

Child abuse survivors in Scotland invited to claim financial redress of up to £100,000

Survivors of child abuse in Scottish institutions previously warned the £400 million earmarked for compensation would not be enough.

BY [Chris McCall](#) Deputy Political Editor ; 16:35, 8 DEC 2021



Victims of historical abuse are being invited to apply for compensation (Image: Getty Images)

A controversial scheme to provide survivors of [historical child abuse in Scottish care homes](#) with financial redress has opened for applications.

Those eligible can apply to request an apology and redress payments ranging from £10,000 up to £100,000.

The process has been shaped by the views of survivors and will be delivered by the Scottish Government and Redress Scotland but has been plagued by criticism that it does not go far enough.

Deputy First Minister John Swinney said all eligible survivors were invited to apply via a telephone helpline that will launch this week.

But survivors of child abuse in Scottish institutions [previously warned](#) the £400 million earmarked for compensation won't be enough.

They say the huge amount of victims means many will receive payments as low as £10,000 or £20,000 – making it meaningless.

The most likely number of survivors is currently estimated at 8000 but could be as high as 10,400 and half of those compensated are expected to receive just £10,000 or £20,000.

Survivors believe the final figures should be higher if they are to provide meaningful redress.

There is also growing dismay among survivors that those evaluating their suffering will be paid at levels higher than the figures they can pay out.

Swinney said: "We have come together to confront the scale and horror of the abuse Scotland's most vulnerable children suffered.

"We cannot make up for that pain, and we cannot take away the devastating impact it has had on people's lives.

"But we can provide acknowledgement and tangible recognition of the harm caused, by offering redress to survivors through this scheme.

"I invite all survivors who are eligible for the scheme to apply, if it is the right choice for them.

"There is funding for independent legal advice to help survivors make that choice and support is available at every stage of the application process.

"There has been a strong survivor voice throughout the process of designing and developing the scheme and I want to thank all survivors who have contributed their time, commitment and insight. Their input has been crucial."

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry was established in 2015 and has so far heard of appalling abuse of children at institutions run by charities, religious orders and private schools.

Its running costs reached £50 million this year. END