



Baroness Brinton
Lord Marks of Henley-on-Thames
Lord Garnier
Lord Sandhurst
Baroness Newlove
Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede

21 May 2024

COMPENSATION ORDERS

Thank you all for attending Committee of the Victims and Prisoners Bill on 5 February. During the debate I committed to write to you to set out further details on what actions the Government are taking to improve the enforcement of compensation orders. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Compensation orders can be imposed by courts to require offenders to make financial reparation to their victims for any personal injury, loss or damage resulting from the offence. When determining whether to make a compensation order, and the amount to be paid, courts must consider both the seriousness of the offence and the financial circumstances of the offender. The Government takes the recovery and enforcement of financial penalties very seriously and remains committed to ensuring penalties are paid.

The amount imposed as a financial penalty, including compensation orders and therefore compensation order is enforced as a whole. When receipts are received, they are applied in a strict hierarchy to ensure that any outstanding compensation is paid first.

A variety of measures are used to ensure financial penalties are paid, including taking money directly from an offender's benefits or salary. Warrants can also be issued instructing approved enforcement agents to seize and sell goods belonging to the offender. An individual can be sent to prison if they fail to pay a fine and the court has no other means of recovering the monies owed. Victims can also contact the relevant enforcement office for an update on their case.

The table below details for each year of imposition how much has been collected by 31/03/24. As you can see for the 2016-17 impositions by end of March 24, we have collected 90% of the amounts imposed. Very often defendants can have multiple compensation impositions and are on payment plans that result in small regular amounts being received which is why it can take a long period to collect these, including other reasons why the full amount cannot be collected, such as a defendant serving a sentence in prison. It should be noted that the longer an imposition is outstanding, the longer there is to collect this. An example of this would be by the time an imposition reaches 8 years, an average of 90 % would have been collected. The figures below demonstrate total collections to date. Where more time has elapsed, more time is allowed for collection.

By financial year	Compensation Impositions	Total compensation collected to 31 March 2024	% collected
2023-24	32,265,594	8,689,312	27%
2022-23	26,775,176	14,574,594	54%
2021-22	24,239,741	17,016,951	70%
2020-21	21,756,146	16,933,136	78%
2019-20	28,149,980	23,409,607	83%
2018-19	29,511,847	25,478,494	86%
2017-18	35,578,984	28,697,129	81%
2016-17	46,021,470	41,348,245	90%

I am copying this letter to all Noble Lords who participated in this debate and will deposit a copy in the House Library.

Kind Regards,



LORD ROBOROUGH