

25 October 2018

Dr Andrew Murrison MP
Chair, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



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Dear Dr Murrison,

I am writing to correct a figure I gave in error during my evidence on behalf of Barnardo's Northern Ireland to the Committee's inquiry into funding priorities for the 2018-19 health budget last week.

During the evidence session, Lady Hermon MP asked me how many children are in the care system in Northern Ireland. I responded that the figure is 31,000; however, the figure is 3,100. This was due to a typing error in my briefing and I apologise for providing an inaccurate number at the time. The recently published Children's Social Care Statistics for NI 2017/18 show that at 31 March 2018, 3,109 children were in care in Northern Ireland. As I mentioned in my evidence, this was the highest number recorded since the introduction of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. This publication is available [here](#).

For the purposes of accuracy, I would also like to clarify another point in relation to our work with Syrian refugees. In response to a question from Lady Hermon, I suggested that Barnardo's Northern Ireland has been engaged in this work with the consortium since 2016; however work actually began in 2015.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide evidence to the Committee's inquiry. I apologise again for the technical error in my response, and hope this clarification is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynda Wilson".

Lynda Wilson CBE
Director, Barnardo's Northern Ireland



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President: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall
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