

Jesus Fellowship Redress Scheme Interim Update

31 January 2024

Please note that this update may contain information which current and previous members of the Jesus Fellowship Church may find distressing.

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1. Redress Scheme Summary

1.1 This report is an interim update on the Jesus Fellowship Redress Scheme (the Redress Scheme) as of 29th January 2024.

1.2 The Redress Scheme closed to new applications at 5pm on 31st December 2023. Active applications, where an outcome has not yet been communicated, will continue to be processed in 2024.

1.3 Key updates:

- A total of **889 applications were made** between 27th September 2022 and 5pm on 31st December 2023.
- **£5,187,308** has so far been offered (£3,699,000) or paid out (£1,488,308) to Applicants.
- **Offers or payments have been made in respect of 482 out of the 889 applications** received to date (54%).
- As of January 2024, **Compensation of up to £10,000 for Community Adverse Experiences was made available** for all eligible applicants. Please see 'Section 3.2.5 - CAE Compensation' below for further information.
- The Redress Scheme was **advertised nationally**, resulting in an increase of website views and applications made.
- The Redress Scheme **received more than 30% of all applications in December 2023**, and we appreciate your patience whilst we work through all ongoing applications.
- **330 individuals have been identified to date as alleged perpetrators** of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse. All alleged perpetrators of abuse have been referred to the police. Further referrals will continue in 2024.

1.4 We will be reporting further on outcomes following the conclusion of all applications.

2. Closure Context

- 2.1 As of December 2020, the Jesus Fellowship Community Trust (Trust) has existed solely as a residuary body with one purpose – winding up the administrative affairs of the Jesus Fellowship Church.
- 2.2 Independent Professional Trustees were brought in to oversee this work, which includes implementing the Redress Scheme, supporting survivors and former members, and ultimately closing the Trust.
- 2.3 The Jesus Fellowship Redress Scheme was established for those who have suffered harm, abuse and/or adverse experiences within the Jesus Fellowship community. It has also provided a clear process for employment, pension, national insurance, and retirement claims.
- 2.4 The Redress Scheme is specifically designed to give survivors and applicants an effective means for swift and compassionate settlement, without having to go through the courts. It ensures the compensation available goes to survivors and applicants, rather than being eroded by legal fees. It also means no survivor or applicant who claims through the Scheme will have to re-state their experience in court.
- 2.5 The process is being delivered in conjunction with the Redress Scheme solicitors, Clyde & Co, with the Trustees of the Jesus Fellowship Community Trust Trustees overseeing the closure of the Trust (Closure Trustees).
- 2.6 A full Closure Statement has been published by Closure Trustees here: <https://jesus.org.uk/about-jfct/jesus-fellowship-closure/>

3. Community Adverse Experience Scheme (CAE)

3.1 **CAE Summary**

3.1.1 The Community Adverse Experience scheme enables fair Redress for every person who suffered adverse experiences whilst living within the Jesus Fellowship community.

3.1.2 You can find a full guide to the Community Adverse Experience Scheme here: <https://jesus.org.uk/support/helpful-documents/>

3.1.3 A total of 513 CAE applications have been received during the application window between 26th September 2022 and 31st December 2023:

Redress Scheme Type	CAE Applications Received
Community Adverse Experience Scheme (CAE)	513

3.1.4 As of 29 January, 366 eligible CAE Applications have been offered an outcome of Redress. Note that a single application may have multiple outcomes:

CAE Redress Outcome Offer	CAE Applications
Support Grant	357
Capital Refunds	10
Apology	131

3.1.5 As community adverse experiences were systemic in community life, applications are not investigated, and applicants will not have to prove application points.

3.1.6 Applicants do not require a solicitor to apply under this scheme, or to accept offers of redress.

3.1.7 As of January 2024, Compensation of up to £10,000 for Community Adverse Experiences was made available for all eligible applicants Please see 'Section 3.2.5 - CAE Compensation' below for further information.

3.1.8 The application deadline for new applications to the Redress Scheme was 5pm on 31st December 2023. Applications that have yet to receive an outcome will continue to be processed in 2024.

3.2 What CAE Redress is Available?

3.2.1 **Your Voice**

Applicants have been able to identify which Community Adverse Experiences may apply to them.

The application form also allowed for applicants to share further details of their experience, only if they wish to have done so, providing an option to put forward their specific experiences to the closure Trustees.

3.2.2 **Support Grants**

Cash Support Grants of £500 are available towards the cost of counselling, training, or other support. These are paid directly to applicant bank accounts, to use as they see fit.

3.2.3 **Apology**

An apology on behalf of the Trust, acknowledging what has happened, providing acceptance of responsibility, and an assurance that lessons of the past have been shared with relevant authorities.

3.2.4 **Capital Refunds**

Capital Refunds are available to those who have made a Capital Contribution to the Trust and who have not received a refund or only a partial refund.

3.2.5 **CAE Compensation**

The Jesus Fellowship Redress Scheme had previously stated that financial compensation for 'Community Adverse Experiences' will be considered by the Jesus Fellowship Community Trust at the closure of the Redress Scheme.

This was due to legal priorities relating to the closure of the Trust, and if sufficient Trust funds remain available.

This has been reviewed by the Trust, and we can now confirm we are able to offer financial compensation for 'Community Adverse Experiences.'

This applies to:

- Those who have previously received a successful outcome from the Community Adverse Experience Scheme.
- Those whose outcome was unsuccessful from the Community Adverse Experience Scheme when applying for Capital Refunds only, who otherwise would be eligible.
- Those whose outcome from the Individual Redress Payment Scheme was successful, are confirmed as having lived in community, but who have not made a Community Adverse Experience Scheme application.
- Those whose outcome from the Individual Redress Payment Scheme was unsuccessful, are confirmed as having lived in community, but who have not made a Community Adverse Experience Scheme application.

The value of compensation being offered has been decided by considering the harm experienced and its impact, legal advice, and comparison with other Redress Schemes.

The value of compensation being offered is the highest of the following (a single award per person):

Category of Applicant	Amount of Compensation
Children in Community	£10,000
Women in Community, who selected as part of their application: 'Harmful treatment of Women as subordinates and/or Women suffering detriment and harm through being placed in positions of servitude.'	£8,000
Adults in Community Only	£6,000

This is in addition to any previous Redress Scheme outcome/s that an applicant may have been offered or received.

Applicants who have previously received an offer or outcome from the Jesus Fellowship Redress Scheme, where eligible according to the criteria above, will

be contacted directly by email and post.

For those whose application remains in progress, this additional compensation will form part of their application offer in due course, where eligible according to the criteria above.

3.3 Application Processing

3.3.1 As of 29 January 2024, the status of all applications received by the Community Adverse Experience Scheme is shown below:

CAE Application Status	Number of CAE Applications	% of CAE Applications
Review (Applications being processed)	114	22.22%
Under Offer (Applicants sent an offer of redress)	97	18.91%
Payment (Applicants have received payment)	269	52.44%
Closed – No Payment (Applications that have either been withdrawn or were not eligible)	33	6.43%

3.3.2 The reasons for CAE applications being closed are shown in the table below:

Reason	Number of Applications	% of CAE Applications
Duplicate application	8	1.6%
Not meeting eligibility criteria	11	2.1%
Not passing fraud checks	12	2.3%
Withdrawn by Applicant	2	0.4%

3.3.3 Targets have been set for processing Community Adverse Experience applications. The average working days spent on these applications are shown in the table below:

Redress Scheme Type	Target Working Days	Actual Working Days (Average)
Community Adverse Experience Scheme (<i>Support Grants / Apology</i>)	216 days	88 days
Community Adverse Experience Scheme (<i>Capital Refunds</i>)	216 days	105 days

3.3.4 CAE applications which include a Capital Refund request take longer to process than those with only a Support Grant request, as applicants receive a copy of their capital contributed/refunded as per the Trust records and are then given an opportunity to provide further information.

3.3.5 Whilst average processing times have been achieved in line with the Redress Scheme targets, a number of individual applications have taken longer than expected due to specific processing challenges that have emerged during the procedure.

4. Individual Redress Payment Scheme (IRP)

4.1 IRP Summary

4.1.1 The Individual Redress Payment Scheme enables fair redress to be available to those who suffered emotional, physical or sexual abuse in relation to the Jesus Fellowship.

4.1.2 You can find a full guide to the Individual Redress Payment Scheme here:
<https://jesus.org.uk/support/helpful-documents/>

4.1.3 A total of 332 Individual Redress Payment Scheme applications have been received during the application window between 26th September 2022 and 31st December 2023:

Redress Scheme Type	IRP Applications Received
Individual Redress Payment Scheme	332

4.1.4 As of 29 January, 115 eligible IRP Applications have been offered an outcome of Redress:

IRP Redress Outcome Offer	Total Applications
IRP Compensation	115
Apology	18
Meeting	0*

* Where requested, applicants have been invited to a meeting with an independent Closure Trustee following the receipt of an offer of compensation, however most requests have then been withdrawn. These invitations will continue to be offered in 2024.

4.1.5 The deadline for new applications to the Redress Scheme was 5pm on 31st December 2023. Applications that have yet to receive an outcome will continue to be processed in 2024.

4.2 What IRP Redress is Available?

4.2.1 **Compensation**

An award of compensation for the harm or injury suffered, aligned with Common Law Compensation Awards.

4.2.2 **Apology**

An apology on behalf of the Trust, acknowledging what has happened, providing acceptance of responsibility, and an assurance that lessons of the past have been shared with relevant authorities.

4.2.3 **Meeting with a Closure Trustee**

An invitation to meet with an independent Closure Trustee of the Trust to share your story. The invitation to meet with a Trustee is not compulsory, nor will it have any impact on any offer made. It is entirely at the discretion of the person applying.

4.3 Application Processing

4.3.1 As of 29 January 2024, the status of all applications received by the Individual Redress Payment Scheme is shown below:

IRP Application Status	Number of IRP Applications	% of IRP Applications
Review (Applications being processed)	170	51.2%
Under Offer (Applicants sent an offer of redress)	23	6.9%
Payment (Applicants have received payment)	92	27.7%

Closed – No Payment (Applications that have either been withdrawn or were not eligible)	47	14.2%
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4.3.2 The reasons for IRP applications being closed are shown in the table below:

Reason	Number of Applications	% of IRP Applications
Duplicate application	4	1.2%
Not meeting eligibility criteria	32	9.6%
Not passing fraud checks	-	-
Withdrawn by Applicant	11	3.3%

4.3.3 Targets have been set for processing Individual Redress Payment Scheme applications. The average working days spent on these applications are shown in the table below:

Redress Scheme Type	Target Working Days	Actual Working Days (Average)
Individual Redress Payment Scheme	158 days	155 days

4.3.4 In relation to the Individual Redress Payment Scheme, no two applications are identical, and the time needed to resolve them can vary.

4.3.5 Whilst average processing times have been achieved in line with the Redress Scheme targets, a number of individual applications have taken longer than expected due to specific processing challenges that have emerged during the procedure.

4.4 Medical Evidence and Records

4.4.1 Independent expert medical evidence (from a consultant psychiatrist) is not intended to be sought under the Redress Scheme as a matter of course. There will, however, be instances where disclosure of an applicant's medical records will be requested by the Redress Scheme solicitors, and/or from the applicant's

solicitors, to serve as an independent evidential corroboration of the injuries sustained by the applicant and any ongoing effects.

4.4.2 If an applicant’s solicitor makes a counter-offer that is significantly higher than the Redress Scheme valuation, the applicant’s medical records will be requested.

4.4.3 These records will only be viewed by the Redress Scheme solicitors, who will store them securely and not share them with any other party. There will inevitably be a delay in processing an application whilst the medical records are disclosed to, and then reviewed by, the Redress Scheme solicitors.

4.5 **Abuse Categories and Periods of Harm**

4.5.1 The Individual Redress Payment Scheme process has identified abuse categories (allegations) within 234 applications so far, as set out in the table below:

Abuse Categories	Number of Related Applications*
Sexual Abuse	119
Physical Abuse	104
Emotional Abuse	191

* Please note that there may be multiple abuse categories within a single application. Further identification of these categories will take place in 2024, during the processing of ongoing applications.

4.5.2 The Individual Redress Payment Scheme process has identified periods of harm within 234 applications so far, as set out in the table below:

Period of Harm	Number of Related Applications*
1970s	44
1980s	114
1990s	149
2000s	92
2010s	51

* Please note that there may be multiple periods of harm within a single

application. Further identification of periods of harm will take place in 2024, during the processing of ongoing applications.

4.6 Reporting to Authorities

- 4.6.1 Under the Individual Redress Payment Scheme, 330 individuals have been identified to date as alleged perpetrators of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse.
- 4.6.2 Applicants under the Individual Redress Payment Scheme have been sent a letter from Northamptonshire Police offering additional support and a conversation about criminal justice options available, should applicants wish to pursue them.
- 4.6.3 Please note that if a person is identified within the Redress Scheme as posing any risk to others (including any person an applicant mentions during their application as being responsible for abuse), the police may need to take appropriate action to ensure others are safe. The applicant's identity will remain confidential in this case. Find out more about Privacy and the Redress Scheme here: <https://jesus.org.uk/privacy>
- 4.6.4 All alleged perpetrators of abuse have been referred to the police. Further referrals will take place in 2024 as live applications are processed.

4.7 Applicant Solicitors

- 4.7.1 No applicant should be required to pay a solicitor for their application or pay any percentage of offers awarded.
- 4.7.2 Solicitors are paid £3,000 directly by the Redress Scheme, on the successful conclusion of an IRP application.
- 4.7.3 The following solicitors have supported applicants with Individual Redress Payment applications:

Solicitor	Number of Applications
Lime Solicitors	117
Hugh James	112
Robson Shaw	7
Biscoes Solicitors	6
Emmott Snell Solicitors	13
Switalskis Solicitors	3
Middleton Law Limited	5

Taylor Emmet Solicitors	3
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	2
Jordans Solicitors	6

5. Other Claims Scheme (OCS)

5.1 **OCS Summary**

5.1.1 The Other Claims Scheme enables fair redress to be available to those who seek to address potential claims relating to individual employment matters and/or specific and individual representations by the Trust.

5.1.2 You can find a full guide to the Other Claims Scheme here:

<https://jesus.org.uk/support/helpful-documents/>

5.1.3 A total of 44 Other Claims Scheme applications have been received during the application window between 26th September 2022 and 31st December 2023:

Redress Scheme Type	OCS Applications Received
Other Claims Scheme	44

5.1.4 As of 29 January, one eligible OCS application has been offered an outcome of redress:

OCS Redress Outcome Offer	Total Applications
Compensation	1

5.1.5 Due to the specific nature of this type of claim, appropriate outcomes are considered on a case-by-case basis.

5.1.6 Eligible applicants whose Other Claims Scheme applications are agreed, will be offered a contribution towards reasonable legal costs, on a case-by-case basis.

5.1.7 The application deadline for new applications to the Redress Scheme was 5pm on 31st December 2023. Applications that have yet to receive an outcome will continue to be processed in 2024.

5.2 What OCS Redress is Available?

5.2.1 **OCS Compensation**

Where applicable, applicants will be offered appropriate compensation. Due to the case-specific nature of this type of claim, applicants may be advised to seek legal advice upon receipt of an offer of compensation, paid for by the Redress Scheme.

5.3 Application Processing

5.3.1 As of 29 January 2024, the status of all applications received by the Other Claims Scheme is shown below:

OCS Application Status	Number of OCS Applications	% of OCS Applications
Review (Applications being processed)	26	59.1%
Under Offer (Applicants sent an offer of redress)	1	2.3%
Payment (Applicants have received payment)	0	0%
Closed – No Payment (Applications that have either been withdrawn or were not eligible)	17	38.6%

5.3.2 The reasons for OCS applications being closed are shown in the table below:

Reason	Number of Applications	% of OCS Applications
Duplicate application	5	11.4%
Not meeting eligibility criteria	12	27.3%
Not passing fraud checks	-	

Withdrawn by Applicant	-	
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5.3.3 Processing timescales for applications vary due to being considered case-by-case. The Other Claims Scheme aims to conclude all applications in 2024.

6. Support

6.1 The Redress Scheme continues to offer various types of support for applicants with ongoing applications in 2024. This includes:

- **Helpful documents** that can be downloaded, including guides to obtaining Certified ID: <https://jesus.org.uk/support/helpful-documents/>
- **Frequently Asked Questions:** <https://jesus.org.uk/support/frequently-asked-questions/>
- **Independent organisations** that are available to support victims: <https://jesus.org.uk/support/support-from-other-organisations/>
- **Help from the Redress Team** if you have a question about the Jesus Fellowship Redress Scheme that you have not been able to find the answer to on the website: <https://jesus.org.uk/support/get-help-from-redress-team/>

7. Financial Summary

7.1 Offers and Payments

7.1.1 As of 29th January 2024, 482 out of the 889 Redress Scheme applications received (54%) have reached the status of offers or payments being made.

7.1.2 As of 29th January 2024, a total of £5,496,308 has been offered or paid by the Redress Scheme, as shown in the table below.

Status	Amount
A: Under offer to applicants	£3,699,000
B: Paid to applicants.	£1,488,308
Sub-Total (A + B)	£5,187,308

C: Applicant solicitor fees relating to IRP applications, which are directly paid by the Redress Scheme.	£309,000
Total (A + B + C)	£5,496,308

- 7.1.3 In addition, the Jesus Fellowship Community Trust has previously paid £434,581 of direct counselling costs for victims whilst the Redress Scheme was being designed and launched.
- 7.1.4 The Redress Scheme has paid or offered 94.5% of payments directly to applicants.
- 7.1.5 No applicant should be required to pay a solicitor for their application or pay any percentage of offers awarded. Applicant solicitors are paid directly by the Redress Scheme, depending on the category applied for, as shown in the table below.

Redress Scheme Type	Applicant Solicitor Fees
Community Adverse Experience Scheme	Applicants do not require a solicitor to apply under this scheme, or to accept offers of redress.
Individual Redress Payment Scheme	Solicitors are paid £3,000 directly by the Redress Scheme, on the successful conclusion of an application.
Other Claims Scheme	Applicants do not require a solicitor to apply under this scheme. Where required on a case-by-case basis, applicants will be offered reasonable legal fees to be paid directly to a solicitor or expert to review or accept offers of redress.

8. JFCT Closure

- 8.1 The closure of the Jesus Fellowship Community Trust has been divided into four phases based on legal priority. The Redress Scheme is Phase 2 of the Closure.
- 8.2 For information regarding the ongoing closure of JFCT please visit www.jesus.org.uk