

Meeting: Redress Scotland Oversight Board / ARAC / SMT

Date: 12 August 2026 0930-1230

Location: Online via MS Teams

Minute by: Linda Aitken (LA)

In attendance

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| • Kirsty Darwent (KD) | Redress Scotland Oversight Board Chair |
| • William (Bill) Matthews) (BM) | Redress Scotland Oversight Board Deputy Chair |
| • Paul Edie (PE) | Redress Scotland Oversight Board Member (<i>apologies</i>) |
| • Neil Mackay (NMac) | Redress Scotland Oversight Board Member,
ARAC Member |
| • Roy McComb (RMc) | Redress Scotland Oversight Board Member |
| • Colin Spivey (CS) | Redress Scotland Oversight Board Member,
ARAC Member |
| • James Mollison | Redress Scotland ARAC Board Member
Panel Member |
| • Eileen Skinner (ES) | Redress Scotland Oversight Board Member
Panel Member |
| • Andrew Freeburn (AF) | Redress Scotland Oversight Board Member
Panel Member |
| • Joanna McCreadie (JMc) | Redress Scotland Chief Executive |
| • Gary Gallacher (GG) | Redress Scotland Deputy Chief Executive (<i>apologies</i>) |
| • Kirsty Christie (KC) | Redress Scotland Head of Operations |
| • Michael Stevens (MS) | Head of Finance and Resources |
| • Michelle Nairn (MN) | Redress Scotland Head of People |
| • Melanie Lowe (ML) | Redress Scotland Head of Policy & Improvement |

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Gary Gallacher (Deputy Chief Executive Officer) and from Paul Edie.

1. Welcome, apologies, conflicts of interest and appoint Survivor Voice

K Darwent opened the meeting welcoming all present.

Apologies were received from Gary Gallacher (Deputy Chief Executive Officer) and from Paul Edie.

Members noted the values of Redress Scotland (dignity, compassion and respect) which were embedded in the work of the organisation. Redress Scotland seeks to ensure that survivors are always put at the forefront of business conducted by the Board.

A Freeburn was appointed the survivor voice for the duration of the meeting.

No conflicts of interest were raised.

2. Scrutiny of Annual Report and Accounts (ARC) Prior to Submission to Audit Scotland

2.1 Annual Report and Accounts

M Stevens advised Members that when drafting Paper 2.1 he and M Lowe had been mindful of the document specifications set out in the Scottish Government's (SG) Green Book which laid out specific aspects which were required to be included. In doing so there was an element of repetition involved that was difficult to avoid.

The draft document had been shared with Survivors who had returned their comments on specific aspects of it. Survivors were referred to throughout the draft document which was welcomed by Members who agreed that it was important to ensure the Survivor voice was heard within it.

Members explored the draft document section by section. M Stevens and M Lowe noted the feedback on the draft document provided by Members, which broadly included:

- The risk of duplication of content across the structure of the draft document while noting this was required by the Green Book.
- Clarity around the independence of RS, its relationship with the Scottish Government and the Sponsorship Team is needed
- Consistency of language throughout the draft document was encouraged
- The process of applying for redress should be included as a separate point rather than it being tacked on to Survivor accounts to help ensure the gravity of the Survivors account was protected and not conflated with comments on the administrative route to redress.

B Matthews thanked Members for their input to the process and invited Members to delegate the responsibility to review the revised document to the Chair and Deputy

Chair, which was agreed. The Chair echoed the Deputy Chair's thanks to Members for their support of this exercise.

3. Redress Scotland Budget

Members were updated on the recent meeting between RS Chair, CEO and the Deputy First Minister (DFM) which had been a positive experience. Several important discussion points were covered including the budget allocation which had not been yet approved. Members were also advised that a request for a forecast for next year's budget has been received.

Members were alert to their legal duty of responsibility and in absence of a budget were keen to better understand the potential impact on the Accountable Officer's role (J McCreadie). Options for the Board to raise the issue with the DFM were considered.

It was agreed that Gillian McCreadie in Audit Scotland would be contacted for guidance, specifically in relation to the ability of RS to continue to allocate funds for salaries, fees and other essential overheads while the annual budget has not been approved.

Action: B Matthews to contact G McCreadie at Audit Scotland for a view on the impact and legal implications of the delay in RS budget allocation being received.

The Board noted the potential for new Panel Members to be impacted by the delayed budget allocation. Work had been completed to approve and submit recommendations to recruit another cohort of Panel Members, with documentation shared with the DFM's office on the 30 June. A statement had been provided alongside the recruitment request highlighting the underlying essential need for these resources to grow the capacity of Redress Scotland to meet demand.

It was noted that any additional delay would have an unintended impact on the delivery of decision outcomes for Survivors. Clarification on the potential for work at Redress Scotland to continue, should the budget not be approved, is now urgently needed. Members are seeking to better understand the potential adverse impact on the public body and Survivors who had applied to the Scheme.

The Chair requested that a chronology of recent events (e.g. Autumn 2025 onwards) along with a timeline of correspondence with the Sponsor Team summarising dates and points raised / actions taken in support of progressing this issue should be prepared. It would serve to establish RS has not been reckless in its assessment of and attempts to progress the issue of the budget allocation and serve to highlight any gaps of action take forward by the Scottish Government.

Action: J McCreadie to compile a chronology of recent events (e.g. Autumn 2025 onwards) along with a timeline of correspondence with the Sponsor Team.

RS staff had been made aware of the challenge, with an honest and reassuring approach being undertaken. Disquiet as to the lack of predictability and reliable forecasting of scheduled work had been noted.

Members felt that due to the general public's likely conflation of SG and RS there was risk of reputational damage arising from any potential delays to Survivors resulting from the continued delayed receipt of the budget allocation.

Members had previously been invited to provide feedback on the content of the letter received from Neil Rennick (Director General of Education and Justice); however, the current situation was felt to supersede this action point.

It was agreed that a further meeting of the Oversight Board should be held ideally within the next two working weeks.

Action: L Aitken to arrange a further meeting of the Oversight Board.

The Chair thanked everyone for their engagement and input to the discussion.

4. New and Emerging Risks

The Chair noted no additional new and emerging risks in addition to those already identified under earlier items.

5. Any Other Competent Business

J McCreadie updated Members to the receipt of a Section 21 Notice received from the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry (SCAI) requesting that RS disclose to them decisions that been made in relation to applications for redress which identify a specific care location. The deadline for response to the Notice was the 21 August, which will be complied with. Members were advised that J McCreadie had a meeting with the CEO of SCAI arranged.

6 Review of Meeting and Survivor Voice

A Freeburn noted several areas discussed which impacted on survivors including:

- Budget allocation and uncertainty created with the potential for impact to be felt by Survivors
- There was commitment to Survivors when considering the next steps to secure the budget allocation.
- The recruitment of additional Panel Members could be delayed which in turn could adversely affect the progression of Survivor applications.
- Survivors had been invited to comment on the draft accounts.

Members concluded that in all meetings the Survivor voice is present in the room.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions today. A date and time for the next meeting would be confirmed as soon as possible. Diary invites would be circulated in due course.

Actions arising from meeting on 12 August 2026

Action	Item	Actions	Lead	Progress
1	3 Redress Scotland Budget	B Matthews to contact G McCreadie at Audit Scotland for a view on the impact and legal implications of the delay in RS budget allocation being received.	B Matthews	Complete
2		J McCreadie to compile a chronology of recent events (e.g. Autumn 2025 onwards) along with a timeline of correspondence with the Sponsor Team.	J McCreadie	Complete Chronology and Timeline circulated to members
3		L Aitken to arrange a further meeting of the Oversight Board.	L Aitken	Complete Additional meeting arranged to be held 240826