

BY EMAIL

David Whelan
Alan Draper
Chris Daly
Helen Holland
Harry Aitken
Ian McFadyen



Cc Simon Collins

22 April 2015

I am writing to provide you with an update on progress being made on setting up the National Inquiry into Historical Child Abuse.

As you are aware, on 17 December 2014, I set out my intention to establish Scotland's first statutory Inquiry into historical abuse of children in institutional care. I also made clear that the months following this would be used to engage with you and other survivors on the terms of reference for the Inquiry and on the attributes needed in a Chair and Panel, with a view to announcing these by the end of April this year.

At the outset, I want to make clear my continuing personal commitment to this Inquiry. I am conscious that this is our opportunity to examine an issue which the system has been poor at in the past. I want our society and country to face up to our responsibilities in this area. It is crucial that we get this absolutely right.

Whilst we have made considerable progress toward establishing the Inquiry since my statement in December, I will not be able to confirm this to Parliament by the end of April as I had envisaged. Subject to parliamentary approval, I intend to make the announcement in Parliament next month.

I am aware that you had a meeting scheduled with my officials this week and regret that it was not possible for that to take place. I understand that arrangements are now being put in place to reschedule the meeting. In the meantime, if you would find it helpful to have a face to face meeting with me, please contact my diary secretary Connie Whiting on 0131 244 7850 or on CabinetSecretaryforEducationandLifelongLearning@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.



ANGELA CONSTANCE