

12th July 2012

Making Justice Work for Victims and Witnesses

Victims and Witnesses Bill – A Consultation Paper

Submission on behalf of Former Boys and Girls Abused of Quarriers Homes (FBGA)

- Ensuring professional counselling support services for witnesses and victims of ALL sexual abuse crimes, during before and after court cases is available and fully funded.
- Ensuring that victims are informed fully about any of the Judicial processes they are to engage in.
- Mandatory jail terms for such crimes as paedophilia.
- No early remission or early Parole for convicted Paedophiles who refuse to participate in programs set-up to address their offending behaviour while in prison.
- Criminals to fully compensate their victims.
- Victim impact statements prior to the sentencing of individuals convicted.
- Scottish Prison Service to contact ALL victims when prisoners are permitted to highlight their cases in the media allowing for victim impact statements and any rebuttals required prior to publication or broadcasting.
- Scottish Parole Board functions to be fully open and transparent in their dealings with victims including allowing full access to the decision making process and reports.
- The Procurator Fiscal's offices to contact ALL victims concerning any appeals process to explain such a process in advance of such an appeal being heard.
- The Procurator Fiscal's office to liaise with ALL victims concerning any procedural issues likely to impact on victims involved in any particular case which may adversely affect the outcome of such cases being prosecuted.
- The Scottish Government to address expeditiously issues relating to Timebar whereby the Criminal and Civil Scottish Justice system is equitable and accessible for ALL including historical abuse victims.
- The Scottish Government to provide equitable redress and remedies based on the Victim's needs, when the Scottish Justice system fails to address such issues- such as in historical abuse cases currently Timebarred in the Scottish Civil Courts.
- The Scottish Government to uphold the Rights of witnesses and victims at all times.
- The Scottish Government to appoint a Victims Commissioner.

Yours sincerely
Jennie Bristow
Secretary