



23 April 2020
Convened Electronically via Zoom

Present

Judith Thompson (JT)
Andrew Sloan (AS)
Leah McDonnell (LMD)
Alana Fisher (AF)
Holly Taylor (HT)
Nicky Cahill (NC)
Sheila Davidson (SD)

Alan Brecknell
Paul Gallagher
Kathryn Johnston
Mary Moreland
Sam Wilson
Paul McCormac

Apologies

Mina Jadeja
Lesley Veronica
Emmett McConomy
Minty Thompson
Donal Dunn
Niall O Murchu
Paul Crawford

Outline of Meeting

JT welcomed Forum members and noted apologies.

There was discussion surrounding the progress of the Victims Payment Scheme, and the possibility of reconvening the Pension Working Group.

JT updated on the progress of the Anonymised Storytelling Project, and there was discussions surrounding creative ways in which this could be disseminated.

There was discussion the impact of COVID-19 due to the temporary suspension of the PSNI's Legacy Investigation Branch (LIB) and the subsequent impact which this may have on victims and survivors, and their families.

Preparation for engagement with Chief Constable

There was discussion around salient points which the Forum wished to raise in their following meeting with the PSNI's Chief Constable Simon Byrne and Detective Chief Superintendent Bobby Singleton. The temporary suspension of the LIB and the PSNI's communication with families who have cases with the LIB was highlighted.

Engagement with Chief Constable

JT welcomed Chief Constable Simon Byrne and Detective Chief Superintendent Bobby Singleton, and opened the dialogue with remarks regarding legacy and policing.

The Chief Constable expressed interest in continuing this relationship with Forum, and engage throughout the year on numerous occasions. Additionally, the Chief Constable acknowledged the importance of legacy and concerns of victims and survivors during the recent temporary suspension of the LIB. This was followed by reassurance that the LIB would resume at the beginning of May.

Detective Chief Constable Singleton outlined the importance of service provision which is received by families who have cases with the LIB.

There was discussion regarding Operation Kenova, and the trust that families have in the LIB. Additionally, this was followed by dialogue regarding the jurisdiction of the LIB, and the cooperation of policing between Gardai and Metropolitan Police Force.

There was discussion surrounding the work of the LIB with families, and the ongoing communication with families.

JT expressed thanks for the empathy and respect shown by the PSNI, and welcomed the offer to partake in further dialogue.

There was discussion regarding the PSNI building of trust within nationalist communities.

The Chief Constable expressed thanks to Detective Chief Superintendent Singleton for working alongside the Commission in relation to Frequently Asked Questions regarding the temporary suspension of the LIB.

Action Point - PSNI to share 2020/21 Business Plan, so that feedback can be provided within the following four weeks by VSF.

JT advised that the Forum and PSNI will continue ongoing communication about the LIB, trauma training for officers and that feedback will be provided.

Update on VSF Replenishment

NC, AF and HT each provided an update on the VSF Replenishment and the ongoing communications to assist this project.

Meeting closed.

Agreed Actions

1. **PSNI to share 2020/21 Business Plan, so that feedback can be provided within the following four weeks by VSF.**