

Deputy First Minister submission of 29 September 2023

PE1933/N: Allow the Fornethy Survivors to access Scotland's Redress Scheme

I write to provide you with an update following the letter sent to the Committee by my predecessor on 6 February 2023 and to address some of the matters raised by the Petitioners in their submission to the Committee on 14 August 2023.

The Scottish Government has appointed an independent researcher to make enquiries in respect of Fornethy House. Following advice from National Records of Scotland, a researcher has been appointed rather than an archivist. [redacted] began in post at the beginning of August and has a range of research experience.

As you will understand it would not be appropriate for me to comment on any individual application to Scotland's Redress Scheme however, I can advise that the Scottish Government has not informed any applicant that Fornethy House will be disregarded by the panel. I wish to reassure the petitioners that a key focus of [redacted]'s work will be to establish the circumstances in which children came to be placed in Fornethy House and to investigate the limited records and information relating to Fornethy House held by Glasgow City Council. [redacted] has commenced her enquiries with Glasgow City Council and on 5 September, [redacted] met with some of the Fornethy Survivors to hear directly from them the challenges they have faced in accessing records. [redacted] would be very happy to meet with the Petitioners if they wish to do so.

I will provide the Committee with a further update upon conclusion of the enquiries noted above. It is anticipated this will be early in 2024. I would, of course, be happy to give evidence to the Committee at that time.

Yours sincerely,

SHONA ROBISON