

Scotland's
**Redress
Scheme**

Scotland's Redress Scheme

For survivors of historical child abuse in care

What you need to know and how to apply

Delivered by Scottish Government and Redress Scotland

For decades some children in care were failed by those trusted to look after them. Scotland is taking steps to face up to these failings of the past through a new scheme set up by the Scottish Government.

The purpose of the scheme is to acknowledge what happened, and provide tangible recognition of the harm caused to children who were abused in care.

While nothing can ever make up for what survivors experienced, the scheme provides an alternative to court action that is a faster, more survivor-focused route to redress. Applicants may be offered a redress payment, apology and support.

Scotland's Redress Scheme is open for applications.

Who the redress scheme is for

The scheme is for survivors of historical child abuse in care.

Applicants have to show they were abused:

- while living in a relevant care setting
- in Scotland
- as a child (aged 17 years old or younger)
- before 1 December 2004

Relevant care settings include children's homes, some residential schools, boarded out and foster care and, in some cases, long-stay hospitals. You can see more on who is eligible including a full list of relevant care settings at gov.scot/redress

Who runs the scheme

Scotland's Redress Scheme is a scheme run by the Scottish Government and Redress Scotland.

Specially trained staff from the Scottish Government, called case workers, can provide information and help people apply to the scheme. The Scottish Government is not involved in making decisions about applications.

Redress Scotland is an independent organisation. A Redress Scotland panel will consider applications and make a decision on eligibility and what level of redress payment to offer based on the available evidence. Panels are made up of people from different professional backgrounds and experiences.

Help and support

The redress scheme treats all survivors with dignity, compassion and respect, and the process of applying is designed to be as straightforward as possible.

A case worker will communicate with applicants throughout the application process. They can help with questions about:

- how to complete an application form
- what documents to provide
- where to get support

They can also help applicants access additional support available if people feel they would benefit from that.

It is applicants' right and choice to have a solicitor. The scheme will pay legal fees for a solicitor to help with an application.

Redress payments

Survivors applying to the scheme can choose to apply for either:

- a fixed rate payment of £10,000, or
- an individually assessed payment of up to £100,000

Individually assessed redress payments will involve a more detailed examination of people's experiences in care.

Next of kin applications

Some next of kin of deceased survivors are eligible, in certain situations, to apply for a £10,000 payment where the survivor died on or after 1 December 2004.

How to get in touch

To find out more or to go ahead with an application, please:

- go to **www.mygov.scot/redress**
- call freephone on **0808 175 0808**
(lines open 10am to 4pm Monday to Thursday
or leave a message and we'll get back to you)
- email **apply@redress-scheme.scot**
- from abroad, call **+44 131 297 6500**
- for next of kin enquiries, call **0808 281 7777**
or if abroad, **+44 131 244 2542**

Remember, our case workers are here to answer questions and help.

Support for survivors

A range of support is available for all survivors including those who are not eligible to apply to Scotland's Redress Scheme.

- If applying for redress brings up difficult feelings and you would like to speak to someone, you can call the Redress Emotional Support Helpline on **0800 2118403** (open 10am to 1pm Monday to Friday).
- If you find you are distressed you can contact Breathing Space free of charge on **0800 83 85 87** or the Samaritans free of charge on **116 123**.
- If you wish to report your abuse, contact Police Scotland on **101** or Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**.
- If you wish to tell the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry about your abuse, contact them on **0800 092 9300** or email: **talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot**
- Future Pathways work together with people who were abused in care to arrange access to a wide range of person-centred support. For more information please contact Future Pathways on **0808 164 2005** or email: **registration@future-pathways.co.uk**

