

Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit
airson Foghlam agus Sgilean
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Education and Skills



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

John Swinney BPA/MSP
F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: dfmcse@gov.scot

Convener, Education and Skills Committee
T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email: es.committee@parliament.scot

16 December 2020

Dear Convener

I would like to thank the Committee for its thorough and considered Stage One Report on the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Bill.

I am delighted that the Committee has endorsed the general principles of the Bill and recommends that they be agreed. I am pleased to note that the Committee has concluded that the Bill provides a *“straightforward, easy to access scheme and that it will play a vital role in helping victims/survivors obtain the redress and remedy to which they are entitled”*.

I do however acknowledge that the Committee has highlighted its concern over the provisions in the Bill on waiver. I have carefully considered the Committee's recommendations and will continue to reflect on whether the inclusion of waiver is the most reliable route to securing the fair financial contributions to redress payments that survivors rightly seek.

I have set out the Scottish Government's response to each of the Committee's other recommendations, in the attached Annex.

I hope that this response addresses the issues raised in the Committee's Stage 1 Report and is helpful in your further consideration of the Bill.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
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I look forward to exploring these issues during the Stage 1 debate on 17 December 2020 and to continue working with the Committee on this important Bill at Stage 2, should the chamber endorse the general principles at Stage 1.

JOHN SWINNEY

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