

# Victims of beast Shine in new fight for Compo

By John Kierans  
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BY JOHN KIERANS

**OVER 140 victims of perv doctor Michael Shine are fighting a new battle for compensation over the sex abuse he inflicted on them.**

They are trying to stop a religious order from removing money from an Indemnity Fund specifically 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, released from jail a year ago, molested young male patients 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 and it was subsequently looked after by investment managers.

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

He also won't tell the victims the name of an Independent Reviewer who has recently been appointed to consider a withdrawal of money from the fund.

The issue was raised with the Health Minister in a series of written Dail questions on behalf of the victims by Louth Labour TD Ged Nash amid fears an attempt will be made to take money from the fund by the nuns leaving nothing for the victims.

The furious CEO of the Dignity4-Patients group Adrienne Reilly which represents Shine's victims said: "Victims and survivors would have expected Stephen Donnelly to either provide information on who the Independent Reviewer is so they may engage with him or her.

## EMAIL

"They would also have expected an acknowledgement of an email sent to them on their behalf and confirmation was sent to the Independent Reviewer and support from the State in their call for information with regards to the funds.

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

They should also be told who is paying this reviewer for



COMMENTS  
Ged Nash TD

their work, is it coming from the fund or from the taxpayer or the Medical Missionary of Mary?"

"The victims and survivors feel once again silenced and outside the process that simply only exists because of the horrific sexual abuse they were subjected to as children and may directly affect their justice outcomes which are still ongoing."

So far 200 patients have received compensation. One hundred were paid by

“They should also be told who is paying this reviewer for their work”

ADRIENNE REILLY  
DIGNITY4PATIENTS CEO



PAEDO  
Michael  
Shine

# 140 victims of beast Shine in new fight for compo

## Bid to stop nuns from cash pot move

the nuns' insurers Allianz late last year after an RTE Prime Time expose on the scandal.

The victims received payments between €20,000 to €65,000 which many of them felt was pittance considering they have their childhood destroyed, marriages wrecked, parents devastated and families torn apart. But at least 140 people who were abused haven't received a penny.

Ms Reilly said the Indemnity Fund will be needed when more civil claims against the hospital go ahead and the religious order's insurers refuse to pay out. She added: "Nothing should be removed from that Indemnity Fund until all of these claims are exhausted.

Nineteen new victims have come forward in the last year and some of them are just at the start of their civil and criminal processes.

"They are at their wits' end at the way they are being treated, silenced, stonewalled and shut out."

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

The Health Minister Stephen

Donnelly said the Medical Missionary of Mary congregation signed a Deed of Indemnity and Charge dated April 15, 1997 with the Minister for Health and the then North Eastern Health Board.

He stated: "With the Deed there are provisions which allow for the appointment of an independent expert to make a determination on a withdrawal."

"Such an expert has been appointed and is in the process of making a determination."



ABUSE Louth hospital

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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.