

Children's Authority responds to viral photos of abused child

Express

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THE Children's Authority stated yesterday that it took immediate action after images surfaced on social media of a child with injuries about his body.

The Authority said it did not receive any reports on the matter on its hotline but, when the images were seen, the Authority immediately contacted the Child Protection Unit (CPU) of the Trinidad and Tobago Po-

lice Service.

There was a joint response by both agencies and the matter is being treated with the sensitivity and confidentiality it requires, according to the Authority.

"The Authority notes with deep concern that physical abuse is one of the highest types of abuse being reported to our hotline. Although the Children's Act 2012 permits only parents

(and guardians) to apply 'reasonable' corporal punishment of children, while forbidding its use by anyone else, the reports of physical abuse against children are often far outside anything permissible," stated the release.

The Authority added that the public can call its hotline 996 or 800-2014 if they have any concerns or suspicions about a child's safety.