



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education Children and Young People Committee

John Swinney MSP
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary
for Covid Recovery
Scottish Government

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30 January 2023

Via E-mail

Dear Deputy First Minister,

Redress Scotland

Thank you for attending the Committee on [Thursday 12 January 2023](#) to provide an update on the operation of the Redress Scheme.

The Committee felt it was a very constructive and helpful evidence session and appreciated both your openness and the level of detail you were able to provide.

The Committee agreed it would be helpful to write to you to follow up on some of the topics highlighted in your evidence.

Fornethy Survivors

The Committee understands that your discussions with Fornethy survivors have led you to reflect upon when they might fall within the scope of the Redress Scheme.

Given that your thinking on this issue has evolved over time, the Committee is interested to know how you intend to communicate this to survivors who may wish to

apply for redress, to Scottish Government staff assisting with Redress Scheme applications and to Redress Scotland staff?

Prioritisation of Cases

The Committee understands that applications to the Redress Scheme are currently prioritised if the applicant has a) a terminal diagnosis or b) is over the age of 68 years old. The Committee would welcome your further thoughts on whether, given many survivors have poor health, you would consider prioritising applications from survivors who are living with life-limiting conditions, which may be chronic and/or fluctuating, but not considered terminal?

18-month Review

The Committee is keen to understand how the Redress Scheme has been working in practice, and specifically how the waiver has affected survivors' willingness to apply to the Redress Scheme.

You had asked if Members had any specific areas they would like to be addressed in the context of the planned 18 month review.

Members have suggested that the following information would be particularly useful:

- How you plan to assess the impact of the waiver, in relation to:
 - those survivors who have already received a Redress Payment;
 - those survivors who have started an application, but then not proceeded to a Redress Payment; and
 - those survivors who have had no contact with the Redress Scheme?
- Whether all the payments made so far related to organisations which are scheme contributors?
- Of the organisations which stated they would not contribute financially to the Redress scheme unless a waiver was in place, how many have now contributed?
- Which measures are built into the Scheme to ensure that the experience of survivors is properly, but sensitively, evaluated (i.e. in a way that avoids retraumatising survivors)? For example, are survivors asked at an early stage if they are happy to receive further contact once the application process is complete? Who would carry out this evaluation and what happens to the information gleaned from this process?

Testimony to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

In your evidence to the Committee, you stated that a restriction put in place by Lady Smith currently prevents some survivors from using previous testimony to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry when applying to the Redress Scheme.

It would be helpful if you could confirm if you were referring to the [general restriction order](#)?

If so, Members would welcome sight of the representations you have made to Lady Smith on this matter.

The Committee would welcome your response to the points raised in this letter by
24th February 2023.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Webber', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Sue Webber MSP
Convener