



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Social Work Services Inspectorate

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Date: 18 March 2005

Dear Mr Deuchars

Thank you for your letter of 28 February which I received on my return to the office on 4 March.

I note all that you write and, in particular, the results of your questionnaires. These are indeed matters of concern.

You will wish to know that last year Scottish Executive ministers decided that it was necessary to strengthen significantly the external inspection of social work services in Scotland. We are establishing a new Social Work Inspection Agency, resourced to undertake in-depth inspections of all local authority social work services. The new agency will start at the beginning of April this year.

You will also wish to know that we are conducting a review of provision for looked-after children which includes a study of kinship care arrangements including, of course, care by grandparents and contact with them.

The report of these studies will be published later this year and we shall ensure that six copies are sent to you at that time.

The findings of your study will be fed into the planning arrangements for the new inspection agency.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely

ANGUS SKINNER
Chief Inspector

