

**EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE**

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**Inverclyde**  
council

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Dear Mr Whelan

Following the request made by you, on behalf of the Former Boys and Girls abused in Quarriers Homes, to consider the establishment of a public inquiry I have considered the issues raised and would make the following observations.

1. I do not believe that this Council has failed in its duty with regard to this issue. I am aware that the circumstances relate to abusive situations which occurred some thirty years ago and that information had been passed to Strathclyde Police who carried out a full criminal investigation resulting in criminal charges and convictions of a number of staff.
2. I also note from your correspondence the reference to the reports developed following enquiries in Fife and Edinburgh. As you will no doubt be aware these inquiries were commissioned by Ministers, and considering the fact that the situation with which you are dealing relates to historical abuse and involved a national voluntary organisation it would seem appropriate that any inquiry, if deemed necessary, should be the responsibility of the Scottish Government.
3. There have been significant developments in the residential child care sector directed towards learning from past situations. This is recognised in the establishment, through the Regulation of Care Act, of both the Care Commission and the Scottish Social Services Council. Both of these organisations have a clear responsibility for regulation, inspection and registration of child care services and staff. They operate on the basis of having formulated specific standards for care and recruitment. You also note the development of the Social Work Inspection Agency, which again provides a scrutiny function for social work services relating to children and cooperates fully with other inspection bodies. The involvement of such agencies would however be at their discretion or that of the Scottish Government.

The issues of child protection are taken very seriously within this Council and I acknowledge the trauma which individuals have endured in the past.

However, taking account of all of the issues raised in your letter, I do believe that this Council would not be in a position of establishing a public inquiry. This may well be a request you should direct to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, at the Scottish Government.

Yours sincerely,



**Ian Fraser**  
**Corporate Director: Education and Social Care**

