



FINANCIAL REDRESS FOR SURVIVORS OF HISTORICAL CHILD ABUSE IN CARE

Information Note 5, March 2020

Covid-19 Update, Consultation Analysis, and Parliamentary Process

Covid-19 update

We understand that the unprecedented situation surrounding Covid-19 (also known as coronavirus) is creating a great deal of worry and uncertainty. We are making every effort to ensure that the Scottish Government's work to provide financial redress to survivors of historical child abuse in care continues with as little disruption as possible.

Our priority is to ensure that the Advance Payment Scheme for those with a terminal illness or age 68 or over remains open to accept applications. We are sorry but in the current situation there may be some barriers or delays affecting our ability to process and verify applications. We will not always be able to open our phone lines (0808 169 9740) at the usual times. However, we are able to receive voicemail messages so please leave your name and number and we will phone you back as soon as we can. You can also email us:

AdvancePaymentTeam@gov.scot. Further information about the Advance Payment Scheme is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/financial-redress-for-survivors-of-child-abuse-in-careadvance-payment-scheme/>.

The consultation analysis and the Parliamentary process

To inform the design and delivery of the statutory financial redress scheme, a pre-legislative public consultation was launched last year and ran for 12 weeks, closing on 25 November 2019. 280 responses were received, the majority of which were from survivors. Independent analysis of all consultation responses has now concluded and a summary report was published on 23 March (www.gov.scot/isbn/9781839606397).

Thank you to everyone who submitted a response. The views expressed are helping to shape the draft legislation (which we will refer to as 'the Bill') which will be introduced to the Scottish Parliament during 2020. This update outlines the various stages in the legislative process which normally take place and notes the ways for you to get involved and have your voice heard.

We will continue to work closely with survivors, care providers and other stakeholders throughout the parliamentary process and the preparation for the implementation of the statutory redress scheme.

I submitted a response to the consultation, what happened with my views?

All consultation responses were passed to a team of independent analysts who have written a report with their findings. The full report can be viewed at:

www.gov.scot/isbn/9781839605727,

and a summary at:

www.gov.scot/isbn/9781839606397.

Responses from individuals and organisations were published online, if they gave us permission to do so.

You can view them at:

<https://consult.gov.scot/redress-survivor-relations/financial-redress-historical-child-abuse-in-care/>.

What happens with the analysis report?

The findings from the consultation are helping to shape the content of the Bill which will be introduced to the Scottish Parliament later this year. The report on the consultation is publicly available and will form part of the material that is considered during the parliamentary process.

What will happen during the parliamentary process?

The process for any Bill is broadly the same. After it is introduced, there are three stages of scrutiny it requires to pass before being submitted for Royal Assent and becoming law. We have included a summary of how those stages generally proceed below. For more information please see

<https://www.parliament.scot/visitandlearn/Education/18641.aspx>.

What happens at introduction?

The Bill is formally submitted to the Scottish Parliament. The Bill and accompanying documents are usually publicly available on the Parliament's website about 8.30 am on the morning *after* introduction.

What happens at Stage 1?

The Bill will be referred to a lead committee in the Parliament. The first step for a lead committee is usually to issue a 'call for evidence' which invites written evidence on the general principles of the Bill. The lead committee will then usually hold a series of meetings to hear oral evidence on the provisions of the Bill.

The committee will then prepare and publish a report on the general principles of the Bill, and the Scottish Government will publish a response to the report. The whole of the Scottish Parliament will then debate and vote on whether or not the general principles of the Bill are agreed. This vote determines whether the Bill progresses to Stage 2.

What happens at Stage 2?

The lead committee will consider and vote on proposed amendments to the Bill. Any MSP, even if they are not members of the lead committee, can lodge amendments, however

only members of the lead committee can vote on them.

What happens at Stage 3?

There is a further opportunity for proposed amendments to be considered and voted on, although this now takes place before the whole Parliament rather than within the lead committee. Again, any MSP can seek to have their proposed amendment considered but this time, they too will get to vote on amendments. Once amendments have been dealt with, there will be a debate on the Bill followed by a vote of the whole of the Scottish Parliament. If Parliament votes to pass the Bill, it proceeds to Royal Assent.

What happens at Royal Assent?

The Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament will submit the Bill, as passed at Stage 3, for Royal Assent which, once granted, has the effect of turning the Bill into an Act of the Scottish Parliament.

How can I take part in the legislative process?

There are different ways to get involved in the legislative process.

- You may already have given your views to the consultation, which the Committee will consider during Stage 1.
- You can send your views to the lead committee in response to their call for evidence.
- You can contact your MSP who has the power to lodge an amendment during the parliamentary consideration of the Bill.

- You can attend committee meetings or engagement events held throughout the parliamentary passage of the Bill.

Where can I find the call for evidence?

The call for evidence will be published on the Scottish Parliament's website. We will provide an update and include links when available.

How do I find out who my MSP is?

You can find out who your MSP is by searching your postcode on the Scottish Parliament website:
<https://www.parliament.scot/index.aspx>

How will I know which committee is looking at the Bill?

You can find out what committee is looking at the Bill by looking on the Scottish Parliament website.
<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/committees.aspx>. At the time of this update, the lead committee has not yet been confirmed.

When will the redress scheme be in place?

The Bill will be introduced to Parliament later this year with the intention of completing the legislative process by the end of this Parliamentary term in March 2021, subject to Parliamentary approval. The financial redress scheme will open as soon as possible after that. Some time will be needed to set up

the governance structures to deliver the redress scheme.

What about survivors who are very elderly or ill?

Survivors of historical child abuse in care in Scotland who have a terminal illness, or are age 68 or over, can apply now to the Advance Payment Scheme. This scheme opened in April 2019 and it is intended that it will remain open until the statutory redress scheme opens. Further details about advance payments, eligibility, and how to apply can be found at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/financialredress-for-survivors-of-child->

[abuse-in-careadvance-payment-scheme/](https://www.gov.scot/publications/financialredress-for-survivors-of-child-abuse-in-careadvance-payment-scheme/).

How can I find out about other support for survivors of abuse in care in Scotland?

Information about sources of support can be found at:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/child-protection/supporting-child-abuse-survivors/>.

Finding out more

You can find out more about the Scottish Government's approach to financial redress for survivors of historical child abuse in care, including details of the Advance Payment Scheme, at:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/childprotection/supporting-child-abuse-survivors>.

If you find you are distressed you can contact **Breathing Space** free of charge on 0800 83 85 87 or the **Samaritans** free of charge on 116 123.
