



Former Boys and Girls Abused of Quarriers Homes

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Minister's Adam Ingrams statement to MSPs.

Please see below a response from Mr Ingram with regard to your email of 11 March;

Thank you for sending me a copy of the e-mail of 4 March 2008 from Mr David Whelan on behalf of the Former Boys and Girls of Abused at Quarriers (FBGA).

My Ministerial Statement of the 7th February set out the range of activities which the Scottish Government is initiating to take forward support for survivors. In relation to Mr Whelan's demands for an inquiry into abuse at Quarriers, the Scottish Government believes that knowing what we know now, its efforts should focus on the prevention of abuse in residential care and providing support for survivors, rather than initiating a further inquiry.

I am sorry if this news is disappointing for Mr Whelan. However, I hope the FBGA will continue its work with the Scottish Government on those areas where we agree and where significant progress has been made over the last few months.

Finally, Mr Whelan's email makes a very serious allegation: "*similar issues as we are seeing in Jersey today uncovered pertain to past care homes /institutions in Scotland. There has been a cover-up and concealment of the extent of this abuse to-date*". I would urge you to encourage Mr Whelan and all survivors to contact the police immediately to discuss any such concerns.

The Scottish Government and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) is working in partnership to ensure that any allegations are responded to promptly and sensitively. ACPOS has asked me to inform you of its commitment and to make its position known to you in full. This is:

"It is widely recognised that the abuse of children by those in positions of power often happens in complex circumstances where the victims are powerfully silenced for many years. Any reports made of abuse, or other crimes, that have taken place in care settings will be thoroughly and professionally investigated by the relevant police force. ACPOS have taken steps to ensure any links between such reports will be recognised, and will continue to liaise with the Scottish Government".

Any reports made to the Scottish Government will be referred to ACPOS. If you receive any further allegations, you can advise Jackie Brock, Looked after Children team leader, Jackie.brock@scotland.gsi.gov.uk If you have received permission from the individual, she will refer the matter to ACPOS.

ADAM INGRAM