

## **Police Scotland**

### **'Redress for Survivors (Childhood Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Bill'**

#### **1) The people who are eligible to apply to the scheme.**

Police Scotland agrees with the eligibility criteria outlined in the Bill.

#### **2) The Bill's definition of abuse.**

Police Scotland agrees with the definition of abuse outlined in the Bill.

#### **3) The dates used in the Bill to define 'historical abuse'.**

Whilst this is not a matter for Police Scotland, we are of the opinion that 'historical abuse' should relate to any abuse that was experienced up to and including 17 December 2014.

Our rationale is that this was the date that the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry was announced and the Inquiry consider abuse until this date. For this reason, Police Scotland think it would be appropriate for the Redress Scheme to use the same date.

#### **4) The Bill's definition of 'in care' and the places in which that care took place.**

Police Scotland agrees with definitions of 'in care' and the places in which that care took place as outlined in the Bill.

#### **5) The process of applying for redress and what advice and support applicants might need, particularly in relation to the waiver scheme.**

Police Scotland agrees with the redress application process, the provision of advice and support, including the specific measures regarding the waiver scheme, as outlined in the Bill.

#### **6) The level of payments offered to survivors.**

Police Scotland agrees with the fixed-rate and individually-assessed levels of payments outlined in the Bill.

#### **7) What you believe to be a 'fair and meaningful' contribution to the scheme from organisations responsible for abuse.**

Whilst this is not a matter for Police Scotland, we are of the opinion that the costs should be split at least 50/50 between Scottish Government and organisations responsible for the abuse, with organisations contributing in line with the volume of applications received in respect of their organisation.

#### **8) The process for dealing with applications to the scheme from people who have serious convictions.**

Police Scotland agrees with the process outlined in the Bill for dealing with applications 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.**

Whilst this is not a matter for Police Scotland, we are of the opinion that there should be no cut-off date. Where a survivor, who would have been eligible to apply, has died prior to implementation of the Scheme, then Police Scotland believes that their next-of-kin should not be disadvantaged by when their relative died.

**10) How to ensure that non-financial redress (e.g. an apology) meets the needs of survivors.**

Police Scotland believes that the non-financial aspects of the Scheme will meet the needs of survivors both through the measures outlined in the Bill and also through establishment of a Survivor Forum (as outlined the Policy Memorandum) to ensure that survivor views/feedback are listened to and responded to.