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Written Questions for Petition 1351

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF PE1351: QUESTIONS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS (See 'Written submissions' for responses)

TUESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2010—

Scottish Government—

- What is your response to the petition?
- What is the timetable for reviewing the report by the Chair of the Time to be Heard Forum? What will be the next steps following the pilot?
- Is there scope for an interim report from the Chair of the Forum?
- How can all victims of sexual/emotional abuse have their voices heard at a national level?
- What is your answer to the point made by the petitioner that "The Time to be Heard Forum is discriminatory and selective. It does not include or prioritise elderly and terminally ill survivors who were not residents in *Quarriers* institution"?
- Would an open forum, in line with Ireland's Residential Institutions Redress Board, not be more appropriate to support all victims?
- Can victims of institutional abuse receive any financial compensation? If not, will you introduce a compensation element in line with the Residential Institutions Redress Board Ireland? If not, what are the reasons why it can be done in Ireland but not Scotland?
- Should such a forum be open to all victims or only to those who have been abused in specific institutions? In that case, in what way is the current forum representative of all victims?
- What was the rationale for restricting the access to the Time to be Heard Forum to former *Quarriers* residents only?
- Will you provide financial resources for adequate support services for those survivors who are participating in the pilot as well as to all victims of institutional sexual abuse?
- Why did you set up the Forum before responding to the recommendations in the report from the Scottish Human Rights Commission on "Acknowledgement and Accountability Forum and other remedies for historic child abuse in Scotland"?
- Will you implement in full, and when the recommendations made in the report from the Scottish Human Rights Commission?
- What is your response to the points made by Cathie Craigie MSP regarding the "time bar" law in Ireland?