

William Murphy

I agree on many aspects of the Bill, however I have taken the opportunity to submit my views to the Committee below.

SUBMISSION

- **The Bill's definition of abuse:**
- **The level of payments offered to survivors:**

These two aspects of the Bill are intrinsically linked in so far as each one will determine the final outcome. This will be considered when the development of an assessment framework becomes available.

Question 1 - It is suggested that survivors will have sight of this before applying for redress. if so, when will it be published ?

Abuse can take many forms: sexual, physical, emotional, neglect etc however the impact as a result of one or all of these can be severely damaging throughout one's life

My worry and concern is that the panel members will have had no experience of this and may lack sufficient empathy.

What about applicants who have not sought help from outside agencies, medical or otherwise because they were either too embarrassed or could not deal with it emotionally. There is now increased awareness of mental health issues in young adults with more focus on male adults.

Sadly 20 to 30 years ago young men did not have the support network that is available now. I remember being told to man up and made to feel inferior especially in the workplace setting. As a result some survivors will not be in a position to provide documentary evidence.

Question 2 - Will applicants be penalised as a result of this?

I have grave reservations regarding this as it gives the redress panel the easy option to dismiss a claim or reduce the level of award. Applicants should have the option of speaking to the panel face to face. At the very least it will give the panel members a clearer picture of how the abuse impacted the survivor and provide a level playing field for all.

Question 3

Can the Individually assessed redress payment levels be made clearer? For example,

Question 3(b) Level 1 up to 20,000 pounds.

Can an award be made anywhere between 10,000 pounds and 20,000 pounds or will the award be restricted to three limits:

0 pounds

10,000 pounds

20,000 pounds

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