

money to each person.³² Even after the apology, there is no strategy in place for individual compensation or a long term redress plan. In the sections below, I discuss a number of aspects in more detail: redress more generally, individual redress and attempts of child migrants to obtain legal redress in the UK.

Redress

34. The government has claimed that it has provided support to former child migrants through funding for CMT rather than individual reparations and redress.³³ First, it is important to emphasise that we do not consider the two things to be mutually exclusive. CMT consider that child migrants are entitled to support services and the government is obliged to provide this service which it does through the CMT.³⁴
35. Secondly, it is important to emphasise that although the UK government provides funding to the CMT, during the seven-year period between 1987 and 1993 (when the nature and scale child migration scandal emerged) only one payment of £20,000 was made to the Trust. At this time CMT received over 1,000 requests for services.³⁵ As a consequence, child migrants were at risk of not receiving adequate support for more than a decade after the truth was finally revealed. This included support for the consequences of sexual abuse, which a very large proportion of them had experienced. Clearly, timing is crucial for former child migrants and this represents a serious failure to provide timely reparation.³⁶
36. It was not until after the Health Select Committee produced its report in 1998 that funding levels for the CMT were increased, and post-national apology, twelve years later, that funding was increased to a realistic level.³⁷ The current levels of funding allow us to make a real difference to the lives of former child migrants in line with best practice.
37. Perhaps even more revealing is the recurrent challenge we have faced from government demanding to know why the CMT does not charge for its services. It seems that we have never managed to convince government that it is fundamentally wrong to require victims to pay for the counselling and other services such as family tracing they need because of the abuse they suffered as a direct result of government policy and of its inadequacy to provide sufficient safeguards for children. I hope that the Inquiry will succeed where I have failed. Even today, planning support services remains a struggle due to lack of security around levels of funding. A commitment to sustainable, long term funding is still required.

Individual Redress

38. Former Child Migrants have yet to be compensated by the government and organisations in this country for their deportation, the failure in their care and sexual abuse. The CMT considers that there is an urgent need for a redress scheme in this

³² DOH000020_044.

³³ FCO0000104.

³⁴ DOH000007

³⁵ DOH00014-008.

³⁶ Summary of Nottinghamshire's involvement provided by Joan Taylor: MH79

³⁷ See Funding section in first statement.