

4.13 Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier of the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding files released to former clients of the Children's Service and former residents of Children's Homes:

Is the Minister satisfied with the process by which files are released to former clients of the Children's Service and former residents of Children's Homes?

Deputy A.E. Pryke of Trinity (The Minister for Health and Social Services):

There has unfortunately been a delay in providing some former clients of the Children's Service and former residents of Children's Homes with their files. Where files were provided to the police to assist them with the historical abuse investigation, requests were not able to be dealt with as they were received, but my department is working hard to provide these individuals with copies of their files and I am reassured that in the majority of cases individuals will receive copies of their files within the next 2 to 3 months.

4.13.1 Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier:

Could the Minister confirm that she has issued new guidelines to ensure that none of these excessive delays is repeated?

The Deputy of Trinity:

I have not issued any new guidelines because the guidelines are very much there, and some of the issues with the files which go to the police do take an awful long time. Also, when the files come back some of those files can be up to 1,500 plus pages long. But I am concerned, and I would like after discussions with the Deputy, that perhaps we can update these clients fairly regularly rather than leave them in the dark.