



Foreword by Lady Smith

“It is critically important that our community engages in facing up to the fact that children in care were wronged and failed in the past, and to commit to seeing to it that children of today and of the future are safe.”

It is now known many children in Scotland have, over the years, been abused whilst in residential care. Those children suffered some terrible treatment, inflicted by those to whom their care was trusted. That is a matter of grave concern. So it is that the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry was established to investigate the nature and extent of abuse of children in residential care in Scotland, raising public awareness about this important subject and enabling those who wish to do so, to bear witness to the abuse. It is critically important that our community engages in facing up to the fact that children in care were wronged and failed in the past, and to commit to seeing to it that children of today and of the future are safe.

The Inquiry has gathered, and continues to gather, a wide range of evidence about the abuse of children in care, its impact and the systems, if any, that have been in place in Scotland for their protection over the years. It is examining what happened, where it happened and how and why it happened. Much of the evidence will be presented, analysed and discussed at public hearings, which are being separated into phases, all organised with a view to meeting each and every part of the Inquiry's wide ranging Terms of Reference. At the end of the Inquiry, a report will be

published detailing my findings and recommendations. I will present my report to the relevant Minister who will, in turn, present it to the Scottish Parliament. It will also form a national public record and commentary on the abuse of children in care in Scotland over the Inquiry's time frame (within living memory to 17 December 2014).

The report will, in addition to detailing my findings about the nature and extent of abuse, identify any systemic failures and assess whether any such failures have been corrected. It will advise whether or not changes to the law, policies, practices or procedures are needed. It will include findings about the impact of abuse and observations in relation to what may be the appropriate responses to such impact. This newsletter has been produced to keep people informed of the Inquiry's progress.

I am pleased to report that the work of the Inquiry is progressing very well and I am grateful to all in the Inquiry team for their hard work and commitment. It needs to be appreciated, though, that the subject matter and range of topics that require to be addressed are such that to do the job properly will take time. I can, however, confirm that I remain committed to delivering on each aspect of the Inquiry's important Terms of Reference.

UPDATE

First phase of hearings

The first phase of the Inquiry's hearings started on **31 May at Rosebery House** in Edinburgh and is expected to last for seven weeks. The Inquiry will sit four days a week from Monday to Thursday. During the first phase, evidence will be heard from expert witnesses, the Scottish Government, faith-based organisations, large care providers, and survivor groups. The deadline for people who wished to be involved in the first phase has now passed. There will be further opportunities to apply to appear in later phases of the Inquiry which will hear other evidence.

Phase 1 timetable

Week 1 (31 May – 2 June)

Expert witnesses to give evidence on the legislative and regulatory framework governing care in Scotland up to 1968. The Inquiry will also hear details of the early development of care services in Scotland, societal attitudes towards children and the nature and prevalence of child abuse in Scotland.

Week 2 (6 June – 9 June)

Evidence will be heard putting the State's areas of responsibility for children in residential and foster care in Scotland into context. There will also be an explanation of the structure of Catholic institutions.

Week 3 (13 June – 16 June)

The history and governance of religious institutions run by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, Sisters of Nazareth, Good Shepherd Sisters, and the De La Salle Brothers to be examined.

Week 4 (20 June – 23 June)

The history and governance of religious institutions run by the Christian Brothers, Marist Brothers, Benedictines and Church of Scotland / CrossReach to be examined.

Week 5 (27 June – 30 June)

Evidence will be heard on the history and governance of major care providers. Quarriers, Barnardo's and Aberlour Child Care Trust will be heard.

Week 6 (4 July – 6 July)

Details of the establishment and work of survivor groups In Care Abuse Service (INCAS), Former Boys and Girls Abused in Quarriers Homes (FBGA), and about campaigning for the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry.

Week 7 (11 July – 12 July)

Closing legal submissions.



In this newsletter, we are focusing on **frequently asked questions** from people who want to tell us about abuse...

Q. Who can give evidence to the Inquiry?

A. You can give evidence if you tell us you were abused when you were under 18 and in care. It doesn't matter if you later claimed compensation for that abuse, or were involved in a police investigation or court case. It also doesn't matter if you have been convicted of a criminal offence. Family members can also tell us about abuse a relative experienced while under 18 and in care (if they believe their relative is unable to do so themselves).

Q. Is there a limit to the timescale?

A. The Inquiry investigates abuse that took place any time within living memory up to 17 December 2014. It doesn't matter if the person you name as your abuser has died.

Q. Does the location of abuse matter?

A. What matters is that you were in care at the time of the abuse you want to tell us about. Care could be a children's home, boarding school or List D school, or foster care. It doesn't matter if the abuse you tell us about didn't happen in the place you were in care. If you were a child migrant sent from Scotland to another country, we also want to hear from you.

Q. What does the Inquiry do?

A. The Inquiry collects evidence and information about abuse of children in care. It does this, among other ways, by speaking to people at what the Inquiry calls 'private sessions'. The Inquiry also collects documents from people and organisations. These include records about the care of children and reports of abuse, procedures, policies, the law and records of other investigations. The Inquiry holds hearings where evidence is heard. People who tell us they were abused will not be forced to give evidence in public about their own abuse.

Q. What will the Inquiry do with my witness statement?

A. The Inquiry will consider carefully all witness statements and other evidence it obtains. We will publish all witness statements appropriately redacted to e.g. protect identity. 'Redaction' means that part of the statement is blacked out.

Q. Are there some circumstances where the Inquiry can share information with someone else?

A. If you tell us that you were abused, we may have to share your name and allegations with the organisation responsible

for your care at the time and anyone you named as an abuser. We would share that information on a strictly confidential basis. The reason for this sharing of information is that we have to do it to be fair to everyone involved in the Inquiry. We will give you at least 14 days' notice if we are intending to share your name and allegations with a particular organisation that was responsible for your care as a child and/or any person you named as an abuser. If you have any concerns about this information being disclosed, you can contact us. If you wish to apply for a restriction order to keep your identity private, there is an application form on the website.

Q. Does the Inquiry share any information with the Police?

A. We have to share with Police Scotland the identity of anyone who we are told has abused children. This is because Police Scotland must be able to assess the current risk that person may pose to children and/or vulnerable adults. It is not for us to assess that risk. We share with Police Scotland any information we receive which suggests that anyone is at risk of harm or that there is a risk to their life.

Q. Do I need a lawyer?

A. You don't need a lawyer to make contact with the Inquiry, or to give evidence to us at a private session. We are wholly independent. Our lawyers are independent and work only for the Inquiry. You will be treated fairly.

Q. What is 'leave to appear'?

A. The leave to appear process is aimed at lawyers of interested parties. 'Appear' means taking an active role in the hearing on behalf of their clients, for example, making an opening statement, making legal submissions, suggesting questions to be asked by counsel to the Inquiry or, with the permission of the Chair, asking questions of a witness directly. To get leave to appear you need to have a direct and/or substantial interest in that hearing. If you wish to take an active role in a hearing whether directly or through your lawyer, you or your lawyer need to apply for 'leave to appear'. There is an application form on the Inquiry's website.

In later newsletters we will focus on frequently asked questions by other types of witness.

Factsheets



There are a number of **factsheets** available on the Inquiry's website with helpful information for anyone looking to tell us about the abuse they have experienced.

These include:

- **Factsheet for people who tell us they were abused**
This factsheet gives details on what the Inquiry does, its powers, who can give evidence and how they can get in touch.
- **Factsheet on disclosing allegations**
Details are also available online explaining how the Inquiry can gather evidence, take witness statements and co-operate with those who wish to take part.
- **Practice guidelines for Inquiry hearings**
This factsheet provides practical information on the hearings, including venue details, as well as who can attend and who can take part.
- **Factsheet words and phrases explained**
This document explains some of the words or phrases used in Inquiry documents and on our website.
- **Factsheet on compensation for loss of time**
You may be able to claim compensation for loss of time because you had to come to the Inquiry. 'Loss of time' means any wages or other earnings that you lose because, for example, you have come to give a statement to the Inquiry or come to give evidence at a public hearing. The factsheet sets out who can claim and how to claim.
- **Factsheet on expenses**
You may be able to claim expenses from the Inquiry. This factsheet sets out how to apply to have your expenses paid and the process for deciding applications. You should note that if you have an alternative source of support, you may be expected to look first to that source to cover your expenses.
- **Factsheet on legal representation**
This factsheet gives information for those who decide to instruct a lawyer to act for them in relation to their role in the Inquiry.

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Inquiry's witness support team who can send you any information you need.



Materials available to stakeholders

The Inquiry has created a series of leaflets and posters, as well as social media graphics, to raise public awareness about what the Inquiry does and ensure that those who may have information they wish to share know how to get in touch with the Inquiry.

If your organisation would like to obtain any of the publicity material please contact us.

Contact 3x1 Group:

- 📞 phone **0131 225 7700** or
- 📞 phone **0141 221 0707**
- ✉️ email **SCAI@3x1.com**

UPDATE

Engaging with phase two of the hearings

The second phase of the Inquiry's hearings **will begin in the autumn of 2017**. It will investigate residential child care establishments run by organisations within the Roman Catholic Church. The second phase is split into two parts.

The first part will look at residential child care establishments run by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul. In the second part, the Inquiry will then examine residential child care establishments run by the Sisters of Nazareth.

The Inquiry has already gathered witness statements and documents relating to both religious orders. However, we would urge anyone with information or experiences of establishments run by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul or the Sisters of Nazareth to contact our witness support team as soon as possible. The Inquiry wants to ensure that all available evidence is gathered.

The Inquiry's witness support team can be contacted:

- 📞 by phone **0800 0929 300** ✉️ by email **talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot**
- ✉️ by post **SCAI, PO Box 24085, EH7 9EA**

The Inquiry's progress

October 2015

- 'Historical Child Abuse Inquiry' established.

December 2015

- Final date covered by Terms of Reference announced as 17 December 2014.

February 2016

- Private sessions start for prioritised evidence from elderly and seriously ill survivors.
- Inquiry name changed to 'Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry' following representations from survivors.

March 2016

- Formal call for evidence announced.
- Launch of dedicated phone line.

March–May 2016

- Our first factsheets and protocols are published.

May 2016

- Professor Lorraine Radford commissioned to undertake literature review of evidence of prevalence of child abuse in Scotland.

June 2016

- Core participant status granted to two survivors organisations (INCAS and FBGA).
- Private sessions start for all survivors, prioritised by their needs.

July 2016

- Appointment of Rt Hon Lady Smith as Chair.

January 2017

- Preliminary hearing held in Edinburgh on 31 January.
- Research reports from Professor Lorraine Radford and Professor Kenneth Norrie published.

February 2017

- Update on current investigations into 69 institutions published.

March 2017

- First phase of hearings announced for May 2017.
- Part two of Professor Norrie's report published.

April 2017

- Second phase of hearings announced.
- Practice guidelines published about Inquiry hearings.
- Core participant status granted to a number of organisations.

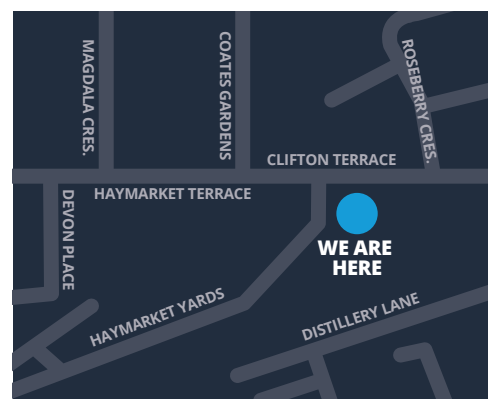
How to find us



The public are welcome to attend hearings. Please be aware that in some situations the Chair may decide to hold hearings in private without the public present.

There is no reserved seating in the public area of the hearings venue. If you want to come, you don't need to let the Inquiry know in advance.

Our hearings venue is at:
3rd Floor Rosebery House,
9 Haymarket Terrace,
Edinburgh EH12 5EZ



How to talk to us

We urge anyone with relevant information to share to get in touch with us. You can contact the Inquiry's witness support team:

☎ phone **0800 0929 300**

✉ email **talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot**

✉ post **SCAI, PO Box 24085, EH7 9EA**