



SEND Single Route of Redress National Trial

February 2020 Newsletter

Welcome to the February 2020 SEND Single Route of Redress National Trial newsletter. This edition includes:

1. **Key updates on the national trial**
 2. **Local authority grant offer: Expense claims for national trial activity**
 3. **National trial regional briefing events for local area stakeholders**
 4. **Last chance for SEND Mediators to apply for DfE funding**
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1. Key updates

Since the launch of the national trial on the 3rd April 2018 there have been cases registered under the First-tier Tribunal's extended powers.

Please note: The 1545 cases identified above were registered between the 3rd April 2018 and 3 January 2020. Updates on the number of cases registered under the national trial will be provided on an ongoing basis in the national trial newsletter.

As you will recall, in November last year the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, Michelle Donelan, confirmed an extension to the current trial of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Tribunal. The trial, which was due to run until 31 March 2020, will now end on 31 August 2020. [You can read a copy of the letter that went to DCSs here.](#)

The national trial evaluation contractors, IFF and Belmana have submitted the first draft evaluation report to the Department for Education, this report alongside the steering group feedback will inform the recommendations to Ministers about whether the provisions should be made mandatory after the trial ends.



The extension of the trial to August 2020 will give local authorities time to plan for the decisions made about the future SEND Tribunal arrangements. We will continue to keep you updated on progress through these newsletters.

2. Local authority grant offer: New time limit to claim expenses

As you will know, a grant is available to local areas up to the value of £4,000 per case for expenses incurred as part of national trial appeals. Local authorities must submit all expense claims within 3 months of the appeal hearing. Claims submitted after 3 months will not be accepted, barring exceptional circumstances. If exceptional circumstances apply, local authorities must evidence these and DfE will consider whether to accept such claims on a case-by-case basis.

In the letter from Michelle Donelan on the 4 November 2019 we updated you about the new timescales for claiming LA expenses, the deadline for claims relating to appeal outcomes prior to that date will end on the 4 Feb 2020. For all other claims you will have 3 months from the date of the appeal outcome to submit your expenses.

Full information on how to claim via the Grant Funding Agreement letter can be found [here](#)

3. National trial regional briefing events for local area stakeholders

In February – March 2020, there will be six regional events providing an update on the progress of the national trial, extended powers of the SEND Tribunal. The briefing sessions are for the local authorities, social care and health representatives who are directly involved in the SEND tribunal appeal and the EHC Plans process. The event will provide an update on progress, highlight emerging issues and remind local areas of the regulations and duties relating to the trial. It will end with a Q&A session with a First-Tier Tribunal Judge.

There are 3 spaces per local authority area. Spaces are allocated as follows.

- **1 place for a senior SEND representative**
- **1 place for a senior social care representative**
- **1 place for a senior health representative**

If your local area is no longer listed on the drop down menu of the order form, the allocation for your local area will have been filled. We are operating a wait list so if you would still like to attend please contact Mott MacDonald at SENDdeliverysupport@mottmac.com.

Parent carer forum representatives will also be joining the events and booking arrangements are being co-ordinated by NNPCF at the regional level.



Details and links to further information on the events, as follows:

Region(s)	Date	Location	Booking Details
North East and Yorkshire & Humber	25 th February 2020	Novotel York Centre Hotel, Fishergate, York, YO10 4FD	Book here
London, East of England and South East	5 th March 2020	Kent House Knightsbridge, Rutland Gardens, London, SW7 1BX	Book here
South West	11 th March 2020	Bristol Waterfront, The Waterfront, Bristol, BS1 4SB	Book here
East Midlands and West Midlands	25 th March 2020	Ibis Birmingham, 21 Ladywell Walk, Birmingham, B5 4ST	Book here
North West	31 st March 2020	Crowne Plaza Manchester City Centre, 70 Shudehill, Manchester, M4 4AF	Book here

4. SEND Mediators – applications for DfE funding

Funding provided by the Department for Education to establish the SEND Mediation register will end in March 2020. So, if you are a training provider and intend to apply for SEND Mediation Training Course Approval, or a SEND Mediator intending to join the register, you must apply before the March 2020 deadline.

For more information about the SEND Mediator register and how to apply, go to <https://civilmediation.org/send-register-information-for-mediators> or <https://www.collegeofmediators.co.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disability>

If you have any questions please feel free to contact CMC at applications@civilmediation.org or COM at admin@collegeofmediators.co.uk.

Guidance and toolkit reminder

We would like to remind you of the [guidance](#) and [toolkit](#) available to support local authorities, health commissioners, parents and young people throughout the trial.



Please share the resources with your relevant teams and networks. If you are experiencing any issues with the resources you can contact our support team at SENDdeliverysupport@mottmac.com or on 0207 651 0308.

Share the newsletter with your colleagues

Please forward this newsletter to your teams and relevant organisations.
Additionally, if you:

- Have received this newsletter but are not on the mailing list and would like to be
- Know anyone who would like to be added to our newsletter mailing list
- Have any requests for specific information or updates regarding the national trial you would like to be included in future newsletters
- Have any specific queries regarding the national trial
- No longer wish to receive this newsletter

please contact: SENDdeliverysupport@mottmac.com who will deal with your request accordingly.