

Care Experience – Media Query – Deaths in Care – The Ferret – 21 October 2021

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 21 October 2021 16:29

To: [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Cc: Moffat J (Jane) <Jane.Moffat@gov.scot>; Henderson G (Gavin) <Gavin.Henderson@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Media query - Deaths in Care - The Ferret/Sunday National

Thanks [Redacted]. I'll run it past SpAds.
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: [Redacted]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 21 October 2021 16:28

To: [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Cc: Moffat J (Jane) <Jane.Moffat@gov.scot>; Henderson G (Gavin) <Gavin.Henderson@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Media query - Deaths in Care - The Ferret/Sunday National

No probs [Redacted]. All of what've you've suggested is accurate so happy for that to be the background.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Policy and Engagement Lead

Keeping The Promise Team

DG Education & Justice | Scottish Government

M: [Redacted]



we will

#KeepThePromise

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 21 October 2021 16:26

To: [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Cc: Moffat J (Jane) <Jane.Moffat@gov.scot>; Henderson G (Gavin) <Gavin.Henderson@gov.scot>;

[Redacted]; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>;
[Redacted]

Subject: RE: Media query - Deaths in Care - The Ferret/Sunday National

Emails crossed. [redacted] – let me know what you want kept in.

Thanks

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: [Redacted]

Scottish Government | news.gov.scot

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 21 October 2021 16:25

To: [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Cc: Moffat J (Jane) <Jane.Moffat@gov.scot>; Henderson G (Gavin) <Gavin.Henderson@gov.scot>;

[Redacted]; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>;

[Redacted]

Subject: RE: Media query - Deaths in Care - The Ferret/Sunday National

Hi [Redacted]

I've pulled together these lines for background – all OK?

[Redacted]

We have supported the set-up of The Promise Scotland and committed to continuing the £4 million per year Promise Partnership Fund up to financial year 2024-25. The Fund enables organisations to better support children and young people in or on the edges of care, as well as families who need it.

The Change Programme, published by The Promise Scotland, sets out progress against actions required to deliver on The Promise. We have already identified over 40 areas where we are contributing to the programme.

As part of the latest Programme for Government, it was announced that a £500 million Whole Family Wellbeing Fund will be set up to help families to overcome challenges before they reach crisis point. The fund aims to significantly reduce the number of children and young people in care by 2030.

It was also announced in Programme for Government that as part of the work to Keep The Promise, young people who leave care will be able to access a new Care Experience Grant. The £200 a year grant for 16 to 26

year olds, backed by annual investment of up to £10 million, recognises the financial disadvantages often experienced by those in care.

[Redacted]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: [Redacted]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 21 October 2021 15:37

To: [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Cc: Moffat J (Jane) <Jane.Moffat@gov.scot>; Henderson G (Gavin) <Gavin.Henderson@gov.scot>;

[Redacted]; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>;

[Redacted]

Subject: RE: Media query - Deaths in Care - The Ferret/Sunday National

Thanks [Redacted]

I don't think we need anything in the background other than some measure of progress on The Promise.

[Redacted]

Children's Minister Clare Haughey said:

"The death of any child or young person is a tragedy and I extend my sincere condolences to those affected.

"This month we launched a system to review the death of every child and young person in Scotland. That includes care leavers up to the age of 26 who were receiving Aftercare or Continuing Care when they passed away. By doing this, we hope to reduce the risk of preventable deaths.

"We are also working with partners to improve how we use data to better understand the health and wellbeing of those with care experience so we can find out how they can best be supported.

"We remain resolute in our commitment to improving the lives of those with care experience – we have made progress but recognise there is still much to do."

Background

On the Promise progress

[Redacted]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Education & Skills
Desk: [Redacted]
Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 21 October 2021 15:28
To: [Redacted]; [Redacted]
Cc: Moffat J (Jane) <Jane.Moffat@gov.scot>; Henderson G (Gavin) <Gavin.Henderson@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Media query - Deaths in Care - The Ferret/Sunday National

Hi [Redacted]

I've amended "ongoing" to "Continuing" as it is specifically for young people in receipt of either Aftercare or Continuing Care that there is a reporting requirement.

Also made a slight tweak to the line around data.

Do you need me to send the bullets for background again, or are you happy with what I sent previously?

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | **Care Leaver Support Team Leader**
✉ [Redacted] | 📧 [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 21 October 2021 15:21
To: [Redacted]; [Redacted]
Cc: Moffat J (Jane) <Jane.Moffat@gov.scot>; Henderson G (Gavin) <Gavin.Henderson@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted]
Subject: Media query - Deaths in Care - The Ferret/Sunday National

Hi all

[Redacted] at the Ferret has now approached us for comment about this. Full query below. [Redacted], could you provide a few lines on progress on The Promise for background, please?

Thanks
[Redacted]

Children's Minister Clare Haughey said:

"The death of any child or young person is a tragedy and I extend my sincere condolences to those affected.

"This month we launched a system to review the death of every child and young person in Scotland. That includes care leavers up to the age of 26 who were

receiving **Aftercare** or **Continuing Care** when they passed away. By doing this, we hope to reduce the risk of preventable deaths.

“We are also working with partners to improve how **we use data to better understand** the health and wellbeing of those with care experience ~~is tracked~~, so we can find out how they can best be supported.

“We remain resolute in our commitment to improving the lives of those with care experience – we have made progress but recognise there is still much to do.”

Background

On the Promise progress

QUERY – The Ferret

In the previous year 21 children and young people in care died. Of those 12 were in after or through care. The numbers have been published already for previous years but the maximum number was 15 in 2017.

This year there were 14 from Jan-Sept.

Fiona Duncan, along with campaigners are young people are calling for this to be a wake-up call about the need for Scotland to "keep the promise".

It would much appreciated if I could have a response to this tragedy - ideally, given what a big emphasis the SG put on the importance of the care review and the resulting promise - from a minister. What do these stats tell us, and what more can the SG do to ensure the we keep our promise to young people in care.

[Redacted]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: [Redacted]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 20 October 2021 13:13

To: [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Cc: Moffat J (Jane) <Jane.Moffat@gov.scot>; Henderson G (Gavin) <Gavin.Henderson@gov.scot>; [Redacted]

Subject: The National Piece - Deaths in Care

Hi [Redacted]

On the back of the activity yesterday around the media request to The Promise, we have been advised that the attached (or an edited version of it) will run on Sunday. I believe [Redacted] stated that this was for The Ferret and the Sunday edition of the National.

I expect that we will be asked for a comment.

The lines below were cleared by Ms Haughey last week and [redacted] should be able to provide lines on The Promise as needed.

Happy to chat.

[Redacted]

- The death of any child or young person is a tragedy. The Scottish Government is committed to working with our partners to learn from each death and to reduce the ongoing risks of preventable death (and harm) of children and young people

National hub and review of deaths

- On 1 October we launched a national child death review system across Scotland.
- We want to ensure the death of every child is subject to a high quality and consistent review to inform learning in order to reduce the number of preventable deaths (and harm) of children and young people.
- A review will be conducted into the deaths of all live born children up to the date of their 18th birthday, or 26th birthday for care leavers who are in receipt of aftercare or continuing care at the time of their death.
- We are aware that this process does not cover young people with care experience who are not directly engaged with a service. We will continue to work with our partners to explore how to broaden the reach of the review to include this cohort of young people.

Monitoring health and wellbeing outcomes for care experienced people and data linkage

- The Scottish Government is working with our partners to explore how we can link existing data collections together to provide a clearer picture of health and wellbeing outcomes of children and young people with care experience.
- We are working with four local authorities over the course of the next 6-12 months on a pilot programme to link Community Health Index numbers with existing looked after children data to provide a better understanding of outcomes – this work will then inform the next required steps to achieve national rollout
- This work will ultimately provide a better understanding of long term outcomes for our young people and will help us measure improvements in the care system as we work together to #KeepThePromise.

[Redacted] | Care Leaver Support Team Leader

Improving Lives for People with Care Experience Unit | Children and Families Directorate | Scottish Government

✉ [Redacted] | 📧 [Redacted]

challenges before they reach crisis point. The fund aims to significantly reduce the number of children and young people in care by 2030.

It was also announced in Programme for Government that as part of the work to Keep The Promise, young people who leave care will be able to access a new Care Experience Grant. The £200 a year grant for 16 to 26 year olds, backed by annual investment of up to £10 million, recognises the financial disadvantages often experienced by those in care.

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[Redacted]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: **[Redacted]**

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Care Experience – Media Query – Deaths in Care – DFM Clearance – 21 October 2021

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 21 October 2021 20:32

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Cc: Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Moffat J (Jane) <Jane.Moffat@gov.scot>; Henderson G (Gavin) <Gavin.Henderson@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: SpAds views: Media query - Deaths in Care - The Ferret/Sunday National

Thanks, [Redacted]. Much appreciated.

I'll issue now.

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Sent: 21 October 2021 20:31

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Moffat J (Jane) <Jane.Moffat@gov.scot>; Henderson G (Gavin) <Gavin.Henderson@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: SpAds views: Media query - Deaths in Care - The Ferret/Sunday National

Hi [Redacted]

DFM has approved

Thanks

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery, John Swinney MSP

Tel: [Redacted]

From: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

Sent: 21 October 2021 19:42

To: [Redacted]; [Redacted]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Moffat J (Jane) <Jane.Moffat@gov.scot>; Henderson G (Gavin) <Gavin.Henderson@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted];

[Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: SpAds views: Media query - Deaths in Care - The Ferret/Sunday National

Apologies for delay. Ms Somerville is content for her part.

[Redacted]

Sent with BlackBerry Work (www.blackberry.com)

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 21 Oct 2021 18:13

To: [Redacted]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; "Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training" <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; "Moffat J (Jane)" <Jane.Moffat@gov.scot>; "Henderson G (Gavin)" <Gavin.Henderson@gov.scot>;

[Redacted]; Communications Education & Skills

<CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted];

[Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: SpAds views: Media query - Deaths in Care - The Ferret/Sunday National

Copying duty comms.

PO – please could you respond to this copylist?

Thanks

[Redacted]

Senior Media Manager | Communications Education and Skills | Scottish Government

Tel – [Redacted] | [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 21 October 2021 17:42

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Moffat J (Jane) <Jane.Moffat@gov.scot>; Henderson G (Gavin) <Gavin.Henderson@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted];

[Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: SpAds views: Media query - Deaths in Care - The Ferret/Sunday National

**PO/Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for COVID Recovery
PO/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills**

The Ferret are doing a piece following an FOI about the deaths of young people in care. Fiona Duncan of The Promise says it shows not enough is being done to Keep the Promise in the independent Care Review. (comments attached). Grateful for clearance on the following lines.

Thanks

Lana

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The death of any child or young person is a tragedy and we extend sincere condolences to those affected.

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[Redacted]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: **[Redacted]**

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)