

Redress Scheme Q&A

The below are initial Qs informed by survivors, with answers agreed with the Project Board and the survivor and victim working group. More detailed Q&As about the running of the scheme and how that will work will be published as it develops.

What is redress?

Redress is about restitution and restoration for survivors and victims, there is no 'one size fits all' approach and it is not just about money. The Church of England Redress Scheme's focus is on victims and survivors of church-related abuse: while the Church acknowledges the effects of abuse are lifelong redress intends to offer a whole-person approach to help survivors get their life back on track. Financial compensation may be part of this but is not the whole response.

Why is the Church setting up a scheme?

The Church was criticised by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, for not responding well to victims and survivors. Part of the Church's commitment to implementing the recommendations from the IICSA report into the Anglican Church in England and Wales, published in October 2020 was to develop national proposals for redress within the Church, including financial compensation, support for rebuilding lives, emotional well-being support and apology.

- [Statement on publication of IICSA report | The Church of England](#),
- [15.04 IICSA - Response to recommendations FINAL AC Council.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](#)

How does it link to the national scheme recommended by IICSA?

In October 2022 IICSA published its final report into all its 15 investigation strands including the Church of England and one of the recommendations was for the establishment of a national redress scheme. While the Church is wholeheartedly supportive of redress for victims of abuse, it will continue with its own scheme which is already in development phase. This is tailored to the needs of victims and survivors of church-based abuse and will be a broader scheme than that proposed by IICSA.

- [Response to the publication of the final report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse \(IICSA\) | The Church of England](#)

When will the Scheme be up and running? Why is it taking so long?

Similar schemes (e.g. in Australia) have taken up to three years to develop due to the complex issues involved. The chair of the redress board, Bishop Philip Mounstephen, has publicly apologised to victims and survivors for the Scheme not being fully functioning as soon as the Church would have liked but stressed the importance of getting it right, because to do so is in the best interests of victims and survivors. The involvement of the survivor and victim working party is key to this development.

- [Letters from Chair of Redress Board and Survivor & Victim Working Group | The Church of England](#)

Will it just be for victims of child sexual abuse or all survivors of all church abuse? Will that include adult abuse, spiritual abuse, bullying?

The scheme will be for all survivors of church abuse. IICSA focused on the very important issue of child sexual abuse, but the Church is aware that there are different forms of abuse that can happen within the Church at different ages.

How are survivors being involved/consulted?

The survivor and victim working group for the redress project is a key body for feedback and reflection on the Board's proposals. Two members of this group sit on the board and separately two other members sit on a communications subgroup to ensure stakeholder messages and other information is relayed clearly with a survivor focus.

How does the interim support scheme fit in?

The Church's interim support scheme was set up to provide support for immediate and urgent needs. That will continue until the redress scheme is in place to ensure there is no gap in provision for survivors. [Interim Support Scheme | The Church of England](#)

Will any financial redress be more generous than civil & criminal compensation schemes?

The details are currently being developed but the scoping work being carried out by the project board is looking at other schemes and any proposals will be relayed for comment and information to the survivor and victim working group before any final decision is made.

What will be the advantage of applying to the Redress Scheme, as opposed to suing the church?

Redress is about the whole person and their needs, not just financial compensation. The redress scheme will also include support for rebuilding lives, emotional well-being support and apology.

Will survivors have support and legal advice when applying?

There will be a clear and easy to follow application pathway for survivors and victims which will include support, there will be more details as the scheme is developed.

Link to Meg Munns ISB blog about redress which she tends to publish after the last meeting. Latest ones here [Meg Munn | Chair of the National Safeguarding Panel – Providing independent scrutiny and challenge to the Church of England \(chairnsp.org\)](#)