

Mr Adam Ingram  
Minister for Children and Young People  
Scottish Government  
St Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DJ

**Ref: 2007/0036980OR**

**FBGA request for a SWSI or Judicial Inquiry into Quarriers Homes and Tom Shaws report.**

6<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Dear Mr Ingram

Thank you for your response conveyed by Caroline Wales dated 04/12/2008

Following the publication of Tom Shaw's Historical Abuse Systemic Review in which he outlines and highlights within his report commissioned by the past Scottish Executive, Ministers. Mr Shaw highlights systemic failures throughout the past Scottish Residential Care system which continue to impact on the present day Scottish Care System.

In addition Mr Shaw has made a number of recommendations with regards future planning and care systems protection mechanisms in Scotland. Mr Shaw has also made a number of service provision recommendations with regards historical abuse survivors in Scotland.

Since the beginning of the convictions of ex-employees of Quarriers, FBGA have consistently called for a Independent Judicial Inquiry into Quarriers as no other care institution within the UK has had as many ex-employees convicted of abusing sexually and physically children in-care.

These facts alone are compelling enough reasons for instigating a Full Independent Inquiry there are many other factors which we have brought to the attention of the Scottish Officials and SNP Scottish Government Ministers recently and in the past.

In fact while in opposition Nicola Sturgeon and Linda Fabiana now Ministers in the Scottish Government called upon the past Scottish Executive, Minister, Peter Peacock to undertake such an SWSI Inquiry or Public Inquiry into Quarriers. We would ask the Scottish Government to honour that commitment.

We note also that Quarriers, Chief Executive, Mr Phil Robinson wrote in the past to the then Minister Mr Peacock requesting and supporting a Commission of Inquiry into the past abuse issues concerning the Quarriers organisation.

As a group at the heart of the issues we have strived to engage constructively with all we engage with on the issues to bring a better understanding and educate others with regards past historical abuse issues which continue to impact on the present Scottish Care System.

Quarriers are currently Scotland 3<sup>rd</sup> Largest Charity caring for children and vulnerable adults. We believe also that an Independent Judicial Inquiry or SWSI Inquiry into Quarriers is the only way to ensure the current organisation is in fact "Fit For Purpose". The Inquiry would establish the extent, cause and failures of the past Quarriers care system while strengthening the present day care system.

There have been recent Independent Inquiries into past issues of abuse committed on children in-care in Scotland such as Edinburgh, Fife 2002, and the recent Kerelaw Inquiry announcement.

In those Inquiries the number of convictions of former care staff convicted of abusing children was considerably less than Quarriers has had to-date currently 9 ex-employees convicted.

**An Independent Inquiry or SWSI Inquiry into Quarriers Homes residential abuses would enable a full understanding of all the abuse issues pertaining to the care home and its residents & ensure the following:**

- **An Independent Inquiry or SWSI Inquiry established would be able to consider what lessons could be learned from children in-care and any further changes that appear to be needed to minimise the risk to children and vulnerable adults in care in the future.**
- **To review the action of the former Quarriers organisations senior management and others during the period when children were in the care of the care home.**
- **To identify what action was taken when children at the time reported abuse or made any complaints.**
- **An Independent Inquiry should review the internal social work audit of measures to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse in care are sufficient and robust enough and advise whether appropriate and effective safe guards are in place and to make recommendations as to future practice where appropriate.**

**An Independent Inquiry or SWSI Inquiry would be equitable in the interests of fairness and justice as many Quarriers survivors are currently denied any remedies in law due to timebar.**

The Timbar issues and the recent Scottish Law Commission have only exacerbated the survivor situation in Scotland. Governments elsewhere (Ireland and Australia) have reduced the tensions and resolved the issues to the mutual benefit of the parties by being compassionate and understanding of the full historical abuse survivor issues.

We understand also that the set-up of such an Independent Full Inquiry or SWSI Inquiry by the Scottish government into Quarriers would be less adversarial and confrontational. It would enable individual survivors to make individual choices with regards to their legal position as in our view an Inquiry would be an acceptable way forward to seeking beneficial outcomes in a holistic way for many survivors.

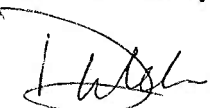
Of course survivors have a right to come to their own individual decisions and make their own choices but FBGA as a leading survivor group would encourage such reconciliation on the basis of the conclusions of an Independent Inquiry or SWSI Inquiry into Quarriers.

As an independent survivor group at the heart of the issues FBGA will continue to work constructively within the subgroup and with others. FBGA have submitted comprehensive proposals and plans with regards providing a full integrated service provision which meets the health and social care needs of all survivors in Scotland in line with recommendations of Tom Shaw's report and the shortlife working report and the overall National Strategy.

FBGA would request to be full equal partners and be fully included with the Scottish Government and others going forward and not to be excluded from any of the processes going forward including the Task Force recommended by Tom Shaw.

We would recommend the Scottish Government to implement in its entirety all of Tom Shaw's recommendations contained with the Historical Abuse Systemic Review 2007. We would request also Mr Ingram that you as Minister instigate and implement without further delay a Full Independent Inquiry or SWSI Inquiry into Quarriers past abuse issues,

Yours Sincerely



David Whelan