

CICA Consultation 2023 from the IICSA Changemakers

Consultation on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme review is welcomed by the IICSA Changemakers. Organisations representing victims and survivors have long called for reform of the scheme to deliver justice for survivors of child sexual abuse. However, the introduction of this consultation seems to suggest it addresses the IICSA recommendation on redress. It is vital that we remember IICSA describes redress in numerous areas – not just financial. For example, the IICSA recommendation called for the following:

- a written apology acknowledging what has happened,
- providing an acceptance of responsibility which significantly aids recovery for victims and survivors,
- a meeting with a senior representative to have questions explored,
- access to counselling or therapeutic support as well as payment compensation in accordance with the terms of the scheme.¹

It is important the Government looks at the whole redress package - as recommended by IICSA – and does not solely focus on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme.

IICSA Changemakers agree that the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme should be amended so that the eligibility criteria bring non-contact offences with equivalent effect within scope of the scheme. We also support amending the definition of a ‘crime of violence’ to include other forms of child sexual abuse, including online-facilitated sexual abuse.

We note the recommendation in Appendix B of the consultation² suggests that funding for support for any new areas covered by the scheme will need to be taken from existing victim care budgets. IICSA itself cautioned against funding financial redress from the existing limited funding for victim support services and therefore we cannot support this as it would remove vital resources from other victims in an already overstretched budget.

The communication and process of this scheme has previously been commented on in 2020 and 2021 consultations by many organisations and individuals represented across IICSA Changemakers. We urge the Government to review those submissions in line with changes to the 2023 proposals on scope, timing and communication of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. These recommendations come from those who work directly with victims and survivors, who have seen the impact that the existing process can have. This should be reflected in taking forward this version of a revised scheme.

¹ [F.2: The justification for a redress scheme | IICSA Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#)

² [Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme Review \(publishing.service.gov.uk\) Appendix B](#)