

PE1933/GG: Allow the Fornethy Survivors to access Scotland's redress scheme

Glasgow City Council written submission, 26 February 2025

I refer to your letter dated 28 January 2025 to Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council, which has been passed to me for response in my role as Solicitor to the Council.

I note from your letter that the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee agreed to write to Councillor Aitken requesting that she meets with the Fornethy House Survivors to discuss their continuing requests for recognition and redress for the abuse they experienced at Fornethy House. However, given that there are now live criminal proceedings in respect of Fornethy House, as well as a case in the civil courts, I have advised Councillor Aitken that it would not be appropriate for her to meet with the survivors at this time. I trust the Committee will appreciate the legal constraints placed on Councillor Aitken and the council in respect of this matter.

In addition to the current court proceedings, the Committee may wish to note that there are also approximately 170 claims relating to Fornethy House being dealt with by the council's claims section. No admissions have been made in these claims and they continue to be assessed by our claims section and legal teams as well as the external solicitors acting for the council's insurers. As more information becomes available, the council may be able to take a different view on the settlement of these claims and the issuing of more specific apologies, as well as giving further consideration to a meeting with the survivors. We will continue to closely monitor all legal proceedings and other developments relating to this matter.

With regard to the apology already given by Councillor Aitken on behalf of the council to any women who, as children, experienced any abuse at Fornethy House, this was done at a meeting of Full Council in order to ensure that it was a matter of public record. I have set out the wording of that apology below. [A webcast extract from the council meeting can be viewed here](#). The [minute of the meeting is also available here](#). A copy of the link to the webcast and the wording of the apology was also previously made available to the Fornethy House Survivors through correspondence with the Deputy First Minister's Office.

I trust this information is of further assistance to you and the Committee.

Yours sincerely

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & ADMINISTRATION

Undernote:

There is a live criminal case relating to Fornethy House and it is vitally important that we do nothing to jeopardise that.

Fornethy House was operated by Glasgow Corporation and then Strathclyde Regional Council from 1960 until 1993.

It originally provided short convalescent stays to primary aged girls and later provided accommodation to girls who it was felt would benefit from a break in the countryside.

Since the facility closed a number of women have come forward and recounted experience of abuse when they attended Fornethy House.

I was shocked, and I know we will all have been shocked, to hear those accounts of abuse.

On behalf of the council, I want to say sorry for any abuse suffered by children who attended Fornethy House.