

Martin Whitfield MSP submission of 23 November 2022

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

I was anxious to attend the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee today, (23 November 2022), to support the petitioner and signatories regarding their call on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to widen access to Scotland's Redress Scheme to allow Fornethy Survivors to seek redress.

The facts of this petition are incredibly distressing and the background is set out in the [group's letter](#) to the Petitions Committee dated 6 June.

There is, I believe, an unanswered anomaly in the way survivors are treated under the scheme which continues to exist and is unexplained. The anomaly is that a survivor of a short stay falls outside the scheme automatically, whereas a long-term survivor is included. There have been suggestions a cut off is needed but no weight is given to the severity of the experience irrespective of the period of actual abuse. This approach fails to give weight to the serious long-term consequences the current petitioners have experienced.

I apologise for being unable to attend the Committee and ask that you accept this submission in support of the petition.