



**28 – 29 February 2020**  
**Slieve Donard Resort and Spa, Newcastle**

**Present**

Judith Thompson (JT)  
Andrew Sloan (AS)  
Neil Foster (NF)  
Peter Mann (PM)  
Alana Fisher (AF)  
Holly Taylor (HT)  
Nicky Cahill (NC)

Paul Crawford  
Donal Dunn  
Paul Gallagher  
Mary Moreland  
Paul McCormac  
Niall O Murchu

Lesley Veronica  
Mina Jadeja  
Sam Wilson  
Minty Thompson  
Alan Brecknell

**Apologies**

Kathryn Johnston  
Emmett McConomy

**Outline of Day One**

JT welcomed Forum members and noted apologies.

JT outlined the agenda for the residential, in addition to providing an oversight of recent engagements.

JT highlighted her engagement with the Democratic Unionist Party in Westminster, in which the Forum were represented. Additionally, JT noted her engagement with Justice Keegan, outlining the potential of an engagement to be facilitated between Justice Keegan and the Forum.

**Action Point: CVS to ascertain a meeting between VSF and Justice Keegan.**

JT called for Forum expression of interests in participation in an Anonymised Storytelling Project.

**Action Point: Forum members who wish to engage in this project are to advise AF/HT.**

#### Preparation for engagement with Head of Civil Service, David Sterling

JT facilitated this session which focused upon preparation for engagement with the Head of Civil Service, David Sterling.

There was discussion regarding the legacy of the Troubles, and the requirement for a cross departmental approach to be taken.

There was discussion regarding the potential for acknowledgement for civil servants who were killed during the conflict. This was followed by discussion surrounding the future, including the role of the Head of the Civil Service to be a positive figure similar as the Forum.

#### Engagement with VSS Board

JT provided a welcome to representatives from the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS); Interim Chief Executive Officer Andrew Walker and Chairperson Oliver Wilkinson.

This session focused upon the incoming Victims Payment Scheme. There was discussion regarding the current progress and impending implementation of the Scheme, in addition to the role and remit of both organisations in the Scheme.

#### Dialogue and discussions with David Sterling, Head of NI Civil Service.

JT welcomed the Head of NI Civil Service David Sterling and Sinead Brown from The Executive Office.

There was discussion regarding the Programme for Government, and the representation of victims and survivors across departments. This was followed by dialogue surrounding engagement with victims and survivors by politicians and departments.

There was discussion surrounding the 100 day time frame regarding legacy, and the provision of mental health services within Northern Ireland.

JT expressed thanks to David Sterling and Sinead Brown for their attendance.

### Engagement with Professor Kieran McEvoy

JT welcomed Professor Kieran McEvoy, who delivered a presentation on legacy prosecutions, imprisonment and the Stormont House Agreement.

There was discussion regarding legacy mechanisms and the Historical Investigation Unit, including as to how this would work in practice.

There was discussion regarding the potential of an amnesty implementation, and legal challenges which may arise.

There was discussion regarding the future of legacy due to the oncoming implementation of the Stormont House Agreement.

## **Outline of Day Two**

### Forum Replenishment Workshop

NC facilitated a workshop, focused upon key messaging for the replenishment of the Forum.

NC outlined engagement and the replenishment process of the Forum.

There was discussion regarding creative engagement and the facilitation of a media campaign.

This session included group work highlighting Forum participation in key messaging for communications, and the role of the Forum during the replenishment exercise.

Meeting closed.

### **Agreed Actions**

- 1. CVS to ascertain a meeting between VSF and Justice Keegan.**
- 2. Forum members who wish to engage in the Anonymised Storytelling Project are to advise AF/HT.**
- 3. Forum members who wish to contribute to a written piece for 'International Women's Day' to inform AF.**
- 4. Forum members who are available to attend International Victims of Terrorism Day to inform CVS.**

