

Survivors of Shine face new compo battle

By John Kierans

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SURVIVORS OF PAEDO SHINE FACE NEW COMPO BATTLE



MORE than 140 victims of perv doctor Michael Shine are fighting a new battle for compensation.

They are trying to stop a religious order from removing money from an indemnity fund set up to pay for any child abuse claims against the state at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda.

The 90-year-old paedo, freed from jail a year ago, molested boys there for decades.

It has been confirmed €1.6million was put into the fund by the Medical Missionary of Mary nuns when they sold the hospital to the State in 1997.

But Health Minister Stephen Donnelly has refused to say how much is currently in it.

He also won't reveal the name of an Independent Reviewer appointed to consider a withdrawal of money from the fund.

The issue was raised with Mr Donnelly in a series of written

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Dail questions by Louth Labour TD Ged Nash amid fears an attempt will be made to empty the fund.

Adrienne Reilly, who heads the Dignity4Patients group said: "Victims and survivors

state in their call for information with regards to the funds.

"At a minimum they would expect the State would tell them and the public exactly how much is in the fund now.

"Who is paying this Reviewer for their work, is it coming from the fund, the taxpayer or the Medical Missionary of Mary?"

"Victims and survivors feel silenced and outside the process that only exists because of the sexual abuse they were subjected."

So far 200 patients have received compensation.

She added: "Nothing should be removed from that Indemnity Fund until all of these claims are exhausted."

Mr Nash said: "This attempt by the religious order to pull money out of this Fund which was set up by agreement with the former health board has caused anxiety among survivors."



DISGRACED: Pervert doctor Michael Shine and, right, Our Lady of Lourdes hospcaption

If you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this article, you can contact Dignity4Patients, whose helpline is open Monday to Thursday 10am to 4pm.