



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education and Skills Committee

Call for Views

The Scottish Parliament's Education and Skills Committee is seeking views on the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Bill.

The Bill was introduced by the Scottish Government on 13th August 2020.

You can read the Bill and its accompanying documents [here](#).

The Committee is considering whether the Parliament should agree to the general principles of this Bill and, if so, what improvements could be made to it.

What does the Bill do?

The Bill aims to create a financial redress scheme for survivors of historical child abuse in care in Scotland.

The redress scheme is designed to acknowledge and recognise the harm caused by historical abuse in various care settings in Scotland.

It is designed to offer both financial (e.g. money) and non-financial redress (e.g. apologies) to survivors.

Organisations responsible for historical abuse, such as local authorities, voluntary organisations and others will be asked to make a 'fair and meaningful contribution' to the fund from which redress payments will be made.

Decisions about the amount and type of redress offered will be made by a new body called Redress Scotland.

How to make a submission about the Bill

The Committee welcomes views on any aspect of this Bill. However, the Committee is particularly interested to know your views on:

- 1) The people who are eligible to apply to the scheme.
- 2) The Bill's definition of abuse.
- 3) The dates used in the Bill to define 'historical abuse'.
- 4) The Bill's definition of 'in care' and the places in which that care took place.

- 5) The process of applying for redress and what advice and support applicants might need, particularly in relation to the waiver scheme.
- 6) The level of payments offered to survivors.
- 7) What you believe to be a 'fair and meaningful' contribution to the scheme from organisations responsible for abuse.
- 8) The process for dealing with applications to the scheme from people who have serious convictions.
- 9) The process for family members to make an application on behalf of a survivor who has since died.
- 10) How to ensure that non-financial redress (e.g. an apology) meets the needs of survivors.

Details of how to make a submission are provided below.

Please note that in most cases, if you write to us about this Bill (also known as making a written submission) any information you send us will be published on the Scottish Parliament's website. It may also be quoted in the Committee's report or in Committee meetings (which are public and broadcast).

If you wish to request that your submission be published without your name, please contact us in advance.

Before making a submission, please read our privacy notice about submitting your views to a committee – [Privacy Notice](#) or [Privacy Notice – Young People](#). This tells you about how we process your personal data.

How to submit your views

Written submissions should be reasonably brief and typewritten in **Word** format (preferably no more than 4-6 sides of A4 in total).

The deadline for sending us a written submission is 5.00 pm on 2nd October 2020 date. If you need more time to send us your views, please let us know.

The Committee prefers to receive submissions electronically. These should be sent to es.submissions@parliament.scot.

You may also send a hard copy of written submissions to:

Education and Skills Committee Scottish Parliament Holyrood Edinburgh EH99 1SP

We welcome written evidence in any language.

Giving evidence in person

You may be invited to give evidence to the Committee in person, based on what you've said in your written submission. If you do not wish to provide evidence in person, please make this clear on your submission.

If you are willing to provide evidence in person, please note you may be invited at relatively short notice if selected to appear in October or November 2020. On that basis, if at all possible, please seek to keep Wednesday mornings free in October and November 2020.

Further information

For further information about the Committee's work on the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Bill please contact the Education and Skills team:

By email at es.submissions@parliament.scot

We also welcome calls using the Text Relay service or in BSL through contactSCOTLAND-BSL <https://contactscotland-bsl.org/>.

If you would like to receive this document in Braille, or British Sign Language, please contact us and let us know.