



FINANCIAL REDRESS FOR SURVIVORS OF HISTORICAL CHILD ABUSE IN CARE

Information Note 3: Redress Consultation

September 2019

In October 2018 the Deputy First Minister committed to establishing a financial redress scheme in Scotland. This will require legislation to be passed by the Scottish Parliament. A pre-legislative public consultation on financial redress opened on 2 September 2019. It will run for 12 weeks, closing on 25 November.

This builds on the findings of the earlier consultation with survivors on the provision of financial redress which took place in 2017. It is important we hear the views of as many people with an interest in redress as possible. The findings will help shape the legislation which will be introduced to the Scottish Parliament during 2020.

What is the consultation about?

This consultation covers issues in relation to the detailed design of a redress scheme, including eligibility, approach to payments, evidence and assessment, provision for next-of-kin. It also asks about how all those responsible should make financial contributions to a redress scheme and to wider support. Finally, it looks at how the redress scheme might be delivered, and how redress might fit alongside acknowledgement, apology and support for survivors.

How is this consultation different from the earlier survivor consultation? This is a Scottish Government consultation and it builds on the findings from the earlier survivor consultation that was carried out by CELCIS in 2017. Many of the earlier findings were high-level, and we now need to consider the detail. This consultation covers a wider range of issues than before. It also provides an opportunity for all interested parties to express their views now there is a firm commitment in place to establish a redress scheme.

Who is the consultation for?

It is a public consultation and is open to everyone. We want to hear as many views as possible. We want to hear from survivors, individuals and organisations across all sectors.

Where can I find the consultation paper?

All of the consultation materials can be found at <https://consult.gov.scot/redress-survivor-relations/financial-redress-historical-child-abuse-in-care>. This includes the full consultation paper, a summary version, and the Respondent Information Form, which includes a list of the consultation questions. If you would like a paper copy of the consultation materials, please get in touch using the contact details at the end of this Information Note. We will also send you a prepaid envelope to return your response form.

How can I take part in the consultation?

You can take part online using the link above or by post or email. However you take part you must provide the 'About You' information from the Respondent Information Form. You can answer all or some of the questions. Or if you prefer you can send us your comments. The 'About You' section of the form asks for your personal details and whether you are happy for your response to be published. It is important you complete this section.

What steps have been taken to make it accessible to different people?

The consultation covers some complex and detailed issues that we need to hear wider views about. To make it more accessible, we have produced a summary of the key issues. The consultation will also be available in audio version. Other formats are available on

request, for example braille, BSL and other languages. Please get in touch if you need an alternative format.

What if I need more support to take part?

If you are unsure about how to take part in the consultation please get in touch and we can answer any specific questions you might have or signpost you to sources of support.

When will the consultation findings be available?

All responses to the consultation received by the closing date of 25 November 2019 will be analysed independently by an external analyst and a report will be published. The findings will help shape the content of the draft legislation for the redress scheme which will be brought before the Scottish Parliament during 2020. Responses from individuals and organisations will be published online, where we have been given permission to do so.

What will happen during the Parliamentary process?

The process for any piece of legislation is broadly the same. This pre-legislative consultation is an important first step to encourage participation in law-making. The outcome of the consultation will be attached to the draft legislation. There are then three stages required before draft legislation becomes law and receives Royal Assent. For more information please see <https://www.parliament.scot/visitandlearn/Education/18641.aspx>.

When will the redress scheme be in place?

We will introduce draft legislation in Parliament 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 70 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/financial-redress-for-survivors-of-child-abuse-in-care-advance-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>

Find out more about the public consultation on a financial redress scheme

You can find all the published material about the consultation at <https://consult.gov.scot/redress-survivor-relations/financial-redress-historical-child-abuse-in-care>. If you have any further questions, please contact us by e-mail at redress@gov.scot, by telephone on 0300 244 2242, or by post at: Redress and Survivor Relations Division, Scottish Government, Area 2A South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

You can find out more about the earlier engagement work with survivors and service providers that led to the Deputy First Minister's commitments on financial redress at <https://www.gov.scot/policies/child-protection/supporting-child-abuse-survivors/>.

If thinking about redress and this consultation is causing you distress Breathing Space and the Samaritans can provide immediate help.
Breathing Space: Call free of charge on 0800 83 85 87, Monday to Thursday from 6pm to 2am, Friday at 6pm to Monday morning at 6am <https://breathingspace.scot/>
Samaritans: Call free of charge on 116 123 from the UK, any time of the day or night. <https://www.samaritans.org/scotland/samaritans-in-scotland/>.
