

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Inverarity C (Christopher) on behalf of Minister for Childcare and Early Years  
**Sent:** 12 September 2017 10:59  
**To:** First Minister; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: updated topical - clean version

[REDACTED]

Draft Topical Question answer below.

Chris

**Chris Inverarity | Private Secretary | Minister for Childcare and Early Years**  
St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

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**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 12 September 2017 10:44  
**To:** Minister for Childcare and Early Years  
**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Subject:** FW: updated topical - clean version

Chris,

Topical answer cleared by DFM below, also reflecting Mr McDonalds comments regarding the last paragraph.

Thanks,

[REDACTED] | Assistant Private Secretary (Diary) to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | E: [DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)

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**1. Clare Haughey:** To ask the Scottish Government what support it will give to families of children who died at the Smyllum Park orphanage in Lanark. **(S5T-00654) MARK MCDONALD**

**A:** The information that has been disclosed about the unmarked grave at St Mary's Cemetery, Lanark where it has been reported that the children from Smyllum House Orphanage were buried will of course be of deep concern to many individuals and particularly the families of those who are affected.

These are clearly matters of great public concern and I would like to set out to Parliament the steps that are being taken to address these issues. The Crown Office and Police Scotland have issued a joint statement this morning. It is vital that they are given time to establish their role and scope in relation to their investigatory and prosecutorial role.

Similarly, the Child Abuse Inquiry will also want to consider this new information, alongside the evidence they already have and the witness sessions they have arranged, to help them deliver the terms of their remit.

Any action for the Scottish Government could only follow from proper consideration through those channels first.

Families who have been affected by these reports are encouraged to seek support through a range of services supported by the Scottish Government.

**Save this part for supp:**

Services currently available from a range of bereavement services such as Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland, the Compassionate Friends and Petal. Any survivors who have been affected by these reports can also find support at Future Pathways – the Scottish Government funded support service available to all survivors of abuse suffered whilst in care in Scotland.