

Lambeth Children's Homes Redress Scheme Update

As at 31 March 2025

Report summary

This report provides a summary update on the position of the Lambeth Children's Homes Redress Scheme (the Scheme) as at the 31 March 2025. The Scheme closed to new applications on 1 January 2022 with a final total of 2,240 applications having been made to the Scheme as at the closing date.

Although the Scheme is now closed to new applications existing applications continue to be processed with over 99% of all the applications received now processed through to conclusion. A total of £105.0 million has now been paid in redress compensation, both Harm's Way Payments (HWP) and Individual Redress Payments (IRP) directly to applicants.

Finance summary

The total Scheme expenditure to 31 March 2025 is c£154.3 million, comprising:

- £105.0 million paid in redress compensation directly to applicants (£15.9m HWP & £89.1m IRP),
- £17.5 million in respect of applicants' legal costs (paid to solicitors),
- £11.2 million on applicant expenses, instruction of medical experts, deputyship costs, and social records chronology,
- £2.4 million on counselling services & Pre-Scheme SAR's
- £8.7 million for the council's own legal costs in processing applications,
- £9.5 million on administrative & staffing costs.

The final estimated costs associated with all the applications received to the Scheme (i.e. the expenditure to date and those estimated redress payments, legal and associated disbursement and administrative costs that have not yet been paid in respect of applications still to be processed) is expected to be within the range of £155m to £158m. This is based on an earlier actuarial view and is dependent upon the final assessment and settlement of the remaining outstanding cases.

1. CONTEXT

- 1.1 This report provides a status update on the Scheme as at the 31 March 2025 with the figures contained within this report representing the position as at this date.
- 1.2 The Scheme closed to new applications on 1 January 2022 having been open for a period of four years from 2 January 2018. The Scheme provides survivors of physical and/or sexual and/or psychological abuse (whilst resident in a Lambeth Children's Home) with an alternative dispute mechanism for obtaining compensation without having to go through the Courts. The Scheme covers all Children's Homes which were run by Lambeth Council until the Homes were closed in the 1980's and 90s.
- 1.3 All former residents of a Lambeth Children's Home who were living in and subjected to a harsh environment will be eligible to receive a Harm's Way Payment ("HWP") of up to £10,000. Payments will be stepped based on time spent in a children's home as follows:
 - More than 6 months – Harm's Way Payment of £10,000
 - Between 3 and 6 months – Harm's Way Payment of £5,000
 - More than 1 week and up to 3 months – Harm's Way Payment of £2,500
 - Less than 1 week – Harm's Way Payment of £1,000

A harsh environment is one which caused former residents to fear or apprehend that they would be subject to immediate physical abuse, and mistreatment or sexual abuse and/or neglect and/or cruelty. Where a Harm's Way Payment is paid and the person also applies for an individual redress/compensation payment the Harm's Way Payment will be treated as an interim payment for redress.

- 1.4 An Individual Redress Payment (IRP) is a payment made for applicants who suffered sexual abuse and/or physical abuse and/or psychological injury at a Lambeth Children's Home and/or Shirley Oaks Primary School where specified criteria are met.
- 1.5 In addition to financial compensation, eligible applicants to the Scheme are also entitled to receive a formal letter of apology from the council, a meeting with a senior officer, counselling support, access to advisory services and the provision of personalised counselling support and therapy
- 1.6 Copies of all previous Scheme updates are available here: [Redress Scheme Updates](#)

2. PERFORMANCE

Applications received

- 2.1 When the Scheme closed on 1 January 2022, a total of 2,240 applications had been received. A total of 479 new applications were received during 2021 (January to December) with 223 of these (47%) being received in the final month of December (including those applications received on the last day of 1 January 2022).
- 2.2 The final number of applications received at 2,240 was slightly higher than the estimated number of c2,100 which was forecast after the first year of the Scheme following actuarial considerations based on the available data at that time.

- 2.3 The following chart shows the numbers of applications received each month over the duration of the Scheme:

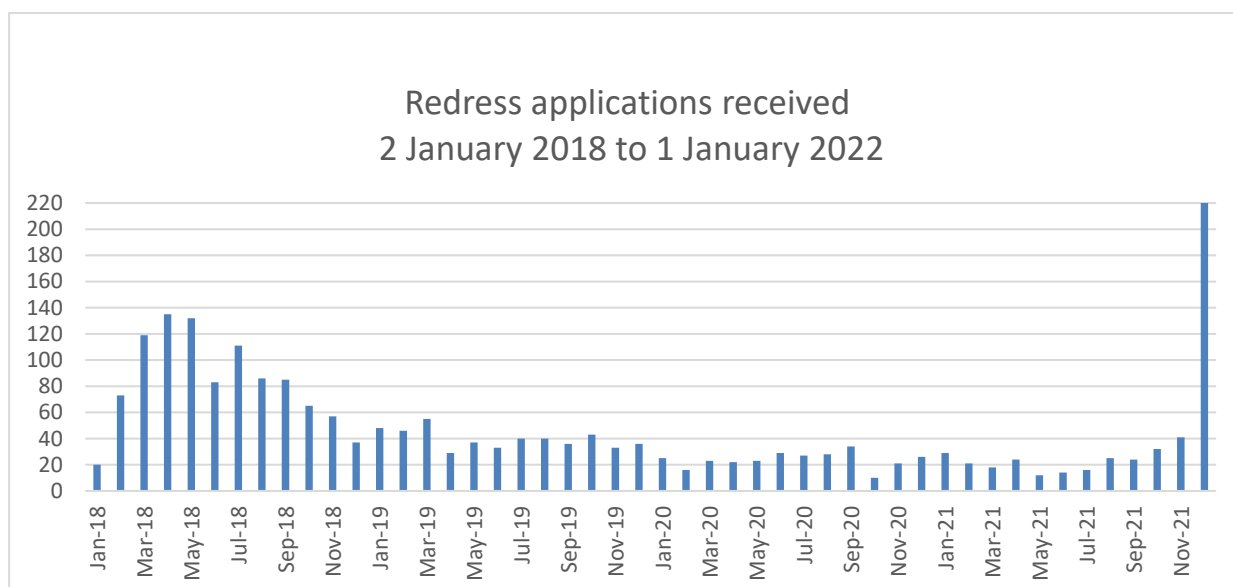


Table 1 – redress applications received.

- 2.4 A breakdown of the application types received is shown in the following table:

Application type	Total No. of applications received	% of applications received
Both Harm's Way and Individual Redress	1,779	79.5%
Harm's Way Only	330	14.7%
Individual Redress Only*	131	5.8%
Total	2,240	100.0%

Table 2 – application numbers

*Individual Redress only applications relate to applicants who are either deceased or were a visitor to a Lambeth Children's Home.

- 2.5 All the applications noted in the table above were received prior to the closure date of 1 January 2022 however subsequent changes to figures may have occurred due to change of application type after receipt, or other administrative changes.
- 2.6 The majority of applicants (85%) have appointed a legal representative to deal with their application through the Scheme on their behalf whilst around one in seven applicants (15%) have chosen to handle their own application without any representation.

Application processing

- 2.7 Applications are processed in two stages, determination of eligibility and calculation of the Harm's Way payment (HWP) to eligible applicants (stage 1) and then determining the value of any Individual Redress payment due (stage 2).

2.8 Stage 1 – Verification of application and Harm's Way Payment

The average processing time from the receipt of an application through to the point that the Harm's Way Payment is paid to the applicant is just under two months and has remained consistent throughout the operation of the Scheme. Processing times for HWP's are shown in the table below:

Stage 1 Verification and Harm's Way Payment processing

(Based on applications where a HWP has been paid)

Processing time	<1 month	1-2 months	2-3 months	3-4 months	4-5 months	5-6 months	>6 months
% of applications	34%	30%	16%	7%	4%	2%	7%
No. of applications	661	571	316	127	73	32	143

Table 3 – Stage 1 processing times

2.9 Over 80% of stage 1 applications have been processed in three months or less. Where information is missing from an application or further information is required to enable verification the processing time has taken slightly longer. Only 7% of Harm's Way applications have taken over six months to complete.

2.10 Stage 2 – Individual Redress Payment

The average processing time from the end of stage 1 (Harm's Way payment) to the Individual Redress payment being made to an applicant is 17 months. Processing times for completed stage 2 applications within the Scheme are shown in the table below:

Stage 2 Individual Redress processing

(Based on concluded applications within Scheme)

Processing time	1-12 months	12-18 months	18-24 months	24-30 months	30-36 months	>36 months
% of applications	32%	34%	20%	7%	3%	4%
No. of applications	409	443	257	90	45	51

Table 4 – Stage 2 processing times

2.11 66% of stage 2 applications within the Scheme have been processed in 18 months or less with 86% of applications concluded within 2 years. The processing of Individual Redress applications is more complex than for Harm's Way and requires a more detailed assessment of records and input from medical experts which takes longer. 4% of applications have taken longer than three years.

2.12 The overall average processing time for Scheme applications from receipt of an application through to final payment of the Individual Redress payment is 19 months (2 months HWP & 17 months IRP).

2.13 Stage 2 – Individual Redress Payments over £125,000

The Scheme provides compensation up to a maximum of £125,000, however some complex cases where special damages for aspects such as impairment of earning capacity may result in higher awards of compensation, require a more detailed analysis of expert information. These cases over the maximum are handled in the spirit of the Scheme but naturally take much longer to process. Processing times for Individual Redress payments over the Scheme limit are shown in the table below:

Stage 2 Individual Redress over £125,000 processing

(Based on concluded applications over Scheme limit)

Processing time	1-12 months	12-18 months	18-24 months	24-30 months	30-36 months	>36 months
% of applications	19%	43%	17%	6%	7%	8%
No. of applications	20	46	18	6	8	9

Table 5 – Stage 2 over limit processing times

2.14 The current average processing time for stage 2 applications exceeding the Scheme limit is 18 months. The overall processing time of these applications from receipt to final payment of the Individual Redress payment is 20 months (2 months for HWP and 18 months for IRP).

Application status

2.15 As at 31 March 2025 the processing status of all applications received is shown in the table below:

Application Status	Total No. of applications	Applications as a %
Open applications (Final compensation not yet paid)		
Stage 1 Verification & Harm's Way Payment (Applications still being determined)	1	0.1%
Stage 2 Individual Redress payment (IRP still being determined or awaiting acceptance)	8	0.3%
Over Scheme limit applications Open over £125k applications (Applications still being determined/awaiting acceptance)	2	0.1%
Subtotal open applications (A)	11	0.5%
Open applications (Final compensation paid)		
Stage 3 All HWP and final IRP paid to applicants (Finalising remaining legal costs only)	1	0.1%
Subtotal open applications pending costs (B)	1	0.1%
Closed applications		
Closed – Paid HWP/IRP finalised and closed (All redress and legal costs paid)	1,929	86.1%
Over Scheme limit applications - Paid Closed over £125k applications (All redress & costs paid)	132	5.9%
Closed – No payment No HWP or IRP paid (Withdrawn & applications not accepted into Scheme)	167	7.4%
Subtotal closed applications (C)	2,228	99.4%
Totals (A+B+C)	2,240	100.0%

Table 6 – Application Status

- 2.16 Over 99.5% of applications (B+C) are where applicants have been paid all their compensation. The remaining 0.5% of applications remain open and are in the final stages of being processed through to conclusion.
- 2.17 There have been 167 applications (7.4%) that have not been accepted into the Scheme due to not meeting the relevant Scheme criteria. The reason for applications not being accepted is shown in the table below:

Reason redress application not accepted into Scheme	Total number of applications
Unable to verify applicant	83
Not placed in a Lambeth children's home	66
Threshold not met for HWP/IRP	14
Abuse occurred whilst in foster care*	4
Total	167

Table 7 – Applications not accepted

*In circumstances which do not fall to be considered under the Scheme

- 2.18 In all cases where applicants were notified that their application did not meet the relevant criteria the applicant was reminded of their right to appeal the council's decision or to seek legal advice (if they were not already represented).

Application status by representation

- 2.19 The current processing status of applications between applicants with legal representation and those applicants handling their own application (Applicants in Person) is shown in the table below:

	No. Open	No. Closed	Total	% Closed
Applicants In person*	1	343	344	99.9%
Legally represented applicants*	11	1,885	1,896	99.5%
Total	12	2,228	2,240	

Table 8 – Application status by representation

*Movements in numbers may occur where applicants have changed to/from legal representation

- 2.20 Over 99% of applications whether legally represented or those applicants representing themselves have now fully concluded (including all legal costs paid). There is little difference in the percentage status of closed applications between the two categories.

Periods of residency

- 2.21 The largest proportion of accepted applications to the Scheme (33%) relate to applicants where they first entered (were resident for the first time) a Lambeth children's home prior to 1 April 1965 (the date when Lambeth assumed responsibility for these children's homes).
- 2.22 The following table details the years that applicants were first placed at a Lambeth children's home:

Year of residency in a Lambeth Children's Home

(Based on date applicants were resident for the first time)

Period	Pre 01.04.1965	Late 1960's*	1970's	1980's	1990's	Total
Number of applications	687	305	656	291	132	2,071
Year of residency as a %	33.2%	14.7%	31.7%	14.0%	6.4%	100%

Table 9 – Year of residency

*From 01.04.1965

Harm's Way Payments

2.23 As at the end of March 2025 a total of 1,922 Harm's Way payments have been made to applicants totalling £15.9 million. The breakdown of these payments is shown in the table below:

Harm's Way payments	No. of verified payments	Total amount paid (£)	Harm's Way Payment as a %
£1,000 - less than 1 week	34	34,000	0.2%
£2,500 - more than 1 week up to 3 months	276	690,000	4.3%
£5,000 - between 3 and 6 months	185	925,000	5.8%
£10,000 - more than 6 months	1,427	14,270,000	89.7%
Total Harm's Way payments	1,922	15,919,000	100.0%

Table 10 – Harm's Way payments

2.24 Almost 90% of applicants making a Harm's Way application have received the maximum payment of £10,000 as they were resident in a Lambeth Children's home for more than six months. The Harm's Way Payment although paid separately is treated as an interim payment towards any further Individual Redress Payment that an applicant may go on to receive.

Individual Redress Payments

2.25 As at the end of March 2025 Individual Redress Payments totalling £89.1 million have been made (including interim & over Scheme limit payments). These payments are in addition to the total Harm's Way Payments. A breakdown of the Individual Redress Payments made is shown in the table below:

Individual Redress payments	No. of verified payments	Total amount paid (£)
Applicant Rehabilitation / Therapy	797	3,950,415
IRP Uplift Payment	482	2,377,850
Interim Individual Redress Payment	291	2,450,189
Band 1 (compensation up to £25,000)	169	1,497,200
Band 2 (compensation up to £50,000)	210	4,256,450
Band 3 (compensation up to £100,000)	109	5,291,643
Band 1 Plus Band 4 (compensation up to £50,000)	23	405,500

Band 2 Plus Band 4 (compensation up to £75,000)	261	8,773,550
Band 3 Plus Band 4 (compensation up to £125,000)	616	42,558,676
Total Individual Redress payments	2,958	71,561,473
Payments over £125k	134	17,582,617
Total IRP & over £125k	3,092	89,144,090

Table 11 – Individual redress payments

2.26 Of the total paid in redress compensation and associated application legal costs to date around 74% has gone directly to the applicants as shown in the table below:

Payment type	Amount Paid (£)	Percentage %
Paid to applicants		
Harm's Way Payments	15,919,000	11.2%
Individual Redress payments	71,561,473	50.3%
Payments over £125k	17,582,617	12.3%
Total Paid to applicants (A)	105,063,090	73.8%
Applicant's Legal costs (paid to solicitors)	17,543,723	12.3%
Council's Legal costs (for processing of IRP)	8,687,167	6.1%
Disbursements for medical experts/reports, Social care records chronology	11,153,958	7.8%
Total Legal & Disbursement costs (B)	37,384,848	26.2%
Grand Total (A+B)	142,447,938	100.0%

Table 12 – Total Scheme payments (compensation & legal costs)

Scheme appeals

2.27 As at end of March 2025 a total of 151 appeals to the independent appeal panel have been received. The table below details the numbers of appeals that have been received in each category and the status of these:

Appeal category	Number of Appeals	Percentage of Appeals	Appeals allowed (applicant successful)	Appeals dismissed (applicant unsuccessful)	Appeals withdrawn	Appeals pending
Eligibility	43	29%	7	27	9	0
Level of Harm's Way Payment	2	1%	0	0	2	0
Level of Redress Payment	45	30%	12	31	1	1
Level of applicant Legal Costs	61	40%	1	44	16	0
Total number of appeals	151	100%	20	102	28	1

Table 13 – Appeals cases

- 2.28 There is only one appeal (Level of redress payment) awaiting a hearing date by the panel as at the end of March 25. All other appeals that were received before the deadline dates have now been determined by the appeal panel and subsequently concluded.

Non-financial redress

- 2.29 The Scheme offers applicants the opportunity to access a number of non-financial redress benefits such as a letter of apology, a meeting with a senior representative of the council, access to a counselling service and access to specialist advice and help with issues including housing, welfare, benefits, further education and employment.
- 2.30 As at the end of March 2025 a total of 839 letters of apology have been requested, prepared, and sent to applicants.
- 2.31 A total of 75 applicants have requested and had a meeting with a senior representative of the council. Further meetings are being scheduled with those applicants that have requested them.
- 2.32 The table below details the numbers of referrals that have been made in respect of applicants that have requested access to the specialist advisory services:

Specialist advisory service area	Number of applicant referrals
Housing	212
Further Education	67
Employment	51
Welfare & Benefits	47
Total referrals	377

Table 14 – Advisory service referrals

Scheme administrative arrangements

- 2.32 The administrative arrangements supporting the Scheme have been in place since the Scheme launched in January 2018. The Scheme closed to new applications on 1 January 2022 and since then the number of applications remaining open has steadily decreased as they have concluded. Given the reducing volume of applications, it is not possible nor cost effective to keep in place the full scope of administrative arrangements including those that involve external partners such as the independent appeal panel.
- 2.33 Over the course of the last year applicants and their representatives have been further advised of the importance of concluding any remaining applications and that the administrative arrangements for the Scheme were coming to an end. Applicants were also advised that any requests for access to advisory services referrals, a written letter of apology, meeting with a senior representative of the council would all need to be submitted by the 31 December 2024 to enable these to be provided.
- 2.34 Whilst there are now only a small number of applications that remain open these are expected to fully conclude over the coming months. Many of these remaining applications are those that require Court of Protection approval hearings.
- 2.35 Access to the counselling support service set up by the council has continued to be provided over the past year through to the end of March 2025. Any further changes to the counselling support service offered will be updated on the [Redress Scheme Website](#)

3. FINANCE

- 3.1 The total cost incurred in operating the Scheme (including compensation over the Scheme limit and administrative costs) as at 31 March 2025 is c£154.3 million. These costs are cumulative running from the start of the Scheme. A breakdown of the expenditure is shown in the table below.

Expenditure type	Expenditure amount (£)
Harm's Way Payments	15,919,000
Individual Redress payments	71,561,473
Payments over £125k	17,582,617
Total Paid to applicants (A)	105,063,090
Applicant's Legal costs (paid to solicitors)	17,543,723
Council's Legal costs (for processing of IRP)	8,687,167
Disbursements (medical reports, Social care records chronology)	11,153,958
Total Legal & Disbursement costs (B)	37,384,848
Grand Total (A+B)	142,447,938
Scheme administrative expenditure	
Independent Appeal Panel costs	378,562
Scheme administration advice & support (Legal, audit & advice)	1,414,536
Pre-Scheme advice & support (Legal, audit & advice)	296,018
Pre-Scheme Survivors association legal costs	243,000
Staffing costs – Redress team	6,636,440
Operational costs (advertising, post, ICT, training, actuarial)	477,025
Total Scheme Administrative expenditure (C)	9,445,581
Counselling Service & Pre-Scheme SAR's	
Counselling services	1,436,586
Pre-Scheme SAR's	984,273
Total Counselling Service & Pre-Scheme SAR's (D)	2,420,859
Total cost of Redress Scheme (A+B+C+D)	154,314,378

Table 15 – Redress expenditure

- 3.2 As at 31 March 2025 the total projected (estimated) cost of settlement for all applications received into the scheme by the closing date is expected to be in the range of £155m to £158m (actual payments and costs already paid plus estimated payments, costs, and administrative costs in respect of those applications already received but not yet concluded). This is based on an earlier actuarial view and is dependent upon the final assessment of the outstanding cases.
- 3.3 The uncertainties in forecasting the final overall cost due to the relatively novel nature of the Scheme have significantly reduced as more of the remaining applications have been concluded.
- 3.4 Based upon earlier actuarial assumptions the council secured capitalisation directions from the Government to borrow up to £125 million to fund the Scheme. Given the revised financial forecast resulting from the higher than anticipated volume of applications received in the final month of the Scheme the council has secured a further capitalisation direction of up to £50 million to fund the remaining balance.