



# Public Inquiry into Historical Child Abuse In Scotland

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## Background to the Public Inquiry

- 1990s Increasing awareness of historic abuse in UK
- 2002 Petition 535 by survivor Chris Daly
- 2004 Apology by Scotland's First Minister
- 2007 Historical Abuse Systemic Review (Shaw)
  - Records and access to records
  - Services for survivors
  - Current residential care
- 2008 In Care Survivors Service Scotland
- 2010 Time to be Heard Pilot Forum
- 2013 SHRC InterAction on Historic Child Abuse
- 2014 National Confidential Forum

## Public Inquiry into Historical Child Abuse

- Public Inquiry announced December 2014
- Consultation on the scope and remit of the Inquiry
  - What should the Inquiry seek to do?
  - What should we look for in a Chair and a Panel?
  - Timeframe for the Inquiry
  - Types and nature of abuse
  - Timescale for reporting
  - Where the abuse happened
- Remit and Chair announced May 2015
  - Susan O'Brien, QC

## Remit of the Public Inquiry

- To investigate the nature and extent of abuse of children whilst in care in Scotland, during the relevant time frame
- To consider the extent to which institutions and bodies with legal responsibility failed in their duty to protect children in care from abuse
- To examine how abuse affected and still affects these victims in the long term, and how in turn it affects their families
- To consider whether further changes in practice, policy or legislation are necessary in order to protect children in care in Scotland from such abuse in future.
- any instance where a child was abused “in care”
  - Residential care, children’s homes, secure care, borstal and YOIs, foster care
  - child migrant schemes, school hostels, long-term health care, boarding schools
- primarily physical abuse and sexual abuse, with associated psychological and emotional abuse
- “within living memory” to no later than 17 December 2014
- Report within 4 years of start on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015

This Inquiry will aim to shine a light in the dark corners of the past, to shape how we respond in the present and guide how we go forward in the future.

Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary