

FINANCIAL REDRESS ADVANCE PAYMENT SCHEME SECOND YEAR STATISTICS

In October 2018 the Deputy First Minister made a statement in Parliament committing to establish a statutory financial redress scheme for survivors of childhood abuse in care in Scotland prior to December 2004.

The Advance Payment Scheme opened on 25 April 2019 for older survivors (initially age 70 and over and subsequently reduced to age 68 and over) and those who have a terminal illness.

This update provides details for the full second year of the scheme from 26 April 2020 until 25 April 2021.

The Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 23 April 2021. Work is now underway to ensure that the redress scheme will open as soon as possible, by December 2021 at the latest, subject to the agreement of Redress Scotland. Until then, the Advance Payment Scheme will remain open to survivors who are age 68 and over or who are terminally ill.

The Scheme has continued to process applications and make payments throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. During the early stages of lockdown significantly fewer applications were received, as applicants inevitably faced more challenges in sourcing the necessary documents to support their applications. However, as restrictions began to ease in the summer of last year the number of applications received began to rise again and has remained constant since then.

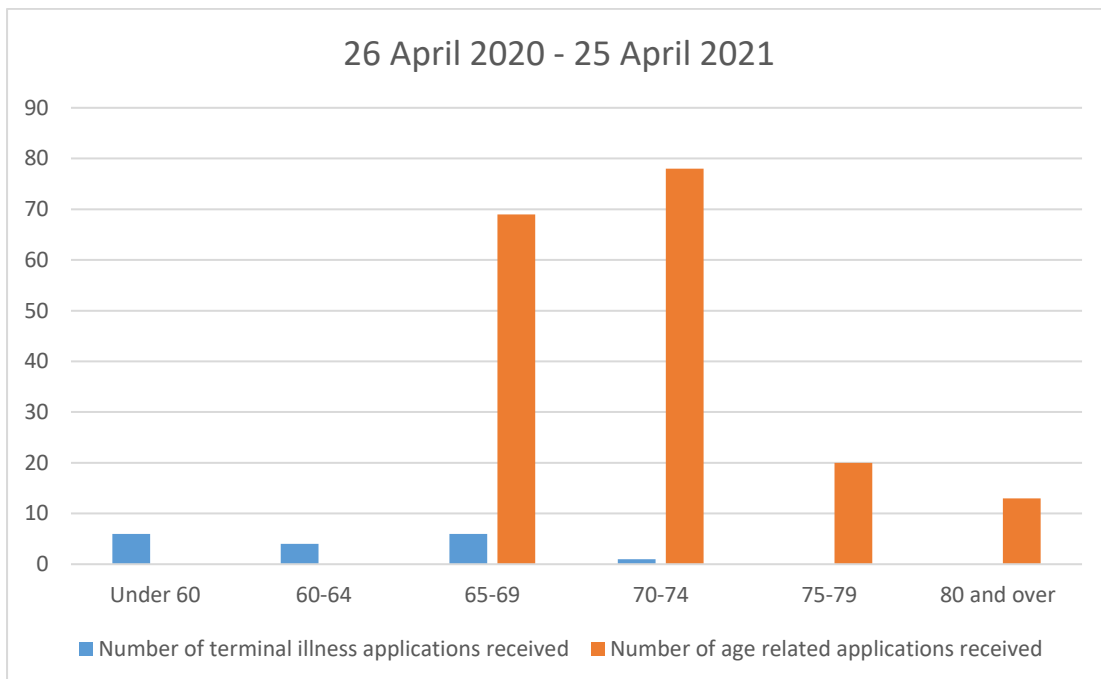
1. Overview of the second year

Key statistics for the Advance Payment Scheme from 26 April 2020 until 25 April 2021 are summarised below -

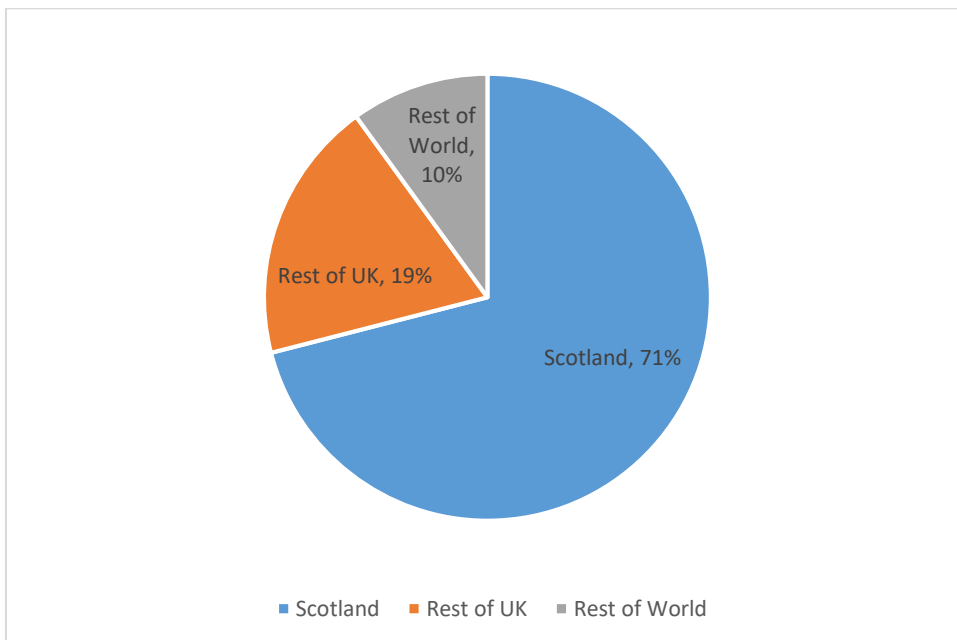
- A total of 219 applications were received of which 197 were eligible.
- A total of 166 payments were made (16 of these were to applications received before 26 April 2020).
- Of the remaining applications – 33 were in progress and 14 were on hold. This was due to a number of factors in relation to receipt or confirmation of supporting documents.
- The majority of applications (91%) 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.

- Inevitably Covid has had an impact, making it more difficult or slower for applicants to obtain evidence, and somewhat slowing our ability to progress applications received. Nevertheless, almost half the applications were approved within one calendar month. The quickest turnaround time was within 4 days of receipt of application. The remaining cases took longer for a range of reasons including delays in receipt or confirmation of supporting documentation.
- A higher number of applications were received from men (65%) compared to women (35%).
- Around 11% 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 (71%) were from survivors residing in Scotland, with a further 19% residing in the rest of the United Kingdom.
- The remaining applications (10%) were from survivors living abroad, most of them from Australia.
- 10 applicants informed us that they were child migrants.

2. Age of applicants by application type



3. Location applicant applied from



4. 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 -

- The whole process is so well organised with the form clearly laid out and easy to follow.
- I can't thank you all enough for the help, kindness and belief you had in me
- I can't begin to tell you how great it feels just to be believed
- Words can't express the gratitude we feel to everyone who helped mum with this outcome
- Thank you for your patience and understanding in helping me with my application

- This has been a very emotional journey.....everyone has been so caring, understanding and supportive

We have also received constructive suggestions about how to improve aspects of the application process and are taking these forward – for example being clearer in our Privacy Notice and FAQ documents about how we verify evidence of being in care. We will shortly update our forms as a result.

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.

If you would like to receive updates on the progress towards the **statutory redress scheme opening**, please ask to join our mailing list. You can do this by contacting the number below, or by email redress@gov.scot

5. Contact us

Telephone: call free on 0808 169 9740, the phone line is currently an answering machine only so please leave your name and contact details and we will phone you back as quickly as possible.

Email: AdvancePaymentTeam@gov.scot – for enquiries about the Advance Payment Scheme

redress@gov.scot – for enquiries about the statutory redress scheme

Post: Freepost ADVANCE PAYMENT

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

6. More information about the Advance Payment Scheme

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

