to appear".

Members of the public do not need "leave to appear" to watch the hearings from the public seats.

For more information on the procedures used during our hearings see the Inquiry's [practice guideline on hearings](#).

Evidence to be heard

The scope and purpose of these hearings is to hear evidence as listed below:

- Evidence from the following expert witnesses:
 1. Professor Kenneth Norrie will speak to parts 1 and 2 of his report examining the legislative and regulatory framework governing children in care in Scotland up to 1968;
 2. Professor Andrew Kendrick will speak to his interim report examining the early development of care services in Scotland;
 3. Dr Susan Elsley will speak to her report examining societal attitudes towards children; and
 4. Professor Lorraine Radford will speak to her report examining the nature and prevalence of child abuse in Scotland.

It is likely that this expert evidence will be heard first during the early stages of the hearings.

- Evidence from Scottish Government on the nature, extent and development of the State's areas of responsibility for children in residential and foster care in Scotland.
- Evidence of the history and governance of faith based organisations and whether there is any retrospective acknowledgement of abuse. There will be evidence, in particular, from:
 1. the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul;
 2. the Sisters of Nazareth;
 3. the Good Shepherd Sisters;

4. the De La Salle Brothers;
 5. the Christian Brothers;
 6. the Marist Brothers;
 7. the Benedictines;
 8. the Church of Scotland / CrossReach;
 9. the Bishops' Conference; and
 10. Conference of Religious.
- Evidence of the history and governance of large care providers of residential and foster care to children in Scotland and whether there is any retrospective acknowledgement of abuse. There will be evidence from
 1. Quarriers;
 2. Barnardo's; and
 3. Aberlour Child Care Trust.
 - Evidence of the background, development, purpose and work of survivor groups such as In Care Abuse Survivors (INCAS) and Former Boys and Girls Abused in Quarriers Homes (FBGA). This will include evidence about the canvassing, lead-up to and establishment of this Inquiry. Evidence will not be led during this hearing about specific allegations of abuse.

The first part of the first phase hearings will end no later than 20 July 2017. The second part of the first phase will resume in autumn 2017.

How to apply for leave to appear at these hearings

If you want to appear at any part or parts of these Inquiry hearings, you are invited to apply for "leave to appear" by **18 April 2017**. Applications made after that date may not be considered.

"Appear" means actively participating in the hearings including, if so permitted, being able to provide questions for Inquiry Counsel to ask witnesses and/or being able to ask questions of witnesses direct.

To be given leave to appear you need to show that you have a direct and/or substantial interest in the scope and purpose in any part or parts of these hearings. For more information on leave to appear see the [Practice guideline on pre-hearing procedures](#).

The Chair of the Inquiry decides all applications for leave to appear. She may, if she thinks it is appropriate, ask a person or organisation applying for leave to appear to make submissions to her in person about their application.

The Inquiry will let you know the Chair's decision as soon as possible.

To apply please use the [application form for leave to appear](#). You must send us your completed application form by **18 April 2017**.

You can send the application form to the Inquiry by email to: solicitors@childabuseinquiry.scot, or by post to: SCAI, PO Box 24085, Edinburgh EH7 9EA.

If you have any questions or need help with the form, please contact the Inquiry's witness support team. You can phone them on 0800 0929 300, or email them at talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot.