

PRESS RELEASE: MPs TO SCRUTINISE POST OFFICE, CONTAMINATED BLOOD, WINDRUSH AND BANKING SCANDAL COMPENSATION SCHEME FAILURES

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

17 April 2024 – Tomorrow, Thursday 18th April, MPs will debate the failures of various compensation schemes set up to provide redress for victims of a number of historic scandals - from Post Office Horizon through to Contaminated Blood, Windrush and the mass mis-selling of Interest Rate Hedging Products (IRHP) by major banks.

MPs will debate a motion calling on the Government to address the fragmented and inconsistent redress landscape and issue statutory guidance to ensure compensation and redress schemes follow common principles and lead to fair and independent outcomes for victims.

[Research from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Fair Business Banking](#) found that redress and compensation schemes set up by various bodies to address various scandals often suffered from the same systemic failures. The Group recommended that legally binding guidance should be issued in the wake of a scandal, covering nine key building blocks for any subsequent compensation scheme:

1. A collaborative approach and process
2. Timeliness
3. Independence
4. A recognition of adversity
5. Transparency of processes and outcomes
6. Broad eligibility
7. Accessibility and legal costs
8. Appeals mechanism
9. Fairness and efficiency

This debate is an opportunity for parliamentarians to discuss the failings of previous compensation schemes and consider how to hardwire justice, fairness, adequate financial compensation and respect into future redress.

Richard Foord MP, who is leading the debate said: “Horizon and the Post Office, Windrush, Contaminated Blood, financial mis-selling. The scandals change, but victims face the same obstacles every time they try to see justice done. It’s ludicrous that every time we need a new compensation scheme we start from scratch, rather than learning the lessons of the past. We have seen complex schemes with endless delays, undue pressure on victims, and compensating bodies being too cosy with the perpetrator. The only way to ensure those affected have a voice in this process is through new statutory guidance that puts them front and centre. Swift and fair justice is what those who’ve had their lives destroyed by some Britain’s most appalling, outrageous scandals deserve.”

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