

# The week in review

*This week saw a commitment from the Scottish Government to establish a financial redress scheme for in-care abuse survivors, plans to strengthen the home detention curfew system and the launch of a new play highlighting to young people the dangers of knife crime.*

## **Justice Committee consider justice budgets**

Cabinet Secretary for Justice Humza Yousaf was at the Parliament's Justice Committee this week, responding to MSPs' pre-budget scrutiny questions about the resourcing of key justice and community safety services.

Watch the Cabinet Secretary's appearance at Committee session in the video linked below.

## **Anti-knife-carrying message goes nationwide**

On Wednesday the Justice Secretary visited Stewarton Academy, Ayrshire, for the national tour launch of the No Knives, Better Lives '[Balisong](#)' play, which highlights the dangers of knife crime.

The Scottish Government is providing an additional £25,000 to YouthLink Scotland this year to ensure that 'Balisong' will be seen in every local authority throughout 2018-19, including a showing in HM Young Offenders Institute Polmont.

Real pleasure watching [#Balisong](#) – it did almost have me greetin'!

Powerful, hard-hitting and communicates such an important msg for our young ppl on the dangers of carrying a knife.

Well done to the actors, production team and amazingly talented [@RubiedMoon](#) who wrote it! <https://t.co/wIgXKd5ahK>

– Humza Yousaf (@HumzaYousaf) [October 24, 2018](#)

## **Redress scheme for in-care abuse survivors**

A financial redress scheme for survivors of child abuse in care will be put in place, Deputy First Minister John Swinney announced to Parliament this week.

Mr Swinney was outlining the Government's response to the recommendations of the InterAction Action Plan Review Group on the provision of financial redress for victims and survivors of abuse in care.

Mr Swinney and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon met members of the Group just ahead of his Parliamentary statement and thanked them personally for their commitment, time, and collaborative approach to this work.

Read the [Deputy First Minister's statement](#) on the main Scottish Government website, or watch proceedings on the [Scottish Parliament YouTube channel](#).

Deputy First Minister [@JohnSwinney](#) has confirmed the Scottish Government will put in place a financial redress scheme for survivors of abuse in care. [pic.twitter.com/fwsyiFM4XH](https://pic.twitter.com/fwsyiFM4XH)

– Scottish Government (@scotgov) [October 23, 2018](#)

## Strengthening home detention curfew regime

✘ The Justice Secretary confirmed plans to strengthen the system of allowing some prisoners to serve part of their custodial sentence outside prison with a 'home detention curfew' (HDC) electronic tag.

Mr Yousaf announced immediate actions were being taken by the Scottish Prison Service, Police Scotland and the Government after receiving two independent inspectorate reports into the HDC regime.

Read Mr Yousaf's statement to Parliament [here](#)

## Girls get in on goals

On Friday Minister for Community Safety Ash Denham visited Gracemount High School, Edinburgh, to see pupils taking part in a 'Girls Only' School of Football – supported by the Government's Cashback for Communities programme that invests the proceeds of crime into projects that support Scotland's children and young people.

The Scottish Football Association currently receives £1.75 million to deliver their Phase 4 (2017-20) Cashback programme – which includes the School of Football programme for girls and boys. The SFA has developed the 'Girls Only' Schools of Football to deliver a range of benefits, including developing self-confidence and social skills.

Thank you to [@ashtenRD](#) for coming along to [@GracemountHigh](#) which is a [@ScottishFA](#) School of Football via [@CashBackScot](#) 🏈

Some amazing young girls in the project and thank you to [@PEGracemount](#) for all the support.

Always love visiting these school and makes you so proud [pic.twitter.com/52jre3VxET](https://pic.twitter.com/52jre3VxET)

– Paul Hugh McNeill (@PaulHMcNeill) [October 26, 2018](#)

The post [The week in review](#) appeared first on [Justice and Safety](#).

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## [Financial redress for survivors of abuse in care](#)

Over a period of decades, children in the care of the state in Scotland were subject to appalling abuse and mistreatment.

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry is looking at the nature and extent of that abuse and the failures which allowed it to happen. In due course, it will publish a report and recommendations.

But we must act now.

Yesterday I offered an unreserved and heartfelt apology to everyone who suffered abuse in care in Scotland.

I accept the view that recognising these wrongs and providing justice to survivors – as far as we can – means the state should offer monetary payment.

So we will introduce legislation to do so before the end of this Parliamentary term. We will treat survivors with sensitivity and respect, and work with them to design a redress scheme that is fair to all.

For the many survivors of abuse who are elderly or ill, we don't have the luxury of time. So we will also provide advance payments, as soon as possible, to those who may not live long enough to apply to a statutory scheme.

Scotland now joins a small but growing number of countries who acknowledge the failures of the past and accept the need to act.

This is a victory for many survivors who have fought with inspiring courage and determination for justice.

We cannot ever truly make up for their suffering and I know apologies and money will never be enough. This is the right thing to do.

The post [Financial redress for survivors of abuse in care](#) appeared first on [Justice and Safety](#).

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## Can we measure justice?

**Guest bloggers and researchers Sarah Armstrong, Beth Weaver and Trish McCulloch ask whether we can measure justice and how different people experience justice?**

How do people experience justice? How do people decide if justice is just? These questions are at the heart of a project launching today, carried out by researchers at Dundee, Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities and funded by the Scottish Government. In 'Measuring Justice: Defining Concepts, Developing Practice', we will be exploring the ways that different people who come into contact with justice agencies – including victims, witnesses, accused, convicted – experience and assess their experience of justice.

The project will run through April 2019 and mainly involves an international review of research across a field of areas to round-up what is known about and the best techniques for measuring and understanding perceptions of justice. There are two important themes guiding our work. First, a concept called 'procedural justice' has influenced the way justice is understood and studied; the idea, supported by nearly 40 years of evidence, is that *how* people are treated fundamentally shapes their judgment about *what* is a fair outcome. Second, Scottish public services are moving towards a 'person-centred service' ethos and we will be exploring the ways that Scottish justice 'users' feel that services respect and respond to their needs.

By learning more about how an abstract concept like 'justice' is actually experienced during encounters with the police, courts, lawyers and more, we hope to contribute to developing policies and practices that realise Scotland's aim to be a just and fair society. The findings may have implications for both criminal and civil settings of justice processes. In the final phase of the project we will be organising a workshop bringing a range of people together to share their experiences and expertise on justice in Scotland. At the end of this work we will produce materials that can be used by a range of groups to consider how they might define, measure and assess the quality of a justice experience.

We will be occasionally blogging about what we find as we go along, and hope you will follow this work. Further information about the project is on the [Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice \(SCCJR\) website](#), including details of how to contact the team. Keep in touch!

*Research team: Sarah Armstrong (Glasgow University), Trish McCulloch (Dundee University), Beth Weaver (Strathclyde University) & Dominic Reed (Glasgow University)*

The post [Can we measure justice?](#) appeared first on [Justice and Safety](#).