



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

CONSULTATION ON REDRESS REGULATIONS

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PART A: Consultation process

How to respond to the consultation

We will accept responses to the consultation in any format; however, we have outlined the key ways to respond below:

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 an editable pdf version of the questionnaire shown on the [Department's website](#) by contacting us at trpconsultation@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk. You can then complete this, save it and send it to us as an attachment, at the email address above.

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 90 520 063** for a hard copy, then post it to: -

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

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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.

Support

For support in responding to the consultation please contact us by email trpconsultation@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk or phone **028 9052 0063**.

The closing date for responding to the consultation is 17th November 2026.

PART B: Background to the consultation

B.1. What is the purpose of the consultation?

This consultation seeks views on secondary legislation (Regulations) which are necessary to establish the redress scheme formally.

B.2 What is the primary legislation?

The [Inquiry \(Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses\) and Redress Scheme Bill](#) was passed on the 30 June 2026 and will become a law (an Act) following a process called Royal Assent, which is likely to be in Autumn 2026.

This is called the primary legislation, and it sets out the main things that the new law will do including key elements like:

- who is eligible for a Standardised Payment; and
- creating an independent Redress Service to make payments.

Eligibility for Standardised Payment

The Standardised Payment is an acknowledgement payment to recognise the impact of Magdalene Laundries and Mother and Baby Institutions. A person may qualify if, during the time period covered in the Bill, they were:

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

Independent Redress Service

The Bill establishes an independent body known as the Truth Recovery Redress Service, which will receive applications, check official records to verify admission, make decisions and pay awards.

B.3 What is secondary legislation?

Secondary legislation provides more detail on what will happen in practice and it is required for the redress scheme to open.

One form of secondary legislation is called a regulation. It will set out the necessary procedures to help everyone to understand what to do and how to do it.

The Regulations are meant to help make the process clear, consistent and fair. They also give the Redress Service enough flexibility to deal with practical problems, such as missing documents or incomplete records, while still applying the same rules to everyone.

B.4 What does the document do?

This document explains what each proposed Regulation will do. It is for victims and survivors, family members and representative organisations. It tests whether the proposed regulations are:

- clear
- fair
- transparent
- workable in practice.

The Regulations are not necessarily in the order that they will appear in the legislation itself. Many of the regulations are routine in nature and you may not have any views but we want to be clear on what we are proposing.

B.5 Why are we consulting and why the specific duration?

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the proposed policy for the Redress Regulations, which cover the procedural details of the redress scheme.

The consultation period was chosen to give individuals adequate time to consider the proposals and submit their views, while also allowing the secondary legislation to be in place and the redress scheme to open at the earliest opportunity.

B.6 Terminology

These are difficult and sensitive matters, and we acknowledge that the language and terminology used here is especially important. We also understand that there are different views on the most suitable terminology, and we do not wish to add to anyone's distress.

We have tried to use sensitive terminology and language, noting there is not always a consensus. However, on occasion, we may need to use different language in the development of the Regulations.

B.7 Support

Whilst the focus of the consultation is on the Regulations, we are conscious of the impact that considering these issues may have on people whose personal experiences have given rise to the need for these proposals.

The Executive Office (TEO) offers support services through the Victims and Survivors Services (VSS), for victims and survivors, and information on how to access these services is available at [Emotional Support for Victims and Survivors of Mother & Baby Homes and Magdalene Laundry Institutions - Victims and Survivors Service](#). VSS can be contacted via telephone on 028 9027 1678 or email: - enquiries@vssni.org on the support services available.

B.8 Confidentiality

The Executive Office is committed to protecting your privacy. Further information on how we use and protect your personal data is available [here](#). **Individuals responding in a personal capacity are not required to provide their name or contact details, and responses will be treated anonymously.** TEO will not attribute any information provided to an individual respondent.

B.9 Impact Assessments

In accordance with the Executive Office's obligations under Section 75, an equality screening has been conducted on the policy for the Regulations and can be found [here](#). The screening concluded that there would be no significant implications for equality of opportunity and therefore an equality impact assessment is not required.

B.10 What happens next?

After the consultation closes, TEO will review and analyse the responses received and make any necessary changes. The Department will complete the required processes to facilitate scrutiny of the Regulations by the Executive Office Committee and the Examiner of Statutory Rules. The Regulations will then be subject to further consideration and a final vote in the Assembly.

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 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, <i>please describe below</i> | ☐ |
| Indian | ☐ |
| Pakistani | ☐ |
| Bangladeshi | ☐ |
| Chinese | ☐ |
| Any other Asian background, <i>please describe below</i> | ☐ |
| African | ☐ |
| Caribbean | ☐ |
| Any other Black/African/Caribbean background, <i>please describe below</i> | ☐ |
| Arab | ☐ |
| Any other ethnic group, <i>please describe below</i> | ☐ |

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 Questionnaire: Regulations

Regulation 1: Application format and supporting evidence

Purpose of the Regulation

This Regulation sets out how a person applies for a payment and what documents must be provided with the application.

What the Regulation will do

The Standardised Payment Scheme is intended to be simpler than many other redress schemes. People will not be asked to give a statement about what happened to them. Instead, the Redress Service will try to find out whether the relevant person (either the applicant, or their mother, or their deceased relative) can be linked to a listed institution through official records.

Applications will need to be made in writing. This includes applications sent online, by post or delivered directly to the Redress Service.

The application will need to be signed by the applicant or by someone who is legally able to act for them, such as a Controller (a person appointed by the High Court to manage the property and financial affairs of an adult who lacks the mental capacity to do so themselves), a person with a registered Enduring Power of Attorney *or, for a child, a person with parental responsibility*.

The application form will ask for basic information, including:

- the applicant's name, date of birth and current address;
- details of the person admitted to the institution, such as birth mother or deceased relative;
- the name of the relevant institution;
- the dates of admission, if known.

The aim is to give the Redress Service enough information to start checking records without making the application process too difficult.

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Supporting documents will usually include:

- a certified copy of the applicant's birth certificate or adoption certificate;
- one form of photo ID;
- proof of any change of name, if needed; and
- other certified photo ID, where the applicant does not have one of the usual forms of identification.

For posthumous applications, some extra documents will usually be needed. These will include:

- a certified copy of the death certificate
- proof of the applicant's relationship to the person who has died
- proof of cohabitation for least two years before their death (if a cohabiting partner).

If someone cannot provide all the usual documents, other proof of identity may be accepted. This means that the absence of one document will not automatically stop someone from applying.

Q11. Are you content with the information that will be needed to make an application?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 2: Notice of application to institutions and record holders

Purpose of the Regulation

This Regulation explains how the Redress Service will contact institutions, PRONI and other relevant organisations to check whether a person was admitted to a listed institution.

What the Regulation will do

The Redress Service will check whether an applicant, their mother or a deceased relative was admitted to a relevant institution during the period covered by the Scheme. In many cases, this will be done by checking institution records held by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, known as PRONI. In some cases, records may still be held by the institution itself or by another organisation on its behalf.

When an application is made, the Redress Service will contact the relevant body. This may be the institution itself, the organisation holding the records, or PRONI if it is checking records for the institution.

The notice will include the key details needed to search the records, such as:

- the name of the applicant;
- where relevant, the name of birth mother or deceased family member;
- the name of the institution; and
- the relevant time period.

The relevant body will normally be expected to reply within 14 days and provide any available evidence that the person was admitted to an institution listed in the Bill.

The aim is to have a consistent process for checking applications, while allowing record holders some practical flexibility. This Regulation is only about checking records to verify admission to a relevant institution, and the Redress Service will not ask for any other information relating to the applicant. It is **not** about asking institutions for views on a person's experience, as this scheme is based on admission only.

Q12. Are you content with the proposed approach to seeking records for verification purposes?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 3: Request for further information

Purpose of the Regulation

This Regulation allows the Redress Service to ask for more information if an application is incomplete or if records do not give enough evidence to make a decision.

What the Regulation will do

Not every case will be straightforward. Sometimes an application may be missing important information. In other cases, records may not give a clear answer. The Redress Service therefore needs a practical way to ask for more information before deciding whether an applicant is eligible.

The Redress Service may write to an applicant, an institution or another relevant person or organisation to ask for more information. The request will explain what is needed and give a deadline for reply. This would be at least 14 days. If the information is not provided in time, the Redress Service may send a second written request, again allowing at least 14 days for a reply.

The aim is for this to be a supportive administrative process, rather than an immediate use of formal powers. This is important because a formal legal notice may feel intimidating for some victims and survivors.

If information is still not provided after two requests, the Redress Service may decide the case using the information it has or close the application. If it is closed, the applicant will still be able to make a fresh application at a later date.

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Q13. Are you content with the process for requesting additional information?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 4: Case management

Purpose of the Regulation

This Regulation will give the Redress Service general powers to manage applications efficiently and fairly.

What the Regulation will do

Although many applications are expected to be straightforward, the Redress Service will still need enough flexibility to manage its work and deal with unexpected issues. Applications may be decided by the Secretary, by an individual member of the Redress Service or by a panel.

This Regulation allows an individual determining an application to give directions and take other steps needed to manage the application and help it move forward. This could include moving an application to a different decision maker or panel, pausing the case while more information is gathered, or dealing with practical problems in the process.

The Regulation is meant to help the Redress Service respond sensibly if something unexpected happens and keep cases moving without needing a separate rule for every situation.

Q14. Are you content with the proposed case management powers?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 5: Extension of time periods

Purpose of the Regulation

This Regulation allows time limits in the draft Regulations to be extended where necessary.

What the Regulation will do

Fixed deadlines will not always be appropriate in every case. Applicants may be unwell, there may be delays in getting records or certificates, or another unavoidable problem may arise. The Redress Service, therefore, needs a limited power to extend time where necessary.

This Regulation allows a Redress Service member, the Secretary or a panel deciding the application to extend a deadline in the Regulations where necessary.

The aim is to give practical flexibility, while still making sure applications move forward. It is also meant to reduce the risk that applicants are disadvantaged by circumstances outside their control.

Q15. Are you content with the approach to extending time limits?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 6: Determination of applications

Purpose of the Regulation

This Regulation will explain how the Redress Service will decide applications and how applicants will be notified of the outcome.

What the Regulation will do

The Standardised Payment Scheme is designed to decide whether a person meets the legal eligibility criteria. It is not a process for deciding whether abuse or harm took place. It is also not intended to decide civil or criminal responsibility for any institution. The key question is whether the eligible person was admitted to a listed institution in the circumstances set out in the Bill.

An application may be decided by the Secretary, by a member of the Redress Service or by a panel of members. If a panel is used, the decision will be made by a simple majority. Where records are not available and the case needs more careful judgement, the application may be decided by a judicial member, or by a panel including a judicial member, using the civil standard of proof, which is the balance of probabilities (whether something is more likely to be true than not).

After a decision is made, the applicant will receive a decision notice. This should:

- say whether the application has been approved or refused;
- give a short explanation of the decision;
- explain what the applicant must do next if the application is approved; and
- explain the right to appeal if the application is refused.

Q16. Are you content with how applications will be determined?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 7: If an applicant dies

Purpose of the Regulation

This Regulation will set out what happens if an applicant dies while their application is still ongoing.

What the Regulation will do

Under the Bill, if an eligible person has died on or after the 28 April 1953, an eligible relative (namely a spouse/partner or surviving child of the deceased) may make an individual claim for £2,000. However, there will be a different process for when an applicant dies while their application is ongoing.

This Regulation sets out that the applicant can name one person who may be invited to take over the application should the applicant die while the application remains open. The applicant may name this person in the original application or later in writing to the Redress Service.

The nomination will stay in place unless the applicant withdraws it in writing. In the event of the applicant's death, the nominated person will not be making a new application. Instead, they may be invited to 'step into' the applicant's place to finish the original application if the Redress Service is confident that it has all the information needed to determine the application. If more information is needed, the Redress Service must decide whether the nominee will be able to provide the required details. If they cannot, the application will be closed.

If the named person does not come forward within 90 days or the applicant has chosen not to nominate an individual, the application will be closed and could not then be reopened.

If the deceased's application was for a £12,000 payment and it is closed by the Redress Service, then an eligible relative may still make an individual posthumous claim for £2,000.

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If the deceased applicant was applying for a £2,000 posthumous payment and the application is closed, then no further applications can be made by family members.

If the nominated person receives payment on behalf of the deceased, then no further posthumous claims can be made.

Q17. Are you content with how the Redress Service will handle applications where the applicant dies before the end of the process?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 8: Payment of award and recovery of overpayments

Purpose of the Regulation

This Regulation will deal with the payment of awards and the circumstances in which money may need to be recovered by the Redress Service.

What the Regulation will do

The Bill says that the Standardised Payment will be paid as one lump sum. Once an applicant has been notified that their claim has been approved, they should reply in writing within 30 days to accept the award and give bank details for payment. The Regulations allow payment directly into the applicant's account as set out in that written acceptance.

There are some cases when a payment may not be made directly to the applicant. These are:

- if the application is for a person who lacks capacity, payment may be made to the Controller;
- if there is a registered Enduring Power of Attorney, payment may be made to the attorney, subject to any limits in that authority;
- if the application is for a child, payment may be made to the person with parental responsibility or guardianship; and
- in some cases, the decision maker may direct that an award is held on trust.

Overpayment

The Regulations also allow overpayments to be recovered. Overpayments may happen because of administrative error, wrong information or fraud.

Before seeking repayment, the Redress Service would consider:

- why the overpayment happened;
- the person's ability to repay;
- whether recovery would be proportionate; and
- whether the money is likely to be recovered.

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The person should be told in writing why repayment is being sought and how much must be repaid. Repayment may be made in one sum or by instalments. In some circumstances, a debt may be written off with the written agreement of the Executive Office.

Q18. Are you content with the proposed arrangements for payment of awards?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Q19. Are you content with the proposed arrangements for recovery of overpayments?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 9: Appeals procedure

Appeals as set out the primary legislation

Clause 39 of the Bill gives applicants the right to appeal within 90 days where an application has been unsuccessful. An appeal must be considered by a different judicial member from the member involved in the original decision and they may seek further information or call an oral hearing.

Bringing an appeal does not start the whole process again. It will consider whether the refusal should be upheld or overturned. The appeal decision is final.

Purpose of the Regulation

Building on the process as set out in the primary legislation, this Regulation explains what information the applicant will receive about the appeal outcome.

What the Regulation will do

The Regulation stipulates that the appeal decision notice should be sent to the applicant or to someone acting for them and should include the reasons for the decision. If the appeal is successful, the notice should also explain the deadline for accepting the award and providing bank details for payment. This would be 30 days.

The purpose of this Regulation is to make sure applicants receive a clear written explanation of the outcome and know what they need to do next if the appeal succeeds.

Q20. Are you content with the proposed appeals process in the Regulations?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 10: Withdrawal of an application or appeal

Purpose of the Regulation

This Regulation will set out how an applicant may withdraw an application or an appeal, and what happens afterwards.

What the Regulation will do

An applicant may decide that they no longer wish to continue with their application. They may also decide that they want to stop an appeal that they have already started. The Regulations therefore explain how a withdrawal can happen and what effect it will have.

An applicant may withdraw an application or an appeal at any time before a decision is made by telling the Redress Service in writing. If an application is withdrawn, it will be closed and cannot simply be reopened. However, the applicant may make a new application, which will be treated as a fresh case. If an appeal is withdrawn, it may be reinstated within the 90 day appeal period.

This Regulation is about giving applicants choice over their application, while making sure the Redress Service knows how to handle withdrawn applications and appeals.

The Redress Service may also withdraw/close an application in certain circumstances. For example, when an applicant has not responded to a request for further information within a specified time frame. This would not prevent the applicant from submitting a new application.

Q21. Are you content with the proposed arrangements for withdrawing an application or an appeal?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 11: Legal fees

Purpose of the Regulation

This Regulation will explain the limited circumstances in which the Redress Service may meet legal costs.

What the Regulation will do

People should not need a solicitor to apply for the Standardised Payment. This is because the Scheme is based on admission to an institution, and the Redress Service will usually check this through official records. Most people should therefore be able to apply without legal help.

Applicants will also be able to get support throughout the application process from experienced and trained staff in community partner organisations, such as WAVE and Adopt NI. This support is intended to help applicants understand what is needed, complete the application and engage with the Redress Service in a way that feels clear and manageable.

However, in certain circumstances some legal costs may be met. For example, if admission cannot be verified through the records, the Redress Service may ask for a signed statement known as an affidavit to support the application. This should not be needed in most cases, and the Redress Service must approve any legal costs before they are incurred.

In those cases, the Redress Service may pay legal costs up to £190 plus VAT, with flexibility for that figure to increase in line with the relevant Northern Ireland Taxing Office Practice Direction.

The purpose of this Regulation is to avoid unnecessary legal costs while making sure that a person is not left out of pocket if the Redress Service asks for a formal sworn document.

Q22. Are you content with the proposed approach to legal fees?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 12: Other costs and expenses

Purpose of the Regulation

This Regulation will cover some other costs that may be repaid where they are reasonably needed for an application or appeal.

What the Regulation will do

Applicants may have to pay some costs when applying to the Scheme, even though the process is meant to be straightforward. These may include the cost of getting a birth certificate or death certificate for the application, and other receipted costs that are reasonably needed to complete or decide the case.

The Regulations may allow the Redress Service to repay receipted expenses that are needed for an application or appeal. This may include reasonable travel and subsistence costs if an oral hearing is required. It may also include costs outside Northern Ireland where someone needs to carry out work connected to an application on the applicant's behalf. This should not be needed in most cases, and the Redress Service must approve any other receipted costs before they are incurred.

The purpose of this Regulation is to make sure necessary practical costs do not stop people taking part in the Scheme, while limiting repayment to costs that can be evidenced and are reasonably connected to the application or appeal.

Q23. Are you content with the proposed approach to reimbursing other costs and expenses?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

Please provide any further comments below:

Regulation 13: Procedural irregularities

Purpose of the Regulation

This Regulation will explain what happens if there is a procedural mistake in an application, appeal or decision-making process.

What the Regulation will do

Mistakes can happen. An applicant may leave out information, use the wrong document or miss a step in the process. The Redress Service may also make an administrative error, for example by not recording supporting information correctly. The aim is that a technical mistake should not automatically make an application or appeal invalid if the problem can fairly be put right.

The Regulations will say that an application or appeal is not invalid just because a procedural requirement has not been followed exactly. Where the Redress Service thinks someone may have been disadvantaged by a mistake, it may take steps to deal with it. This could include allowing extra time, asking for missing information or, where a refusal was based on an administrative mistake, setting aside the original decision and reconsidering the application using the full information available.

The purpose of this Regulation is to protect applicants from unfair outcomes caused by technical or administrative mistakes and to give the Redress Service a practical way to correct errors if they happen.

Q24. Are you content with the proposed approach to procedural errors?

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?