

PE1351/R

Health and Social Care Integration Directorate

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Anne Peat
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



Dear Anne

PETITION PE1351

Mr Matheson, the Minister for Public Health, has asked me to update the Public Petitions Committee on the outcome of a meeting on 20 December with the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC). Mr Matheson, the lead Minister and Ms Cunningham, the Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, met Professor Alan Miller, Duncan Wilson and Shelagh McCall from the SHRC to consider next steps in securing remedies for adult survivors abused in care as children. Ms Campbell, the Minister for Children and Young People, who also has an interest in this work, was not available but one of her officials was present.

At the meeting Ministers agreed that the Scottish Government should take part with an open mind in the Interaction process proposed by the SHRC and would engage in exploring all the different remedies presented in the SHRC Human Rights Framework. They would be willing to take part in the Interaction, and Mr Matheson would seek to attend the first and final meetings. It was agreed that further discussion of remedies (with the exception of the National Confidential Forum) should not be undertaken at this time as that might pre-empt the purpose and impede the process of the Interaction. It was noted that some of the remedies presented in the Framework are already available to survivors, such as the dedicated support and advocacy service, In Care Survivors Service Scotland, and that Restorative Justice interventions were also now a real possibility following the successful pilot conducted by Sacro.

It was also agreed that the roll out of the National Confidential Forum should not form part of the Interaction, given that a successful model has been piloted (through the Time to be Heard Pilot Forum), stakeholders reacted positively to the pilot and commitments have already been made by the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government should therefore work to establish the National Confidential Forum as soon as possible.

A more detailed response to the Committee's questions in its letter of 19 December will follow. I hope this information is helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Jean MacLellan, Deputy Director

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