



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education Children and Young People Committee

Shona Robison MSP

Deputy First Minister

Scottish Government

T3.60

The Scottish Parliament

Edinburgh

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By email only—

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24 November 2023

Dear Deputy First Minister

I am writing on behalf of the Education, Children, and Young People Committee. As part of its ongoing scrutiny of the operation of Redress Scotland, the Committee agreed to write to survivor groups to establish whether, in their view, previously identified issues around staffing and delays in processing applications had now been resolved.

The Committee received a [submission](#) and [Annexe](#) from In Care Survivors Service Scotland (INCAS) on 18 October, and a [submission](#) from Former Boys and Girls Abused in Quarriers (FBGA) on 19 October 2023.

The Committee acknowledges the positive elements that survivor groups stressed in their submissions, including the resolution of concerns previously raised.

However, the Committee also recognises that there are some ongoing issues with the operation of the Redress scheme. Therefore, the Committee agree to draw these responses to your attention at its meeting on 15 November 2023. The issues include but are not limited to—

- The ability for survivors who were placed by a Scottish Local Authority in Scotland and then subsequently moved to an establishment in England to have any abuse that took place in England factored into their Redress scheme award.
- The experiences of survivors where their foster placement was with a family member.
- Communication and transparency issues, including the ability for survivors to understand exactly who is eligible for redress, the different stages of the Redress Scheme and how long each stage might take; as well as the ability for survivors to access documents (e.g. minutes) which provide reassurance as to how the scheme is being run.
- The operation of the Survivor Forum and its ability to involve survivors meaningfully.
- Concerns about the robustness of the process for identifying cases and allocating appropriate priority to cases.

The Committee would welcome your comments on the issues raised and the steps you will be taking to address them.

We would be grateful if you could please respond to this letter in a Word format by **Thursday 21 December 2023**.

Kind regards

Sue Webber MSP
Convener