



The Scottish Parliament

Elizabeth McWilliams

21 June 2004

Dear Mrs McWilliams

Please find attached a copy of the letter Nicola has sent to Peter Peacock M.S.P. regarding the abuse which took place at Quarriers.

Given that the Scottish Executive has ignored previous calls for a Public Inquiry, Nicola felt that a different proposal to the Scottish Executive may be more fruitful. There are similarities between the situations at Quarriers and at Scottish Borders Council Social Work Department and Nicola hopes that Peter Peacock will agree to request a similar type of investigation to be carried out.

Your name has not been mentioned in the letter in order to afford you anonymity should you wish this.

When a reply is received from the Minister for Education and Children, Nicola will be in touch.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

Ilene McCartney
Constituency Assistant

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The Scottish Parliament

Peter Peacock M.S.P.
Minister for Education and Children
Education Department
Scottish Executive
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH
EH6 6QQ

21 June 2004

Dear Peter

Quarriers

I have been contacted by a constituent regarding the incidences of abuse at Quarriers and the convictions which have followed.

My constituent was a resident at a Quarriers care home when a child and suffered abuse. I understand that my constituent has helped the police with their inquiries and is also in contact with other former residents who also suffered abuse. The past months have been very difficult for my constituent because of the trial which took place in May of Sandy Wilson and although this and other convictions of former employees of Quarriers have provided some solace, my constituent continues to be of the mind that a public inquiry should take place into what failures existed in the management of Quarriers at that time to allow such abuse to take place.

I am wondering if there are similarities to be drawn between this case and that of the abuse case at Scottish Borders Council.

Rather than initiate a public inquiry would it be possible to request the Social Work Services Inspectorate to carry out an inspection of the services provided to the residents of Quarriers over the years that the abuse took place?

I appreciate that the present management of Quarriers have co-operated with the police in their inquiries and that they may not have been present at the time of the incidences of abuse. However, my constituent feels that the organisation must take some/

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some responsibility for the events which took place and that it is unlikely to do so until an independent investigation can show that there was a dereliction of duty on the part of Quarriers management at the time of the abuse.

From what I understand, four people have already been convicted of abuse at Quarriers and it is possible that another seven are facing charges later this year. Each time a trial takes place, those who suffered abuse are reminded of the terrible ordeal they were put through and the lack of protection they were given by an organisation into whose care they had been entrusted. They were let down by Quarriers and now feel that the government has let them down by not looking beyond the actual acts of abuse to the culture which allowed it to happen.

Whether the investigation uncovers negligence or not, it will show those who suffered that the government cares enough to pursue the issue to its end.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow

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