

Easy Read

Consultation on Redress Regulations
For
Truth Recovery Standardised Payment Scheme

Truth Recovery Programme
The Executive Office

Wednesday 23 September 2026

The closing date for responses is Tuesday 17 November 2026
Email: trpconsultation@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

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PART A: WHAT THIS IS ABOUT

Introduction

On **30 June 2026**, the Assembly voted to approve a new law.

The new law will:

- Create a **public inquiry**.
- Create a **Redress Scheme** to provide support and payments to eligible people.

Before the law can start, it must go through a final step called **Royal Assent**. This is expected to happen in **Autumn 2026**.

The **Redress Scheme cannot open until the law is in place**. More detailed rules, called **Regulations**, must also be passed before the scheme can begin.

We want your views to help shape the Redress Regulations.

What is the Redress Scheme?

The **Standardised Payment** scheme recognises the impact that **Magdalene Laundries** and **Mother and Baby Institutions** had on people.

You may be eligible for a payment if, during the period covered by the law, you were:

- in a relevant institution;
- born to a mother who was in a relevant institution; or
- the spouse/partner or child of a deceased eligible person who died after 28 April 1953.

What is the Redress Service?

The **Redress Service** is an independent organisation that will:

- Receive **applications**.
- Check official records.

- Confirm eligibility.
- Make decisions.
- Make payments to successful **applicants**.

What are **Regulations**?

The **Regulations** will set out how the scheme works.

They are designed to:

- Make the process clear and easy to understand.
- Ensure the scheme is fair for everyone.
- Help the Redress Service deal with issues such as missing or incomplete records.
- Make sure the same rules are applied to all **applicants**.

How to respond to the consultation

You can send your response to the **consultation** in any way that works for you.

We have also listed the **main ways you can respond** to the **consultation**.

Online questionnaire

- The online questionnaire can be found here:
<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/teo/consultation-on-redress-regs/>
- An Easy Read version is available here:
<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/teo/easy-read-consultation-on-redress-regulations/>

Email

You can request a version of the questionnaire shown on the Department's [website](#) by contacting us at trpconsultation@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk.

We will send you a form that you can complete on your computer, tablet or smartphone. Once completed, save the form and return it to us as an email attachment at **trpconsultation@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk**.

Hard Copy

Alternatively, should you wish to complete a paper copy of the questionnaire, please contact us at trpconsultation@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk or phone **028 9052 0063** for a hard copy, then post it to: -

Room E4.05,
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SL

Events

The consultation exercise will also be supported by a number of online information sessions: -

- Monday 5 October 2026, 4.00pm to 5.30pm
- Thursday 8 October 2026, 2.00pm to 3.30pm
- Tuesday 20 October 2026, 6.00pm to 7.30pm
- Thursday 22 October 2026, 10.00am to 11.30am

If you wish to register, please contact us by email trpconsultation@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk .

Additional sessions can be offered to individuals and groups; please contact us at the email above to arrange.

Why take part?

Your views matter.

By responding to the consultation, you can tell us what you think. Your feedback will help us understand different views and experiences.

We want to hear from everyone who is interested or affected and what you tell us may help improve the regulations before they are finalised.

Taking part gives you a chance to help shape how the Redress Scheme works.

We encourage you to share your views and help us make the Scheme as fair and effective as possible.

Words we are using

There may be some words in the Easy Read version that you may feel are not the right ones to use. We have tried our best to use words that most victims and survivors prefer, but we understand that not everyone agrees on these.

Sometimes we may have to use words that are part of old laws. This does not mean we agree with the words, and we have tried to limit such usage as much as we can.

We want to be as sensitive as possible, and it is not our intention to distress anyone.

Further Support Services

Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) offers support and assistance in the following areas:

- Health and Wellbeing, including pain management, disability aids, complementary therapies and psychological supports
- Welfare advice and assistance
- Help engaging with other agencies

You can contact **VSS** by email, telephone or in writing:

Email: enquiries@vssni.org

Telephone: 028 9027 1678

Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm

Address: Victims & Survivors Service, 1st Floor Seatem House, 28-32 Alfred Street, Belfast, BT2 8EN

Tips for completing the questionnaire

- You do not have to answer any question that upsets you.
- You can stop at any time.
- You do not have to tell us about **personal information** or personal experiences unless you want to.
- You can ask someone you trust to help you.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your views. They are important to us!

PART B – KEY WORDS

Some words in the Easy Read version are shown in **bold**. These words may be more difficult to understand, so we explain them in the Key Words section below.

We have explained their meaning to help you read this document:

- **Acknowledgement payment** — money paid to recognise what happened.
- **Administrative mistake** — a mistake with paperwork or a process.
- **Appeal** — asking for a decision to be checked again.
- **Applicant** — the person applying.
- **Application** — the form and details sent in.
- **Community partner organisations** — trained local groups that can help you apply.
- **Consultation** — asking people what they think.
- **Decision notice** — a letter that tells you what has been decided.
- **Eligibility rules** — rules about who can get a payment.
- **Fraud** — giving false information on purpose to get money.
- **Irregularities** — things that were not done correctly or did not follow the proper procedure.
- **Legal costs** — money paid for legal help and support.
- **Listed institution** — an institution named in the Bill.
- **Official records** — official documents kept by **PRONI** or another organisation.
- **Oral hearing** — a meeting where someone can speak about their **appeal**.
- **Overpayment** — money paid by mistake that may need to be paid back.
- **Personal Information** — information about you.
- **Privacy Notice** — A document that tells people what information will be collected about them, why it is needed, and how it will be protected and used.

- **Procedural irregularity** — a mistake in how something was done.
- **PRONI** — the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.
- **Receipts** — proof that you paid for something.
- **Record holder** — an organisation or person that keeps records.
- **Redress Service** — the organisation that checks **applications** and pays awards.
- **Secondary legislation** — extra rules that explain a law.
- **Regulations** — a type of **secondary legislation**
- **Secretary** — the person who helps manage **applications**.
- **Verify** — to check.
- **VSS** – Victims and Survivors Service.
- **Withdrawal** — stopping or taking back an **application** or **appeal**.

PART C QUESTIONNAIRE - ABOUT YOU

The following 10 questions help us understand, who is responding to the consultation.

Please note, we are particularly interested in the views of those affected or with experience of the institutions and their pathways and practices.

Question 1 is the only question which is required. In **Question 2 to Question 10 below** we ask about you as an individual.

However, you **do not** have to answer them. If you do not want to answer a question, then leave it blank and move on to one that you do wish to answer.

We ask these questions to:

- find out if people from different backgrounds are taking part;
- help to make sure everyone has a fair chance to be heard;
- check if there are any barriers that make it harder for some people to take part

This helps us consider our equality duties under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and identify any groups who may face barriers to participation.

The information is used for monitoring purposes only and helps us assess whether our policies and services promote equality of opportunity for everyone.

TEO is committed to protecting your privacy. For more information about what we do with your personal information please see our [privacy notice](#).

TEO will not attribute any information provided to an individual respondent.

Q1: Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?
[required question]

An individual (please go to question 2) ☐

On behalf of an organisation ☐

If responding on behalf of an organisation, please tell us your organisation's name.

(please go to question 11)

Q2. Have you been affected by any of the following (please select all that apply)?

Mother and Baby Institution ☐

Magdalene Laundry ☐

Workhouse ☐

Other institution ☐

None of the above ☐

If you have selected 'Other institution', please specify:

Q3. Which of the following describes you (please select all that apply):

Please select all that apply

Someone who was admitted to an institution ☐

Someone born to a mother who was in an institution ☐

Family member of either category above ☐

Other ☐

If you have selected 'Other', please specify:

Q4. Are you currently a resident in Northern Ireland?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If 'No', please indicate where you currently live

Republic of Ireland ☐

Great Britain ☐

Rest of Europe ☐

America ☐

Canada ☐

Australia ☐

Other ☐

If you have selected 'Other', please specify:

Q5. What is your age?

Under 16 ☐

16-24 ☐

25-34 ☐

35-44 ☐

45-54 ☐

55-64 ☐

65-74 ☐

75-84 ☐

85+ ☐

Q6. What is your religion?

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| No religion | ☐ |
| Catholic | ☐ |
| Presbyterian | ☐ |
| Church of Ireland | ☐ |
| Methodist | ☐ |
| Baptist | ☐ |
| Free Presbyterian | ☐ |
| Brethren | ☐ |
| Protestant – not specified | ☐ |
| Christian – not specified | ☐ |
| Buddhist | ☐ |
| Hindu | ☐ |
| Jewish | ☐ |
| Muslim | ☐ |
| Sikh | ☐ |
| Other | ☐ |

If you have selected 'Other', please specify:

Q7. What is your sex?

Male ☐

Female ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

Q8. What is your ethnic group? (Choose one option which best describes your ethnic group or background)

- White ☐
- Irish Traveller ☐
- White and Black Caribbean ☐
- White and Black African ☐
- White and Asian ☐
- Any other Mixed/multiple ethnic background, *please describe below* ☐
- Indian ☐
- Pakistani ☐
- Bangladeshi ☐
- Chinese ☐
- Any other Asian background, *please describe below* ☐
- African ☐
- Caribbean ☐
- Any other Black/African/Caribbean background, *please describe below* ☐
- Arab ☐
- Any other ethnic group, *please describe below* ☐

If you have selected 'Any other', please specify:

Q9. Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

Yes (please proceed to Q10) ☐

No (please proceed to Q11) ☐

Q10. Does your condition(s) or illness(s) reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

Yes, a lot ☐

Yes, a little ☐

Not at all ☐

PART D: WHAT WE WOULD LIKE YOUR VIEWS ON

Regulation 1: Applications and evidence

What this section is about

- This **Regulation** sets out how to apply for a payment.
- **Applicants** must provide some information, such as name and institution, but do not need to give details about what happened to them.
- **Applicants** may also have to provide the details of another person, such as their birth mother or deceased relative.
- **Applicants** will also need to prove who they are.
- The **Redress Service** will check **official records**.

What this means for you

- You can apply online, by post or by giving the form to the **Redress Service**.
- You need to give basic information to help records be checked.
- You will need to provide some ID and other documents
- Someone legally allowed to act for you may sign the form.
- If you cannot get a certain document, other proof may be accepted.

Q11. Do you agree with this approach to applications?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 2: Notice of application to institutions and record holders

What this section is about

- This **Regulation** sets out how **records** will be checked.
- **Records** may be held by **PRONI**, an **institution** or another organisation.
- The **Redress Service** will contact the organisation that holds the **records**.
- The organisation will normally be asked to reply within 14 days.
- This is only about checking **records**, not asking for views about a person's experience.

What this means for you

- You do not need to contact **institutions** yourself.
- The **Redress Service** will contact the **record holder**.
- It will use the information in your **application** to search the **records**.
- **Institutions** will not be asked to comment on what happened to you or your family member.

Q12. Do you agree with how the Redress Service will check the records?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 3: Request for further information

What this section is about

- This **Regulation** covers when more information may be needed.
- This may happen if an **application** is incomplete.
- It may also happen if **records** do not give enough **evidence**.
- The **Redress Service** may ask the **applicant** or organisation for more information.
- There will be at least 14 days to reply.
- A second written request may be sent if there is no reply.

What this means for you

- The **Redress Service** may contact you if more information is needed.
- You will have *at least* 14 days to reply.
- If you do not reply, you may get a second written request.
- If information is still missing, a decision may be made using the information already available.
- If there is no response, the **application** may be closed, but this will not stop you from applying again.

Q13. Do you agree with how the Redress Service will ask for more information when needed?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 4: Case Management

What this section is about

- This section explains how the **Redress Service** can manage **applications**.
- Some **applications** may need extra steps before a decision is made.
- The person dealing with the case may give directions, such as pausing the case or moving it to another **Redress Service** member.
- The aim is to give the **Redress Service** different ways to manage **applications**.

What this means for you

- Your **application** may be looked at by the **Secretary**, one **Redress Service** member or a panel of members.
- Extra steps may be taken if more information is needed.
- Your **application** may be paused or moved to another decision maker, if needed.

Q14. Do you agree with the proposed case management powers?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 5: Extension of Time Periods

What this section is about

- This **Regulation** means that a deadline may be extended.
- This could be because of illness, delays getting **records** or another unavoidable problem.
- A **Redress Service** member, the **Secretary** or a panel may extend a deadline.
- The aim is to be fair while keeping **applications** moving.

What this means for you

- If you need more time, a deadline may be extended.
- This may help if you are unwell or waiting for documents.
- It may also help if something outside your control causes delay.

Q15. Do you agree with the approach to extending time limits?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 6: Determination of Applications

What this section is about

- This **Regulation** explains how **applications** will be decided.
- The decision is only about whether a person meets the Scheme eligibility.
- It is not about deciding whether abuse or harm happened.
- Applications may be decided by the **Secretary**, one member or a panel.
- The **applicant** will get a written **decision notice**.

What this means for you

- The **Redress Service** will decide if you meet the rules for a payment.
- You do not need to prove that abuse or harm happened.
- The decision is about whether you or your mother, or a deceased family member, was admitted to a **listed institution**.
- If **records** are missing, the decision maker will look at whether the admission is 'more likely than not' to have taken place.
- You will get a notice saying if your **application** is approved or refused.
- If refused, the notice will explain your right to **appeal**.

Q16. Do you agree with how applications will be decided?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 7: If an Applicant dies

What this section is about

- This **regulation** explains what happens if a person dies before their **application** is finished.
- The **applicant** will be able to choose a person who may be able to receive their payment should the **applicant** die while the **application** is open.
- This person can be named on the **application** form or later in writing.
- If the named person does not come forward within 90 days, the **application** will be **closed**.

What this means for you

- You may choose one person to take over your **application**.
- If you die before payment is made, the person may receive your payment (if you meet the **eligibility**).
- If more information is needed, the named person may be asked to provide it.
- If they do not come forward within 90 days, the **application** will be closed and cannot be reopened.
- If a £12,000 **application** is closed, an eligible relative may still be able to make a posthumous £2,000 claim.
- If the £2,000 **application** is closed, or the named person has received a £12,000 payment on behalf of the deceased, then no further applications could be made by surviving family members.

Q17. Do you agree with what will happen if an applicant dies before their application is finished?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 8: Payment of awards and recovery of overpayments

What this section is about

- This **Regulation** explains how **payments** will be made.
- Once told they will get a **payment**, the **applicant** should accept in writing with their bank details within 30 days.
- In some cases, **payment** may be made to someone legally acting for the **applicant**.
- If a **payment** is made by accident or because of **fraud**, some or all of it may need to be **repaid**.

What this means for you

- If your **application** is approved, you will be asked to accept the award in writing.
- You should normally reply within 30 days but it can be longer.
- You will need to give bank details for **payment**.
- If someone is legally acting for you, **payment** may be made to them where allowed.
- If too much money is **paid**, some or all money may need to be **repaid**.
- You should be told in writing why **repayment** is needed and how much is owed.

Q18. Do you agree with how payments will be handled?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Q19. Do you agree with how overpayments will be handled?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 9: Appeals Procedure

What this section is about

- This **Regulation** explains **appeals** if an **application** is refused.
- The **applicant** will get a written notice explaining the **decision**.

What this means for you

- If your **application** is refused, you can **appeal**.
- You have 90 days to **appeal**.
- The **appeal** will not start your **application** again.
- The **appeal decision** will be final.
- You will get a written notice explaining the **decision**.

Q20. Do you agree with the proposed appeals process?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 10: Withdrawal of an application or appeal

What this section is about

- This **Regulation** explains how to **withdraw** an **application** or **appeal** before a **decision** is made.
- The **applicant** must tell the **Redress Service** in writing.
- A **withdrawn application** will be closed.
- Another **application** can be made later, but it will be treated as new.
- A **withdrawn appeal** may be restarted within the 90-day **appeal** period.

What this means for you

- You can choose to stop your **application** or **appeal** before a **decision** is made.
- You must tell the **Redress Service** in writing.
- If you **withdraw** an **application**, it will be closed.
- You may be able to make another **application**.
- This would be treated as new.
- You can restart a withdrawn **appeal** within the 90-day **appeal** window.

Q21. Do you agree with the approach for withdrawing an application or an appeal?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 11: Legal Fees

What this section is about

- This **Regulation** explains when some **legal costs** may be paid.
- The scheme is simple and people should not need legal help to apply.
- The **Redress Service** will check **official records** for the **applicant**.
- **Applicants** can get help from trained **community partner organisations**.
- **Legal costs** may be paid if the **Redress Service** asks for a signed statement.

What this means for you

- You should not normally need legal help to apply.
- You can get support from trained **community partner organisations**.
- Their support can help you understand and complete the **application**.
- You may get some **legal costs** covered, such as if **records** are missing and you are asked to make a statement about your experience.

Q22. Do you agree with the proposed approach to legal fees?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 12: Other Costs and Expenses

What this section is about

- This section explains when some **costs** may be covered by the **Redress Service**.
- The **costs** must be needed for an **application** or **appeal**, such as getting certificates or travel to an **oral hearing**.
- It may also include some **costs** outside Northern Ireland.
- The **costs** must be reasonable and supported by **receipts** or **evidence**.

What this means for you

- You may be able to get some **costs**, like getting a birth certificate, repaid.
- The costs must be needed for your **application** or **appeal**.
- You will need **receipts** or other **evidence**.

Q23. Do you agree with this approach to costs and expenses?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 13: Procedural irregularities

What this section is about

- This **Regulation** explains what happens if there is a **mistake** in the process.
- This could be missing information, using the wrong document or missing a step.
- The **Redress Service** may also make a **mistake** and may take steps to put it right.
- This should not make an **application** or **appeal** invalid.

What this means for you

- If a mistake happens, your **application** or **appeal** should not automatically fail.
- The **Redress Service** may correct the problem if this is fair.
- You may be given extra time or asked for missing information.
- If a refusal was based on an **administrative mistake**, the **decision** may be looked at again.
- The aim is to make sure you are treated fairly if **mistakes** happen.

Q24. Do you agree with the proposed approach to mistakes or irregularities?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Final Comments

Q25. Do you have any other comments to make regarding the draft regulations?