

PE1351/K
Directorate of Health and Social Care Integration
Adult Care and Support Division

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Dear Alison

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1351

Thank you for your letter of 26 July requesting a response to the Petition Committee's question of 28 June on Petition PE1351, A Time for all to be Heard forum incorporating a compensation scheme.

I enclose a response to the question of 28 June. I have not included a response to the questions of 5 October 2010 as a reply to these was provided on 21 October and these questions have been overtaken by the publication of the Time to be Heard Report. Please contact Linda Watters in the SurvivorScotland Team on 244 5986 if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

JEAN MACLELLAN
Adult Care & Support Division
Scottish Government

**PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF PE1351:
QUESTIONS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

TUESDAY 28 JUNE 2011

Scottish Government

- What are your views on the recommendations made in the *Time to be Heard: A Pilot Forum* Report and what are your plans for taking these recommendations forward?

Previous Scottish Government Ministers provided a full response on 22 March 2011 to each of the 15 recommendations of the *Time to be Heard* Report that concern Scottish Government responsibilities. In particular Ministers:

- Supported the establishment of a national confidential forum (NCF) that would be based on the model and informed by the experience of Time to be Heard;
- Accepted that appropriate legislation should be introduced to ensure the effective operation of the NCF;
- Agreed that survivors and other stakeholders should be consulted about future plans and that their interests should be kept at the centre;
- Endorsed the view that appointments for the NCF should be made promptly and that the NCF should be the only contact for applicants.

Current Ministers are keen that the NCF be taken forward without delay and therefore the following steps are being taken:

- The key issues to be included in legislation to establish such a body are being considered so that stakeholders can be presented with clear, viable proposals;
- Discussions are being held with stakeholders about these proposals and their views canvassed, including how best we can ensure that survivors' interests are kept at the centre of future developments;
- The New Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children is doing some scoping work to help with planning for the NCF.