

Public Petition Committee
Thursday 10 September 2026
2nd Meeting, 2026 (Session 7)

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

Introduction

Petitioner	Iris Tinto on behalf of Fornethy Survivors Group
Petition Summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to widen access to Scotland's Redress Scheme to allow Fornethy Survivors to seek redress.
Website	https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE1933

1. This is a continued petition that was published on 19 April 2022.
2. A full summary of this petition and its aims can be found at **Annexe A**. Details of action taken by the previous committee are set out on the website highlighted above.
3. Every petition collects signatures while it remains under consideration. At the time of writing, 443 signatures have been received on this petition.
4. The Committee sought the views of the Scottish Government on all petitions carried over from Session 6 to inform its consideration. This response, from the Deputy First Minister, is included at **Annexe B**, along with a response from the petitioner.
5. In its Legacy Report, the Session 6 Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee stated:

“We invite the Session 7 Committee to consider the issues raised in the petition. Given the Fornethy survivors continue to campaign for redress, the Session 7 Committee may wish to review what progress has been made on the issues raised by the petition when it comes to consider next steps. This might include pursuing the request for a Chamber debate, exploring whether to refer the petition to a Committee able to undertake substantive work on the issue of redress or seeking an updated view from the Scottish Government”.¹
6. In her response, the Petitioner asks the Committee to seek a debate on the matter.
7. The Petitioner also refers to the previous Deputy First Minister arranging a meeting between the survivors and Glasgow City Council, which could not proceed due to an active civil court case.

¹ [Legacy Report of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee, Session 6](#)

8. The response from the current Deputy First Minister states that Richard Pugh KC formally apologised at the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry on behalf of Glasgow City Council. The Deputy First Minister's response also states that she plans to meet the Fornethy Survivors Group in the coming weeks to hear their views and determine if there are any remaining actions that she can support.

Action

9. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take.

Clerks to the Committee
September 2026

Annexe A: Summary of petition

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

Petitioner

Iris Tinto on behalf of Fornethy Survivors Group

Date Published

19 April 2022

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to widen access to Scotland's Redress Scheme to allow Fornethy Survivors to seek redress.

Previous action

Written to Nicola Sturgeon.

The group members have written to their MSPs.

Protest in September and new protest due.

A great deal of research into the background and looking for records over the last two years including seeking information from Glasgow Council.

We did protests in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Background information

Survivors need acknowledgement, closure and compensation. The young girls were "in care" of Glasgow Corporation who provided the in care setting for these vulnerable, helpless and isolated children. The decision to make us exempt from the redress scheme has magnified that suffering. We want to be treated equally to other abuse survivors. Redress is an important part.

Going down the legal route incurs great costs and mental resilience which abused victims will mostly find untenable due to the effects the abuse has had on them. We know that childhood abuse affects many socio-economic factors as well as inter-personal and mental health conditions. Why should they have to? If the government recognises the validity of child abuse and its long term effects, why make them exempt?

Fornethy children were in the care of Glasgow Corporation and they are not being held to account but passing survivors onto agencies to deal with them. Many victims have already spent great sums of money and effort in therapeutic interventions, preparing themselves, being interviewed, giving statements to the Police and the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry . They are now wondering to what purpose given they are not being taken seriously in the Redress scheme. We know there are records in

the Mitchell Library but are being met with silence again. We have no access to justice.

Annexe B: Written Submissions

Scottish Government written submission, 12 August 2026

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

Further to Kate Forbes' previous update to the Committee dated 11 February 2026, I am writing to provide a further update on this petition as requested.

On 18 and 19 June 2026, the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry heard closing submissions in relation to Phase 10 of its investigations. Phase 10 considered the provision of residential care for children and young people in establishments run or used by Local Authorities, including Fornethy House. Testimony was given during Phase 10 by survivors of abuse at Fornethy House as well as by Glasgow City Council.

In its closing statement, Richard Pugh, KC, reiterated an apology on behalf of Glasgow City Council, to the 'children and young people who were abused within establishments run by Glasgow City Council and its predecessors'.

In the coming weeks, I intend to have an introductory meeting with representatives of the Fornethy Survivors group to hear their views and determine if there are any remaining actions that I can support.

I hope you find this update helpful.

Jenny Gilruth MSP

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government

Petitioner written submission, 3 September 2026

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

We, the Fornethy Survivors, are looking forward to the new Public Petitions Committee coming back together on the 10 September 2026 and are grateful that it will be progressing with our cause. We have been grateful also for the support of the previous committee and all the work they have done to get our Petition to this stage which has been running for over four plus years.

As a timely reminder, Eleanor Deeming Johnstone, Legal Officer from the Scottish Human Rights Commission in some briefing notes, outlines their position on the Fornethy Residential School Survivors and is a perfect reflection of our feelings regarding our pleas for redress. She says:

"To me, the key human rights point is that ALL survivors who have been abused where there was state responsibility have the right to an effective remedy. This could arise in a variety of different contexts, from state schools, community clubs, private boarding schools. The question is whether there was state responsibility (this can arise in a variety of ways – for example the state being directly responsible for abuse, or through failing to have an appropriate legal system in place, or through failing to investigate and prosecute allegations

against a private individual). The Government chose to progress a redress scheme only for in care survivors of abuse, but in terms of human rights law, where state responsibility is engaged, the right to an effective remedy arises. The Commission has been clear that redress for groups of survivors not eligible under the Redress Act should be actively considered and progressed.

When the Redress Bill was going through Parliament, we raised issues with the eligibility criteria saying we were concerned it was too restrictive and would exclude certain groups that should be included (at the time we used the example of disabled children whose parents were said to have “consented” to them living in residential homes, but in reality, these parents had little choice and certainly did not consent to the abuse some of their children suffered).

Finally, the timeline of the legislation is important, I think. The Act received Royal Assent on 23 April 2021. The Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care).

(Exceptions to Eligibility) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 came into effect on 1st December 2021. Had this type of restriction on eligibility been put forward when the Bill was going through Parliament, the Commission would’ve specifically addressed this in our evidence, as we did with other types of restrictions in paragraphs 22-27.

Finally, it is important to remember that some Fornethy women were abused pre-1964, which means they have no other form of remedy available to them. The redress scheme is their only path and the only option for them to access their human right to an effective remedy”.

(Source: SHRC Letter to the Education, Children and Young People Committee on 18 January 2024).

May we ask the Petitions Committee to review our previous Submissions including the most recent [PE1933/II](#) and [PE1933/JJ](#). Although the Glasgow City Council have offered an apology through their testimony at the Scottish Childhood Abuse Inquiry, Phase 10, in May of this Year, a full Redress apology will look very differently as coming directly to the survivors and not through a third-party organisation. This is formal acknowledgement and where closure and compensation form the other components of redress. Also, under the previous Deputy First Minister, a meeting with Glasgow City Council was to be arranged with the survivors to discuss these areas, but they denied this on the count of an active civil case. Such a meeting would be welcomed now that this case has been concluded and the perpetrator found guilty. We still await a meeting.

Furthermore, it was agreed by the previous Committee and a letter send by the Chair of that Committee, asking that the redress of the Fornethy Survivors now move to a full parliamentary debate. A slot could not be found due to the elections taking place so once again, we were put back. Perhaps such a slot could become available very soon to bring this all to a satisfactory conclusion?

Trust is sacred. No justice no peace. The Fornethy survivors continue to have trust in you; the debate is the next step and it is needed.

New Information

Archives - Further research has revealed that the [Teaching Council \(Scotland\) Act 1965](#) required all teachers to be registered. There are details within the research that show that this was not the case and that there was indeed, a shortage of staff.