



7 December 2018
Radisson Blu Hotel, Gasworks

Present

Judith Thompson (JT)
Tina McCann (TMC)
Andrew Sloan (AS)
Alana Fisher (AF)
Neil Foster (NF)
Karyn Millar (KM)

Donal Dunn
Paul Gallagher
Mary Moreland
Paul McCormac

Niall O Murchu
Lesley Veronica
Mina Jadeja
Kathryn Johnston

Jeremy Adams
Sam Wilson
Alan Brecknell

Apologies

Jan Crawford
Paul Crawford
Hazel Deeney

Don Mackay
Denise Mullen
Minty Thompson

Emmett McConomy
Robert McClenaghan
Carmel Rooney

Outline of Meeting

JT opened the meeting with apologies and advising that AS would be taking some photographs of the Forum at work (non-compulsory).

This was followed by an update and review on the previous session on potential support that would be needed for victims and survivors going through proposed legacy mechanism processes. The views of the Forum will then be referenced in the Commission's legacy policy advice which is to be laid before the Secretary of State and the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) for review before publication in 2019.

An update was then provided on the advice around a pension for the severely injured by Dr Neil Foster. JT stated that the updated advice will include reviewed figures and estimations around costs including for those that were severely psychologically injured. In relation to this advice, the Forum discussed the potential complexities involved in assessing psychological harm. Other issues discussed included the frequency of assessments, any potential impact on existing benefits and timeframes of applicable payments.

Queen's University Belfast Apologies Project: Dr Kieran McEvoy and Dr Lauren Dempster

Dr Kieran McEvoy and Dr Lauren Dempster joined the second half of the meeting to ask for the Forum's experiences and thoughts around acknowledgements and apologies. This feedback will be used to inform the Queen's University Belfast Apologies Project.

The Forum shared varying experiences and viewpoints but there was an agreement that acknowledgement and apologies are very specific to each individual. Some victims and survivors may want both acknowledgement and an apology, some may want one or the other whilst others don't want either. The Forum agreed that crucially, an individual has the option left open to them.

Agreed Actions

1. House of Lords Hain speech to be forwarded to Forum members.
2. Draft guidelines drafted by Kieran McEvoy and Lauren Dempster (QUB Apologies Project) to be shared with the Forum when ready.