

Victims and Survivors Forum



Why was the Forum set up?

One of the statutory duties of the Commissioner for Victims and Survivors is to make arrangements for a forum for consultation and discussion with victims and survivors.

About the Forum



There are 23 individuals in the Victims and Survivors Forum.



The Forum meets approximately 20 times during the year, including meetings of working groups to discuss specific issues.



One of the priorities for the Forum is to consult on legislation to deliver legacy bodies set out in the Stormont House Agreement.



The Forum continues to focus on measures for dealing with the past, arrangements for a pension for those severely injured, and to ensure excellent service provision throughout the Victims and Survivors Service and funded groups.

How the Forum members were appointed

1

Commissioner Judith Thompson requested a review of the appointment process for the Forum when she was appointed in September 2015.

The Commissioner requested a process that was open, accessible and transparent and that would allow the Forum to be operated in a safe, competent and ethical manner.



2

A call for Expressions of Interest was publicly launched and opened in April 2016.

The Commissioner sought individuals who met the definition of a victim as detailed in the Victims Order (NI) 2006; could demonstrate the core competencies of the role and had certain qualities including emotional resilience and collaborative skills.



3

"The experiences of our Forum members, past and present, are diverse but what unites them is the belief that the events of the past must not happen again.

The Forum works on the principle that 'there should be nothing about us without us', so the views and experiences of victims and survivors are at the heart of policy decisions that affect them."

Commissioner for Victims and Survivors, Judith Thompson

A panel of 55 members was appointed for the period June 2016 - September 2019, to run co-terminus with the Commissioner's term of office. New Forum members were drawn from this panel.

10 new members joined the Forum in September 2016, with 13 new members joining in March this year. All Forum members will remain until 2019.



To find out more about the work of the Commission for Victims and Survivors, visit our website: www.cvsni.org.

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