

PN/CS/101/CORR09

Education Otherwise  
PO Box 325  
Kings Lynn  
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April 28, 2009

**NSPCC**   
**Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.**

**National Society for the Prevention  
of Cruelty to Children**

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[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Dear Fiona, Annette, and Ian

Thank you for coming to meet Natalie Cronin and me.

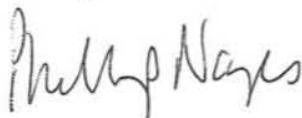
I would like to make it absolutely clear that the NSPCC is not against elective home education. We believe parents should have the right to decide what is in the best interests of their children. Following correspondence from parents who educate their children at home, and our meeting we recognise the anger that some parents feel. For many educating their children at home was not their first choice, but has come about by their children being let down in some way by the education system.

As regards the reference made to Victoria Climbié in the Independent, I would like to apologise for the offence this has caused. Clearly there is no connection between home education and Victoria's tragic death as she was not being educated at home. Despite the fact that it was not the intention of the NSPCC's spokesperson to suggest such a connection, I recognise, as does he, that it was inappropriate to refer to Victoria in this context. We have apologised to the Victoria Climbié Foundation on this matter, too.

The NSPCC is concerned about the safeguarding of all children whether they are educated at home or at school and that will be the basis of our involvement with the Government review. We wish to make no inference about any connection between home education and abuse.

At the conclusion of, and in the light of, our discussion we recognised the need to continue to encourage and enable adults or children from turning for help to the NSPCC or ChildLine when they are worried. I very much hope that this will be the case.

Yours sincerely



Phillip Noyes  
Director of Public Policy



**NSPCC**   
**CHILD PROTECTION  
HELPLINE  
0808 800 5000**

*ChildLine is a service provided by the NSPCC*

*Patron: Her Majesty The Queen Chairman: Sir Christopher Kelly Director and Chief Executive: Dame Mary Marsh*

Founded in 1884. Incorporated by Royal Charter. Registered charity number 216401. Scottish registered charity number SC037717. NS/1152.