



FINANCIAL REDRESS FOR SURVIVORS OF HISTORICAL CHILD ABUSE IN CARE

Parliamentary Committee calls for views on the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Bill

Information Note 7

September 2020

The Scottish Government introduced the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Bill to the Scottish Parliament on 13 August 2020. The Deputy First Minister gave a statement and answered questions about the Redress Bill in the Scottish Parliament. This is available to watch here: <https://www.scottishparliament.tv/meeting/ministerial-statement-scotlands-redress-scheme-for-survivors-of-historical-child-abuse-in-care-august-19-2020>

The Redress Bill will now be considered through the formal parliamentary process which applies to all draft legislation in Scotland. For redress, hearing the views of survivors is at the heart of this. The Parliament's Education and Skills Committee has invited views on the Redress Bill by 2 October 2020. The Bill, its accompanying documents and the Committee's call for evidence are available here: <https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/115852.aspx>

We know that there are different views on the Bill amongst survivors. There are some difficult issues that need further, careful discussion. We have listened to what survivors have told us about redress over the last three years. We will continue to do so throughout the Parliamentary process. There may be amendments to the Bill before it is finalised by the end of this Parliamentary term in March 2021.

As we take the next steps on this path to acknowledge and recognise the harm done in the past to children in care in Scotland, we recognise the importance of treating each other with respect and care for each other's wellbeing. This Information Note aims to help individuals have the opportunity to hear and to be heard.

The Bill is long and difficult to read. How can I get information about the main points?

The style of legislation means the Bill is detailed, long and not easy to read. We are now preparing Frequently Asked Questions Bulletins on the main points. These will be published in the next few weeks and you can check for them on our webpages or phone and ask for them to be sent to you. You can find a helpful list of the key features of the proposed redress scheme in Information Note 6. Our contact details are at the end of this Note.

It is important that survivors have accurate information about what is in the Bill. You will then be better able to form a view on it, and to know whether you agree or disagree with parts of it.

Can I speak to anyone if I need to ask questions about the Bill, or if I have heard things I am not sure about?

We encourage you to contact us if you are unclear or confused about any aspect of the Redress Bill. We are happy to provide answers on the phone or by email. You can contact us whether you agree or disagree with what is in the Bill, or if you have not yet decided what you think about it. Please be reassured that we will respect your views and will not try to change your mind in any way. We want to listen, and answer your questions as straightforwardly as we can. Our contact details are at the end of this Note.

For further information about the Parliamentary Committee's work on the Redress Bill, please contact the Parliament's Education and Skills Team directly by email at es.submissions@parliament.scot.

I am concerned about some aspects of the Bill. What is the best way to make my views known?

The Education and Skills Committee is considering whether the Parliament should agree to the general principles of this Bill and, if so, what improvements could be made to it. The first thing the Committee has done is to ask for views on the Bill. The Committee has provided guidance on how to do this which you can read here:

https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Education/General%20Documents/20200824_Redress_Bill_Guidance_Final.pdf.

What role does the Review Group now have?

The InterAction Action Plan Review Group has played an important and valuable role over a number of years in the consideration of redress and the wider engagement with survivors. Since the pre-legislative consultation closed in December 2019, considering the responses in the independent findings report and the shape of the proposed redress scheme has been carried out within the Scottish Government, and agreed by Scottish Ministers. Members of the Review Group were not involved in that process, and had not been informed of our proposals

for scheme design or payment levels before the Redress Bill was introduced to Parliament.

I am finding the discussions about the Bill and thinking about redress distressing.

Thinking about redress can be upsetting and, for some, it may be bringing back difficult memories. We know that money cannot make up for the harm done. We have heard from survivors that it can go

some way, alongside non-financial forms of redress such as support and apology, to provide acknowledgment and recognition. The safety and wellbeing of survivors is of the utmost importance. We will not all agree on all aspects of the Bill, but it is important that everyone engages respectfully and considerately. If you need support, contact details for organisations that can help are provided below.

For more information about financial redress:

- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/financial-redress-for-survivors-of-child-abuse-in-care-information-note/>
- You can contact us by phoning 0808 169 9740 and leaving us a message. Please leave your name and number and we will phone you back as soon as we can.
- You can also email us:
Email enquiries about the redress scheme: redress@gov.scot
Email enquiries about Advance Payments: AdvancePaymentTeam@gov.scot

Currently we are not able to offer meetings in person.

Contacts

If you wish to report your abuse, contact [Police Scotland](#) on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

If you wish to tell the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry about your abuse, contact them on 0800 092 9300 or email talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot

If you need support, contact Future Pathways on 0808 164 2005 or email registration@future-pathways.co.uk

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.
