

# LAMBETH

London Borough of Lambeth  
Lambeth Town Hall  
Brixton Hill  
LONDON SW2 1RW  
071 926 2965

Fax line 071 926 2844

Your Ref:

Our Ref: ldr/SSI

Date: 7 December 1992

Mr David Lambert  
Social Services Inspector,  
London Region - DHSS  
19th Floor, Euston Towers  
286 Euston Road LONDON NW1 3DN

Dear Mr Lambert

I am writing to elaborate on the Council's statement which I sent to you on Friday 4 December.

"During the last few months the Council has been working closely with the SSI and the Police investigating what had been happening in the past in our Children's Homes.

We have improved our practices during the last two years with better management and procedures and are confident that we are providing a high standard of care for the children we are responsible for.

We have discussed with the SSI what further action we should take and would welcome a full inspection of our homes by the SSI or an independent inquiry into our care arrangements including the historical problems. We will be discussing this with the SSI in the next few days."

I also believe that the Minister, Mr Yeo issued the following statement:

"The Social Services' Inspectorate will respond urgently to a request from the local authority to go in and examine the management of children's homes in Lambeth in January."

My authority is concerned that any independent investigation has two specific focuses.

1. That the historical position with regard to the police investigations surrounding Southvale should be investigated and that all the matters raised with you in correspondence from Councillor Tapsell, in particular her letter of the 30 September, should be investigated both within Lambeth and with information from any of the other boroughs involved.

- 
2. That any inspection of the current procedures and practices in these matter should take account of any issue which may come to light from 1. above, in order to make sure that we are providing high quality care to the children for whom we are responsible.

An early response to this letter would be welcome.

Yours sincerely

**DPA**

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL