



Martin Smith
Solicitor to the Inquiry
IICSA

BY E-MAIL to solicitors@iicsa.org.uk

10 Great Queen Street
London WC2B 5DG
T.020 3124 0600
actionforchildren.org.uk

16 January 2020

Dear Mr Smith

**Child Migration Programmes - Case Study Report - Follow up on Recommendations -
Action for Children**

Thank you for your letter of 2 January 2020 addressed to Deanna Neilson. Ms Neilson left the employment of Action for Children in March 2019. Our new Head of Safeguarding is Ms Juliet Ramage to whom I have copied this reply. She is available for contact as juliet.ramage@actionforchildren.org.uk.

You asked about further steps taken in respect of apologies issued to child migrants. Further to the apology provided by Ms Neilson in evidence on behalf of Action for Children, a public apology was placed on our website in 2018 for the involvement of NCH in the migration of children. This apology remains in place. It is also now linked to another section of our website aimed at providing advice and assistance for those who were formerly children in the care of NCH or Action for Children services.

A written apology was provided directly on 13 July 2018 to one former child migrant who had complained to Action for Children about his experience of sexual abuse. There has been no further contact with the person concerned.

A regular annual session is held for NCH Old Boys and Girls and information has been provided to attendees who were all formerly residents of NCH care homes. Information about the incidence of child sexual abuse in relation to child migrants was shared with this group at its event in 2018 and attendees were asked to advise if they knew of any concerns. Further to this event, one former child migrant contacted our Safeguarding Manager, Ms Hollie Todd, who spoke to him and provided a verbal apology. A written apology was offered but the person concerned did not wish for this.

There has been no other contact from former child migrants. We are aware that three former child migrants have made contact in the past with the Child Migrants Trust in order to access their care files on their behalf and we have now agreed with the Trust that in the event of future contact from former NCH child migrants, the Trust will advise ourselves so that it can discuss with those former child migrants the offer of an apology which Action for Children will then provide.

Action for Children does not hold current addresses of former child migrants other than when contacted by them. Individual apologies are therefore only possible in these circumstances and are provided in all such cases unless the former migrant has indicated a wish not to receive an apology.

You also asked about our Access to Records service. This service continues to be in place and continues to be provided free of charge. The Access to Records service is advertised on our website and links to advice provided about support for children formerly in the care of Action for Children or NCH and to the public apology and statement issued in 2018.

Copies of this correspondence will also be added to this part of the website.

I hope this update is valuable to the Inquiry in continuing its work.

Yours Sincerely,

David Derbyshire

Director of Practice Improvement

c.c.

Juliet Ramage, Head of Safeguarding.