

Rhona Brankin  
Convener  
Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Our ref: Petition PE1351  
22 February 2011

*Dear Rhona*

The Ministers for Community Safety, Children and Early Years and I appeared at the Petitions Committee on 21 December to give evidence on Petition PE1351, calling for a time for all to be heard forum including a compensation scheme. I would like to clarify a point in the official report.

Throughout my evidence I indicated that Ministers were awaiting the Chair, Tom Shaw's report and would consider his recommendations alongside those already made by the Scottish Human Rights Commission but there was an expectation that the Time to be Heard model would be rolled out.

In response to a question from Nanette Milne - 'As you know, the survivors are calling for a forum to be set up in line with Ireland's Residential Institutions Redress Board, to support all victims. Is it likely that you will set up such a board or forum in Scotland?' I said 'in answer to an earlier question, the intention would be to learn lessons from the pilot and then roll measures out. We have to hear from Tom Shaw about what things could look like and what his recommendations are. As I indicated to Cathie Craigie, one feature of the pilot has been to prioritise older, frailer survivors. There is a good principle behind that. We need to consider how we approach things to ensure that priority is given to people who are older and frailer, so that they can give testimony first. There are some details to be worked out, but the answer in principle is yes.'

This appears to have been taken as agreeing that a Redress Board would be set up in Scotland. However, it was not my intention to pre-empt any decision until Ministers had received Tom Shaw's report and considered the recommendations included for Ministers. While I am not ruling out the possibility of a Redress Board, this will need to be considered in the light of the Tom Shaw's recommendations and those in the Scottish Human Rights Framework.

Tom Shaw's report will be published on 23 February and officials will send copies to the Petitions Committee.

*Best wishes,*



**SHONA ROBISON**