

Invitation letter for the meeting with Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning on 11 February 2016

Population Health Improvement Directorate
Care, Support and Rights



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

January 2016

Dear [Redacted]

MEETING WITH THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

You are invited to a meeting with Ms Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, together with a number of survivors.

The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss:

- The Scottish Government's progress in implementing the commitments it gave in implementing the Scottish Human Rights Commission's Inter-Action Plan;
- The constraints placed on the Scottish Government in influencing the work of an active statutory Public Inquiry; and
- The Scottish Government's firm and continuing commitment to active engagement with survivors and their representatives.

The meeting will be held in the Scottish Parliament on Thursday 11 February between 1:00 and 2:00 pm.

I would be grateful if you could contact [redacted] to confirm that you will be able to attend the meeting.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Julie. We, will of course, pay travel expenses.

Yours sincerely



Email confirming media line for issue – 21 March 2016

From: [redacted]

Sent: 21 March 2016 23:30

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning; [redacted]

Cc: Director of Population Health Improvement; [redacted] r for Children and Families; [redacted]

[redacted]

Subject: RE: URGENT: Survivor Meeting, Monday 21 March, Scottish parliament

Thanks. Will send now.

“This Government established one of the widest ranging inquiries that Scotland has ever seen. We are considering how else to support survivors in ways that are practical, meaningful and fair, including what we will do to help and prioritise the needs of older survivors through the Survivor Support Fund. We are also looking at the discretionary payment funds which are available as part of the support fund – and for this access to be as quick as possible.

“The Cabinet Secretary met survivors to outline the work being done in the months ahead and sought survivors' help to do so. We want to break down barriers for survivors. That's why we are introducing legislation to remove the legal time bar that prevents people from raising civil actions and claiming compensation after more than three years for cases after September 1964.

“And why we are one of the few countries in the world to have dedicated funding ensuring childhood abuse survivors can access essential services and support now. We have recently announced the consortium which secured the tender to administer the £13.5 million In Care Survivor Support Fund, which will provide additional support alongside the services we already provide.”

[Redacted] Communications: First Minister

Senior media manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: [redacted]

t: [redacted] **m:** [redacted]

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[Redacted]

Email to and from Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning Private office regarding letters issued to survivors following the meeting on 21 March 2016 along with a copy of the letter issued.

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 23 March 2016 17:06

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport; Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health; Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs; DG Health & Social Care; DG Learning & Justice; Director of Population Health Improvement; Director for Children and Families; **[Redacted]**

Subject: Survivor Meeting, Monday 21 March - Follow up Letter to Attendees

Importance: High

[Redacted]

Draft letter following up on the meeting with survivors on Monday for the Cabinet Secretary's consideration, and a list of e-mail addresses for the attendees.

I also attach the draft read-out from the meeting and would be grateful for any comments that Ms Constance has on that.

Best wishes

[Redacted]
Survivor policy Team

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning

Sent: 29 March 2016 11:24

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport; Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health; Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs; DG Health & Social Care; DG Learning & Justice; Director of Population Health Improvement; Director for Children and Families; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Survivor Meeting, Monday 21 March - Follow up Letter to Attendees

Hi [redacted]

Just a quick note to say that the letters to survivors following their meeting with Ms Constance on 21st March have now been issued.

If you need copies of the signed letters for your records, let me know and I'll email them across to you.

Cheers,

[redacted]

Correspondence Secretary – Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning

The Scottish Government
4N.08 St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted]

E-mail: CabSecELL@gov.scot

[Redacted]

23 March 2016

Dear [Redacted]

SURVIVOR MEETING - MONDAY 21 MARCH

Following our meeting on 21 March I thought that it would be helpful to write to restate my continuing commitment to work with you to find ways to further support survivors, including older survivors who will not have access to redress through the courts when the time bar is lifted.

At the meeting I mentioned Jamie Hepburn's announcement of Monday 14 March that a consortium bid consisting of three organisations: Penumbra; Health in Mind; and the Mental Health Foundation, supported by 26 other organisations that provide services for survivors, had been successful in the tender to administer the Survivor Support Fund for people who were abused as children while in care. Officials have also now written to you explaining the position.

I expect the Survivor Support Fund to be operational by the autumn of this year, and I have asked officials to expedite access to the Fund, including needs assessment for older survivors, by the end of June. This will allow older survivors to be the first people to gain access to the Support Fund, including the discretionary element. I gave this commitment during General Questions in the Chamber of the Scottish Parliament today.

I understand your disappointment that I was unable to make an announcement on 21 March as regards to support for older survivors. I want to reassure you of my continuing commitment to identify solutions to meet their needs.

I believe that survivor members of the InterAction Review Group have carried out some preparatory work on what the discretionary fund might look like and how it could operate. Officials will work closely with that group to develop further key aspects of how the discretionary fund might operate in practice. However, as I said at the meeting on 21 March, it is important that all survivors who wish to contribute and feed into this important work can do so. That is why I asked you to share with me, by the end of April, any ideas or thoughts that you or the groups you represent may have so that I can ensure these are considered as this work develops.

Continuing engagement and dialogue between survivors and the Scottish Government is of paramount importance. Your insight from a survivor perspective is invaluable and we need you to share your views and concerns with us if we are to provide the support that survivors need. In this connection, in the next Parliamentary Session, I propose that we put in place a regular meeting with the relevant Scottish Ministers from health, justice and learning portfolios appropriate for the matters under discussion. This would have an independent facilitator/chair and meetings will be planned and led with a view to ensuring that everyone can contribute in a safe and supportive environment.

I would be grateful to learn of your views on this proposal, if possible by the end of April, and of any further ideas or feedback you have on how we can have a more structured approach to regular engagement between Scottish Ministers and all survivors. I will consider your views before sharing them with officials in the Survivor Policy Team. I have also asked officials to plan our next meeting on a date as soon as possible following the election in May, assuming that we receive a favourable election result.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you personally as well as on behalf of my other Ministerial colleagues, Paul Wheelhouse and Jamie Hepburn, for your continuing courage and dedication to those who have experienced abuse as children. I am grateful for all your hard work over this session of the Scottish Parliament in helping us get to this stage in what has been a very long journey for many of you.

I know the work we have done together to-date will help survivors of abuse, and my wish is that we continue to work in partnership to make a real difference for people.

