



**12 October 2018
Riddel Hall, Belfast**

Present

Judith Thompson (JT)
Tina McCann (TMC)
Patricia Stewart (PS)
Alana Fisher (AF)

Jan Crawford
Paul Crawford
Donal Dunn
Paul Gallagher
Mary Moreland

Paul McCormac
Niall O Murchu
Lesley Veronica
Mina Jadeja
Jeremy Adams

Sam Wilson
Minty Thompson
Emmett McConomy

Apologies

Don Mackay
Kathryn Johnston
Alan Brecknell

Outline of Meeting

JT welcomed Forum members and noted apologies.

JT outlined that the Commission's response to the Northern Ireland office (NIO) consultation on 'Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past' had been submitted on 5 October and advised next steps were for the Commission to submit its policy advice to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with recommendations of how best to address the issues of the past. This advice would be based on the numerous engagements the Commission had throughout the consultation period. JT reminded the Forum that an update had also been requested on the 2014 advice on a pension for the severely injured and that this would also reflect psychological injury.

Action Point: AF to forward Forum members the letter from the Secretary of State to the Commission requesting an update to the pension advice.

PS delivered a presentation on the development of the policy advice on addressing the legacy of the past. She noted that the Commission would be framing the response

around the key guiding principles as agreed by the Forum and initiated a discussion on each mechanism on how they could meet these principles (outlined below);

- Victim-centred and victim-led
- Co-design and collaboration
- Independent and impartial
- Inclusive
- Fit for Purpose

The Forum gave feedback on each mechanism under each guiding principle for consideration by the Research and Policy Development team to take forward in drafting the advice paper.

Feedback on the Interim Evaluation of the Victims and Survivors Forum

TMC outlined the feedback given by Supporting Justice following their engagement with the Forum and the Commission earlier in the year. Some of the key themes were discussed such as how to better facilitate attendance of members in full-time work and how to further the Forum's outwards communications.

Action Point: Commission to consider format of meetings and review Communications Strategy.

It was agreed that both the strategic areas of services and building for the future would be addressed in the plenary of the Forum. The work of the Pension and Need Working Group would continue as a 'task and finish' group with continued contribution from both current and previous members of the Forum. The Commission agreed to invite the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) Board to meet with the Forum. In the meantime, AF would proceed with a 5 and 20 November meeting of a Services Working Group but open membership of meetings up to anyone available to attend.

Action Point: AF to issue invitation to members to attend a 5 and 20 November meeting of Services Working Group.

Action Point: Commission to ask VSS Board members to attend a future Forum plenary session.

Presentation on Services

PM then delivered an update on services to victims and survivors and the Forum engaged on a Q&A session in relation to services.

Action Point: AF to forward presentation to Forum members.

Meeting closed with check-in.

Agreed Actions

1. AF to forward Forum members the letter from the Secretary of State to the Commission requesting an update to the pension advice.
2. Commission to consider format of meetings and review Communications Strategy
3. AF to issue invitation to members to attend a 5 and 20 November meeting of Services Working Group.
4. Commission to ask VSS Board members to attend a future Forum plenary session.
5. AF to forward presentation to Forum members.