

**FBGA, Press Statement with regards the recent  
Sunday Mail article 15<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

- David Whelan was contacted by the Sunday newspaper as they were speaking to Open Secret representatives (Sarah McCulley) about concerns about the service and a number of issues and wished some comment from FBGA.
- David Whelan did not quote (millions) and inquired where the newspaper got that figure? Nor did he state (millions). David stated: that it was, as far as he was aware the Service total cost was more likely £250,000 thousand per annum for the service. That the National strategy cost around 2 million and the “Open Secret” Cost was over and above that cost.
- David and FBGA made a number of positive quotes which were not used due to editing including that FBGA put forward comprehensive proposals in a subgroup to assist the Scottish Government in meeting its obligations to all historical abuse survivors.
- David stated to the Sunday Mail that if the low number quoted as using the Open Secret service was accurate then Open Secret would need to take immediately concrete steps to address the issue to make the service available to a wider audience.
- FBGA asked the question “Why the service had not been advertised extensively in Scotland and UK wide to make access and information available to all those who need the service?”
- FBGA stated that there were a number of outstanding issues concerning the institutions, organisations, Government including Timebar which needed to be addressed going forward but that FBGA continued to engage and submit comprehensive proposals for resolving the issues to the benefit of all historical abuse true victim-survivors.
- David stated that in his own personal view there was still a certain amount of apathy and mistrust by the historical abuse survivors who had been abused in the past Scottish care system which had to be overcome. Many survivors continue to feel abused by the current system and simply let down, when it comes to seeking an acknowledgement, accountability, apology or redress.
- Mr Chris Daly who purports and claims to represent all the survivors in Scotland on the basis that he was a Petitioner for the removal Timebar which was subsequently rejected. Mr Daly also alleges he was abused in Nazareth House. To-date no one has been charged or convicted of abusing Chris Daly in Nazareth House, Aberdeen. Mr Daly was never in Quarriers Homes care. FBGA recognise that many individuals may have been abused and have not had Justice to-date. This is why FBGA have submitted comprehensive proposals for “Acknowledgement and Accountability”, which are balanced, open and transparent and take into account all the issues including those being accused of such abuse and the organisations fair representation.

Mr Daly launched in an email a few days later, what can only be described as wholly, unwarranted, criticism on the Scottish Sunday Mail and the journalist Marion Scott concerning the article which appeared on the 15/03/2009 while at the same time making disingenuous and false allegations and false claims. FBGA were copied in on the email. Previously Mr Daly and others were content to have theirs and other historical Catholic home abuse issues highlighted in the Sunday Mail by Marion Scott when they wanted to inform the public of their plight.

**FBGA and David Whelan felt he had no choice but to confront Mr Daly and respond to his false allegations, claims and disgraceful behaviour via email to Open Secret, The Sunday Mail and the Scottish Government. FBGA did this to show our continued full support to Marion Scott and the Sunday Mail. This was to ensure FBGA were not misrepresented in these matters.**

**FBGA, also wish to make it clear in relation to Mr Chris Daly we have never recognised this individual as our representative and his claims purporting to represent all the survivors in Scotland, for the specific reasons FBGA gave in page 7 of our “Acknowledgement and Accountability” proposal submitted to the Scottish Government. There are other reasons also.**

- Marion Scott and the Scottish Sunday Mail have given many abuse victims a platform over many years including Kerelaw, Quarriers Homes and the Catholic Homes, including Nazareth House claimants to highlight and campaign to raise awareness of their abuse issues and alert the Scottish public to the depths of these historical abuse issues when no one else would listen.
- FBGA do not think it is just or proper for those same survivors such as Mr Daly now denigrate or disparage those same Journalists, such as Marion Scott without having access to all the facts, and in the process rubbish the journalists and the newspaper in the process. The very journalists who have supported the historical abuse survivors and the True Victim -survivors goals.
- Newspapers and Journalists such as the Scottish Sunday Mail and others who have lent overwhelming support over the years to the historical abuse issues in Scotland are an invaluable source-tool to the survivors to alert the public what is not being done by the Scottish Government to bring about True Justice, redress and restitution for all True Victim-survivors.
- The newspapers and the journalists' have assisted the historical abuse survivors expose abuse, deceit, lies and corruption by care institutions in Scotland that remain un-investigated even today!

**Please Note:** With regards Open Secret, FBGA lent support by attending subgroup meetings and submitting full service proposals which assisted the Scottish Government and resulted in the grant being provided to Open Secret to provide services to historical abuse survivors.

While we have some concerns with regards survivors accessing the service FBGA believes it is necessary for Open Secret advertise the service to enable as wide as possible access to the service which we highlighted by the Sunday Mail article.

There are concerns that Open Secret is asking vulnerable individuals to attend forums when clearly they have not had the proper support and are not fully prepared or recovered from their abuse experience and are clearly not ready to engage at such a level. We would ask Open Secret to be mindful of this going forward.

**FBGA continue to support Open Secret at the present time but this support is not unconditional. FBGA continue to direct survivors to its services. FBGA wish to make it clear FBGA are not responsible for the management or operational administration of Open Secret. All Survivors including Quarriers Homes survivors who chose to use Open Secrets service do so at their own discretion.**