

Newsletter

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Foreword by Lady Smith

I am pleased to report that the Inquiry is progressing well. We have completed the public hearings in two significant case studies and a third one is now near completion.

My findings in relation to the first case study (institutions run by the **Daughters of Charity**) have been published. My findings in relation to the second case study (institutions run by the **Sisters of Nazareth**) are in hand and I will be publishing them as soon as I can. We also continue to gather and carefully study evidence

from a variety of sources to assist us in our investigations which are, out of necessity, wide-ranging.

I am very grateful to the many witnesses who have come forward and given evidence at hearings. Their dignity has been remarkable, as has their commitment to doing all they can to contribute to our finding out what makes an institution safe for all children and how abuse may, in the future, be prevented. I am also very grateful to those individuals who, whilst not able to give oral evidence, have made valuable contributions by way of written statement.

“ I am very grateful to the many witnesses who have come forward and given evidence ”

Separately, I want to thank those witnesses who have come forward to tell us about their experiences in institutions which we have not yet focussed on in a case study. Their engagement with us is invaluable and I would encourage anyone else who has any evidence to offer in relation to any of the **investigations listed on our website** to please get in touch.

We move to further hearings this year; the case study looking into the provision of residential care by **male religious orders** is outlined below. Please look at this and get in touch with us if you think you have any relevant information.

As I look back on the achievements last year, I would once more like to record my gratitude for the dedicated team working for the Inquiry here in Rosebery House.



UPDATE

Engaging with the Male Religious Orders case study

In summer 2019, Phase 4 of hearings will commence with evidence relating to our investigations into residential child care establishments run by male religious orders. There will be a particular focus on:

- The Order of Benedictines and their provision at Carlekemp in North Berwick, and also at the Fort Augustus Abbey School
- The Marist Brothers and their provision at St Joseph's College, Dumfries and also at St Columba's College in Largs
- The Christian Brothers and their provision at St Ninian's in Falkland, Fife

It should be noted that at a later stage the Inquiry will look separately into the provision of care by the De La Salle Brothers, who ran a number of institutions in Scotland.

Talk to us

The Inquiry wants to ensure that all available evidence is gathered. **If you have information about or experiences of establishments run by The Order of Benedictines, The Marist Brothers or The Christian Brothers** please contact our witness support team as soon as possible.

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

British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us direct through online sign language interpreter at www.contactsotland-bsl.org

UPDATE

Hearings recommence

On **23 October**, at **Rosebery House** in Edinburgh, the Inquiry began hearing evidence in relation to its investigations into residential care establishments run by large scale voluntary care providers **Quarriers, Aberlour and Barnardo's**. Hearings ran until the end of December before taking a break over the festive period.

The Inquiry resumed hearing evidence again on **8 January** and the case study is scheduled to conclude no later than **12 February**. The Inquiry will sit four days a week, usually from Tuesday to Friday.



CASE STUDY FINDINGS

Daughters of Charity

On 11 October, the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry published the Chair's interim findings into residential institutions run by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul (DoC). She has concluded that children did suffer abuse.

During the case study, the Inquiry considered evidence about the nature and extent of any relevant abuse at institutions run by the DoC in Scotland, with a particular focus on Smyllum and Bellevue.

The 20-day case study took place from November 2017 to January 2018, during which time the Inquiry heard evidence from 54 witnesses about their experiences of Smyllum Park in Lanark and Bellevue House in Rutherglen. A further 21 written statements of evidence were read in during the public hearings.

Print and broadcast media both covered extensively the publishing of the findings.

FAQs

In this newsletter we are focusing on frequently asked questions from anybody with questions relating to the publication of interim findings from the case study examining residential institutions run by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul (DoC).

Q I provided a statement after the case study. Will my evidence still be included?

A Your evidence is still important to the Inquiry. In these findings, Lady Smith explains that applicants and other witnesses have come forward to SCAI with relevant evidence, both during and since the conclusion of the evidential hearings in the case study. This evidence is not included as part of these findings but will be considered by the Inquiry as part of the overall assessment of the nature and extent of abuse of children in residential care.

Q I was in care at a DoC institution that wasn't included in the case study? Will my evidence still count?

A Yes, **all** evidence is important to the Inquiry. The focus of this case study was on Smyllum and Bellevue. If you have signed a statement relating to another institution, that evidence will be taken into account by the Inquiry.

Q I have applied to give evidence but have yet to provide a statement. Will my evidence still count?

A Yes, your evidence is important to the Inquiry. All signed statements will be taken into account by the Inquiry.

Q What happens next?

A Findings will be published as soon as possible concerning the case study in relation to the provision of residential care for children by the Sisters of Nazareth and also following future case studies.

Applicants and other witnesses continue to come forward to the Inquiry with relevant evidence and their evidence will be considered as part of a continuing process.





Communications Campaign update

A strategic and diverse communications campaign has continued to encourage people to engage with the Inquiry over the months since the last newsletter was published.

This has ranged from targeted outreach in Argyll and Bute, providing materials for every police front counter in Scotland, and close engagement and planning with the Travelling Community.

In September, Lady Smith recorded broadcast appeals publicising the Male Religious Orders case study, and details of a further 17 institutions being investigated by the Inquiry. The Chair also specifically encouraged survivors to come forward even if they have already made a report to the police, or to anyone else, and it does not matter if they have been involved in any other investigation. Both appeals were widely used.



The Inquiry team has continued to engage closely with local newspapers, national titles, as well

as the BBC and STV to reach as many survivors as possible. In the region of 500 news articles detailing the Inquiry's work have been published in just the past few months, with many including how survivors can get in touch with the witness support team.

Publicity materials and information tool kits have also been provided to survivor support groups.

A television advertising campaign aired in November 2018 and was shown on all STV regions across Scotland, as well as in the Border TV region. STV has 3.5 million viewers (87% of Scots) across a month with 1.5 million people tuning in each day.



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 3x1 Group.

-  by telephone at **0131 225 7700**
-  or **0141 221 0707**
-  or by e-mail at **SCAI@3x1.com**

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 5EA



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:

by phone on
0800 0929 300

by email at talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot

by post at SCAI,
PO Box 24085, EH7 9EA

On-going Investigations

In September, the Inquiry announced a further 17 institutions are being investigated as part of its on-going work, taking the total to 86.

The Inquiry carries out investigations as part of what is called an "inquisitorial" process. This means the Inquiry looks into and decides what matters are to be investigated, rather than relying on others to choose what evidence to present to the Inquiry about those matters.

As part of that on-going process, information is gathered from institutions who provided care. A significant number of institutions have been identified as named investigations. Once a sufficient amount of evidence is gathered, it is then decided if the institution should form part of a case study at a public hearing.

The Inquiry also considers the most effective way to present case studies at public hearings and if a care provider should be grouped with other providers.

The list of additional institutions run by a range of care providers, are below:

The Archdiocese of Glasgow

- St Andrew's School, Shandon, Dunbartonshire

Non-religious/voluntary organisations

- Lagarie House Children's Home, Rhu, Sailors' Society
- Redheugh Adolescent Unit, Kilbirnie, Salvation Army
- Balnacraig School, Perth
- Royal Blind School, Edinburgh
- Oakbank School, Aberdeen, Oakbank School Trust
- Harmeny School, Edinburgh, Harmeny Education Trust
- Donaldson's School for Deaf Children, The Donaldson Trust
- Humber Care Home, Humber, Algrade

Boarding Schools

- Queen Victoria School, Dunblane

Local authority establishments

- Ovenstone Residential School, Fife Council
- Park Lodge, Calderwood Road, Glasgow City Council
- Cardross Park Assessment Centre, Glasgow City Council
- Dunclutha Children's Home, Dunoon, Argyll & Bute Council
- Balrossie School, Inverclyde Council

Healthcare establishments

- Lennox Castle Hospital, Lennoxton, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
- Royal Scottish National Hospital, Larbert, NHS Forth Valley

