



Former Boys and Girls Abused of Quarriers Homes

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**FBGA document sent to MSPs**

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There is extensive experience in other countries of responding to and meeting the needs of those who have been abused when in children's residential establishments. There is much to learn from that experience in planning the way forward in Scotland not least in finding ways of accommodating and meeting needs that are not adversarial or disrespectful (**Tom Shaw report 2007**).

**We would ask the Government to take onboard fully this statement by Tom Shaw.**

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FBGA, would like to clarify the following in relation to a statement released by the Minister for Children and Early Years.

FBGA,s response are in bold and bullet points, in response to parts of the Ministers Adam Ingram comments and statement regarding FBGA and Quarriers Homes.

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"Of course, it is essential that abusers are brought to justice, but often that route alone will not meet survivors' needs."

- **Paedophiles and other abusers should always be brought to justice for their crimes regardless of survivors' needs!**

"We genuinely do not believe that a change in the law to give abuse survivors a right to take any case to court would actually right the wrong in question and provide positive outcomes for survivors."

- **How can the Minister justify his comment in relation to the law and how it currently stands, when many survivors are simply not able to access legal remedies due to Timebar in Scotland.**
- **We know wrongs can't be made right but abusers can and should be punished and brought to trial and justice! Timebar is preventing the prosecution of many cases as proven by the recent Law Lords judgement.**

"In October, I announced that the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council had jointly commissioned an independent inquiry into abuse at **Kerelaw** and that further details would follow. Today, I have placed on the Scottish Government's **website** the jointly agreed terms of reference for that inquiry. The inquiry team will engage thoroughly with survivors and ensure that their voice is central to the inquiry. Ex-members of staff will also be invited to provide insights into how abuse occurred over a long period of time without its being prevented."

- **Has there been any explanation as to why an Inquiry into **Kerelaw** is feasible but not an Inquiry into **Quarriers** (as the Quarriers organisation which is still in the care business).**

- Mr **Ingram** has not explained why in **Opposition** Nicola Sturgeon and Linda **Fabiani** called for an Inquiry into **Quarriers** yet now do not carry it out. ( 9 ex-employees of **Quarriers** convicted more than **Kerelaw** or **anyoth** care home in the UK)

"I am pleased to inform Parliament that we have been actively **scoping** the adaptation of the principles of a truth and reconciliation model. We are committed to that. We are considering good practice examples for establishing a forum to give survivors the chance to speak about their experiences and to help them come to terms with the past."

- **FBGA** would like clarification to know exactly what they think "Come to terms with our past" means. A talking shop is not what is required, Survivors will according to the Minister have full access to services to enable them to access all the help and support services required for them and their families. Also Truth and Reconciliation has the potential to cause more harm and damage to those alleging abuse and those accused as we have clearly pointed out, including the potential for false allegations.

We note the Minister Mr Adam Ingrams comments in his statement with regards my comments in response to MSPs.

Finally, Mr Whelan's email makes a very serious allegation: "*similar issues as we are seeing in Jersey today uncovered pertain to past care homes /institutions in Scotland. There has been a cover-up and concealment of the extent of this abuse to-date*". I would urge you to encourage Mr Whelan and all survivors to contact the police immediately to discuss any such concerns.

- Perhaps the Minister would like to explain then to the relevant MSPs and FBGA why a number of those alleging abuse concerning Quarriers Homes have received letters/emails from Strathclyde Police officers stating they have been instructed by the PF (Procurator Fiscal) not to investigate all complaints of abuse reported to them.

I attached a copy of an email which a Chris Millar received from Strathclyde Police which we have been given permission by the FBGA member to release. It is FBGA's intention to copy relevant MSPs into this email from Strathclyde Police

FBGA and David Whelan do not make allegations, all our comments or statements are based on the facts and evidence at our disposal and we take exception to the Ministers comments. Given FBGA and I have continually called for a full Independent Inquiry into Quarriers Homes.

- FBGA remain committed to finding just solutions and resolutions that are acceptable to the the Survivor's while working with Government to ensure the Scottish care system is secure and protected going forward we believe this is only possible by investigating the extent, causes and failures of the past organisations such as Quarriers.

Kind regards

FBGA (Former Boys and Girls Abused in Quarriers Homes)