

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic, regarding Scotland's Redress Scheme, 25 March 2026

Dear Convener,

I write to inform you of the publication of revised statutory guidance on the evidential requirements for Scotland's Redress Scheme ("the Scheme"). The Scottish Government committed to review the guidance as the Scheme progressed and to update the guidance as appropriate.

The guidance was revised in response to the high volume of information requests that record holders receive as well as the long waiting times for applicants obtaining information from record holders. The guidance aims to provide more targeted information on how to request information and to go some way to tackle issues around long waiting times. This was informed by feedback from record holders, solicitors and from Redress Scotland.

The revised statutory guidance is available at <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781807751517>

Section 106 of the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Act 2021 ("the Act") provides as soon as possible after issuing guidance, the Scottish Ministers must lay a copy of the guidance before the Scottish Parliament and make the guidance publicly available.

We published the updated guidance this morning and laid it before parliament. We will also communicate the changes to the statutory guidance to stakeholders with an interest in the operation of the Scheme, including record holders, survivors and their legal representatives.

We have also revised and updated the application forms and help to apply guidance for the redress scheme, you can find an update on this at [Scotland's Redress Scheme - gov.scot](#)

I hope you find this update helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Forbes
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic