

FINANCIAL REDRESS ADVANCE PAYMENT SCHEME ANNIVERSARY STATISTICS

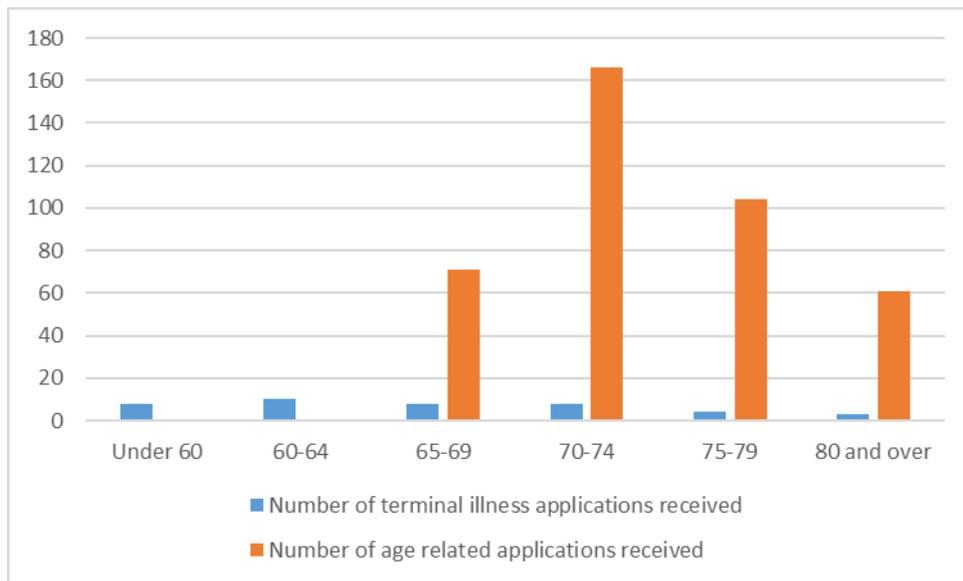
In October 2018 the Deputy First Minister made a statement in parliament committing to establish a statutory financial redress scheme for survivors of abuse in care in Scotland prior to December 2004. Legislation is to be passed before the end of March 2021, subject to parliamentary approval, and the Redress Scheme will open as soon as possible after that. Recognising the time it would take to set up the statutory scheme, the Advance Payment Scheme opened on 25 April 2019 for older survivors and those who have a terminal illness. Initially the age was set at 70 but this reduced to 68 in December 2019.

Overview of the first year

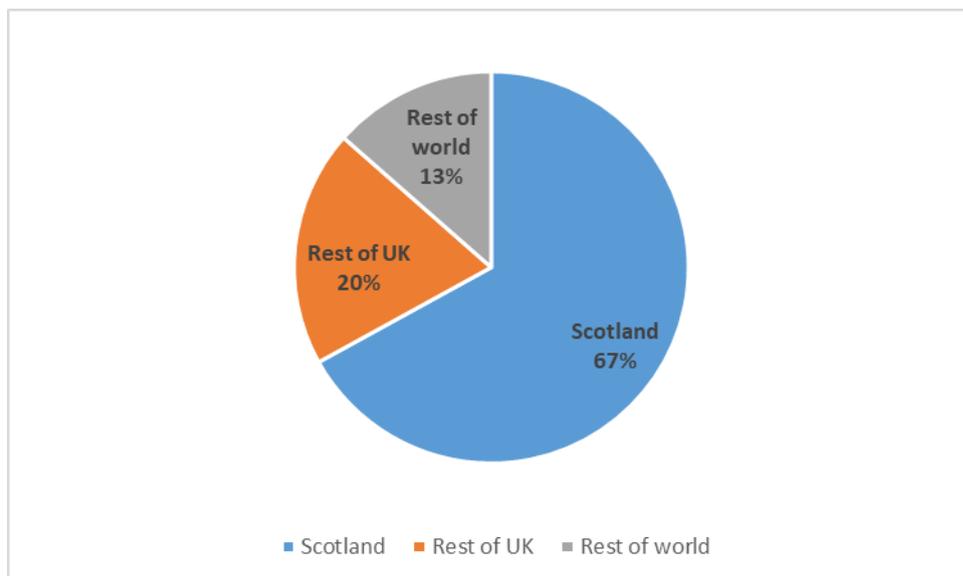
Key statistics for the Advance Payment Scheme from its launch on 25 April 2019 until 25 April 2020 are summarised below -

- A total of 417 payments had been made as at 25 April 2020.
- The majority of applications (90%) were submitted on grounds of age, the remainder on grounds of terminal illness. Applications from those with a terminal illness were, and continue to be, prioritised.
- The majority of applications were approved within 22 days. The quickest turnaround time was within 24 hours of receipt of application. Some cases took longer for a range of reasons to do with receipt or confirmation of supporting documentation.
- A higher number of applications were received from men (57%) compared to women (43%).
- Around 8% of applications were ineligible based on scheme criteria. This was either in relation to age, not being confirmed as terminally ill or not being in care in Scotland.
- The majority of applications (67%) were from survivors residing in Scotland, with a further 20% residing in the rest of the United Kingdom.
- The remaining applications (13%) were from survivors living abroad, most of them from Australia.
- 34 applicants have informed us that they were child migrants.
- Since the reduction of the age threshold from 70 to 68 following a review of the Scheme in December 2019, 57 payments have been made to applicants aged either 68 or 69.

Age of applicants by application type



Location applicant applied from



Feedback from applicants and those who have helped them apply

A formal system for collating feedback from applicants was purposely not put in place at the start of the Advance Payment Scheme as this was considered to be a further demand on survivors in addition to the process of applying.

Many have however provided heartfelt and often very emotional feedback to the Scheme by way of phone calls, thank you cards and emails. Some examples are given below -

- I can't thank you enough for making the process as stress free as possible
- informative, kind and most helpful
- like speaking to a friend and not a random person in a call centre
- my sincere thanks for the sensitive way that you dealt with my mum's application

The Advance Payment Scheme will remain open until the statutory redress scheme is operational. The focus throughout has been to deliver Advance Payments and provide recognition and acknowledgment in a sensitive and trauma informed way. The application process was designed to be as straightforward as possible, whilst ensuring robust procedures for the use of public funds.

To be added to our mailing list and receive updates about the development of the **statutory redress scheme**, contact the Advance Payment Team on the number below, or email redress@gov.scot

Contact us

Telephone: call free on 0808 169 9740 (phone lines are normally open Monday to Thursday, 10am to 4pm) – during public health restrictions, leave us a message and we will call you back

Email: AdvancePaymentTeam@gov.scot

Post: Freepost ADVANCE PAYMENT

If you are calling from overseas : +44 131 528 5400

More information about the Advance Payment Scheme

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/financial-redress-for-survivors-of-child-abuse-in-care-advance-payment-scheme/>

