



Victims and Survivors Forum

7 December 2017
Hilton Hotel, Belfast

In Attendance:

Judith Thompson (JT)
Tina McCann (TMc)
John Beggs (JB)
Alana Fisher (AF)
Karyn Millar (KM)
Sheila Davidson (SD)
Janet Devlin (JD)

Jan Crawford (JC)
Paul Crawford (PC)
Paul Gallagher (PG)
Sarah McGrillen (SMG)
Paul McCormac (PMC)
Niall O Murchu (NOM)
Kathryn Johnston (KJ)
Jeremy Adams (JA)

Don Mackay (DMK)
Jack Nicholl (JN)
Sam Wilson (SW)
Emmett McConomy (EMC)
Robert McClenaghan (RMC)

Purpose of meeting:

This was the final meeting arranged as a series of political engagements with the five main political parties in Northern Ireland. Sinn Fein and UUP party leaders attended to discuss victims' issues with the Forum.

Outline of discussion/s:

- Welcome from JT. JT advised that since the previous Forum political engagement with SDLP and Alliance the presentation to the political parties had been updated to include a section on the Forum's position on the proposed Statute of Limitations. The Forum were then invited to read through the presentation and raise any issues; there was a consensus that they were content with the amendments to the presentation.
- There was then a discussion surrounding contacting all victims for the consultation via VSS and groups and issues relating to human rights.
- JT committed to CVS staff scoping the human rights issues raised. **AP.**

Presentation to Political Parties

Sinn Féin

- Engagement opened with welcome and introductions. Forum members delivered the presentation. A discussion followed on the issues raised including;
 - Political talks in Stormont;
 - A Pension for the Severely Injured; SF representatives requested a meeting with Pension and Need Working Group (PNWG); **AP.**

- The need for the Legacy Consultation to be opened in a timely manner and for this to be meaningful;
 - There was discussion around the mental health trauma service
 - The impact of the delay of the Consultation on funding for inquests and legacy mechanisms outlined in Stormont House Agreement;
 - Sinn Féin opposition to a Statute of Limitations.
- Departure of Sinn Fein.

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

- Engagement opened with welcome and introductions. Forum members delivered the presentation.
- UUP responded to issues including;
 - The Legacy Consultation; the UUP agreed that the consultation should proceed even in the absence of an assembly;
 - A Pension for the Severely Injured;
 - The Historical Investigations Unit; there was discussion around various aspects of the unit including staffing and widening its remit.
 - The UUP emphasised the need to be realistic about the number of prosecutions that may result given the time that has elapsed since the events under investigations;
 - A Statute of Limitations; the UUP was clearly opposed to this;
 - There was discussion of funding regarding Legacy Inquests.
- Departure of UUP.

The meeting concluded with the Forum agreeing a press release. It was agreed that the Forum wanted to emphasise the message that the consultation is paramount, and action must be taken by the Secretary of State as soon as possible in relation to this.

For further detail please refer to Press Release.

Action/Key Points:

- CVS staff scoping issues around human rights.
- SF representatives invited to meet Pension and Need Working Group (PNWG). CVS to broaden this offer to include other parties
- Meeting to be arranged between implementation board of RTN and Forum members