

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 16 July 2025 16:53

Subject: Development of a system for Reciprocal application of disregards for victims

Fyi the Northern Ireland Assembly's Committee for the Executive Office scrutinising the Inquiry (Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses) and Redress Scheme Bill ... please circulate to members,

Dear all,

I wish to draw your attention to the attached important correspondence regarding:

The development of a system for Reciprocal application of disregards for victims awarded compensation payments to ensure that the redress payments issued across UK / Ireland are disregarded for benefit purposes regardless of where in the UK / Ireland the person resides.

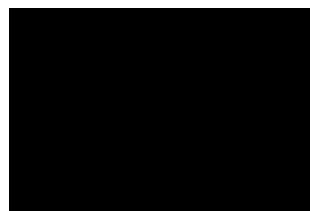
Currently there is at best a piecemeal approach, the attached correspondence evidences the need to do more,

I would be more than keen to do all I can to assist movement on this important issue – victims deserve no less,

Very best to all,

[REDACTED]

Please see all the latest news from Advice NI at [Welcome to Advice NI | Advice NI](#)



12th June 2025

Dear all,

Re: Development of a system for Reciprocal application of disregards for victims awarded compensation payments to ensure that the redress payments issued across UK / Ireland are disregarded regardless of where in the UK / Ireland the person resides.

By way of introduction, Advice NI runs an Historical Institutional Abuse (HIA) advice service and we have lately become aware of the issue where there is no provision within the benefits system in the South / Republic of Ireland to disregard HIA payments made in Northern Ireland for people living in the South.

This Dáil Éireann Debate, Q&A, Tuesday - 25 February 2025 refers:

“If a redress payment from the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry in the North of Ireland to a person who is resident in the Republic of Ireland would impact on their State benefits; if a bilateral agreement is in place to avoid this as was the case for previous redress schemes on both sides of the border.”

<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2025-02-25/593/?highlight%5B0%5D=7563&highlight%5B1%5D=25>

On further investigation, we became aware that due to similar factors, survivors of Ireland's mother and baby homes risk losing UK benefits over compensation paid by the Irish State.

Potential merits of introducing a capital disregard for payments made to UK residents under the Republic of Ireland's Mother and Baby Institutions Payment (June 2025)

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2025-0116/>

Survivors of Ireland's mother and baby homes risk losing UK benefits over compensation (June 2025)

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/10/ireland-mother-baby-homes-compensation-benefits-loss-campaign>

It is unacceptable that we are addressing such important issues on such a piecemeal basis, there of course needs to be an agreed reciprocal disregard process between and across all jurisdictions (RoI, NI and GB) in terms of reciprocal disregard arrangements for compensation payments made to victims, mindful in particular of

the contaminated blood scandal compensation scheme that is being implemented in the UK, but there will undoubtedly be other such schemes in the fullness of time.

Those who are in receipt of means-tested benefits, in whichever jurisdiction, have by definition a very low income, and cannot afford to have their benefit entitlement eroded by receiving compensation that has been established by an official awarding body.

Advice NI would also argue that, where individuals have been so negatively impacted by a combination of government failures and institutional abuse, it is only fair that any compensation payment be disregarded.

Furthermore, we understand that the Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys T.D., signed a Commencement Order which brought into effect a Convention on Social Security with the United Kingdom on 31st December, 2020. The main purpose of the Convention was to ensure that the **social security rights and entitlements** enjoyed by Irish and British citizens under the Common Travel Area (CTA) arrangements are maintained from 1 January 2021 onwards.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-social-protection/press-releases/social-protection-measures-between-ireland-and-the-united-kingdom-are-maintained/>

Considering that reciprocal agreements are already in place for ROI and UK citizens regarding social assistance schemes, surely it is not too much to ask that the small additional step is taken to protect the rights of victims.

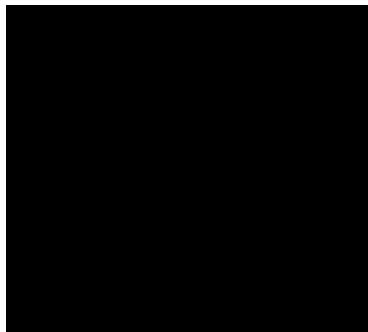
Advice NI is calling for:

- (i) the establishment of cross-Government protocols for triggering reciprocal disregards in respect of any and all compensation schemes developed across the UK and Ireland;
- (ii) the establishment of a social security working group made up of officials from Westminster, the Dail and all the devolved administrations to implement these protocols so that victims receive the full compensation, which they so deserve and need;

Advice NI understands that the issues being raised are complex, but we also understand that officials across all jurisdictions are aware of the issues. The problem is not one of finding a solution: the problem is building the political will to move from a piecemeal approach to finding and implementing a strategic approach.

We would be more than keen to do all we can to assist movement on this important issue – victims deserve no less,

Best regards,



Cc:

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