

An Leas-phrìomh Mhinistear agus Ath-shlànachadh
Cobhid
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid
Recovery
John Swinney MSP



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Sue Webber MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh

By email: ECYP.committee@Parliament.Scot

22 June 2022

Dear Sue,

Scotland's Redress Scheme

On 16 May, I wrote to the Committee's previous Convener, Stephen Kerr MSP, to provide an update on Scotland's Redress Scheme following a request on 25 April.

Since then, some of the planned changes I referred to have been implemented, and additional data is now available in regard to the first six months of the scheme operation. With this in mind, I hope it will be helpful to provide a further update, as I am aware the committee share my personal commitment to ensuring the scheme is delivered in a robust, transparent and person-centred manner.

Recruitment of case workers is continuing. Successful candidates are going through the necessary HR and security checks while other posts are being advertised externally.

As I expressed in May, it is a matter of priority for me, and my officials delivering the scheme, to improve the lead time on some aspects of communication and engagement with applicants.

I am pleased to report that a new operating model has been introduced. This has resulted in over 480 applications being reviewed, and follow-up letters sent, offering support to applicants and next steps advice to allow their application to progress - prior to having a case worker allocated to them.

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New applications are currently receiving their initial communication within four weeks of receipt and this communication now includes more information on next steps in line with the new triage system model.

As the scheme has been operational for six months, I am now able to report more detail on the numbers of decisions and payments made, as well as the associated amounts of those payments. Further official reporting, in line with the requirements of the Act, and wider reporting commitments will be available in due course.

The latest available figures for applications show that 1,275 survivor applications, 81 next of kin applications and 49 expenses applications have been received. 107 redress applications have been passed to Redress Scotland for consideration and of those, 60 have had an initial determination made.

The table below provides detail on the number of payments made and total amounts. The figures on payments should be read with full understanding that applicants have six months from the date of receiving an offer of payment to make a decision of whether to accept.

Type of Application	No. of Payments Made	Total Amount of Payments Made
Fixed Rate	17	£170, 000
Individually Assessed	32	£2, 020, 430.21
Solicitor Expenses	2	£134.40
Applicant Expenses	40	£790.95
Legal Fees	5	£12, 000

In my last update, I advised that there were eleven organisations on the contributor list. Since that time, agreements for fair and meaningful contributions have been reached with a further 3 organisations which I can now confirm are;

East Park School,
All 22 NHS Scotland Boards,
& The Royal Blind Asylum and School Edinburgh, known as Sight Scotland.

Discussions continue with other organisations who have expressed an interest in becoming contributors, and so we anticipate further additions to the list in due course.

We remain open to dialogue with all organisations who wish to be part of our national collective endeavour to recognise the harms of the past. The full list of contributors can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#).

I trust this update is helpful, and I appreciate the continued support of the committee in our shared commitment to support Scotland's acknowledgement and tangible recognition of the harm suffered as a result of historic child abuse in relevant care settings in Scotland.

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I have copied this to all Members of the Scottish Parliament, to assist colleagues in dealing with enquiries from constituents. I will provide further information in due course.

Yours sincerely

JOHN SWINNEY

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