



**6 May 2020**  
**Convened by ZOOM**

**Present**

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

Paul Crawford  
Paul Gallagher  
Donal Dunn  
Lesley Veronica  
Kathryn Johnston  
Mary Moreland  
Paul McCormac  
Emmett McConomy

**Apologies**

Alan Brecknell  
Mina Jadeja  
Sam Wilson  
Minty Thompson  
Niall O Murchu

**Outline of Meeting**

JT welcomed Forum members and noted apologies.

JT introduced Stephen McGettigan who works in Corporate Services at the Commission, but is assisting Nicky Cahill in communications. Additionally, JT introduced copywriter Lynda Hutchinson, who will be working alongside the Forum and Commission in development of a new website.

JT advised that the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee will be launching an enquiry into the UK government's legacy proposals, and that she is keen to contribute live evidence alongside the VSF.

There was discussion around the Victims Payment Scheme and the role of government departments in this administration.

### **Pre-brief for meeting with Shadow Secretary of State Louise Haigh MP**

There was discussion from the Forum surrounding the preparation of engagement with the Shadow Secretary of State, which focused on the legacy of the conflict, mental health and policing.

### **Engagement with Shadow Secretary of State Louise Haigh MP**

JT provided an introduction to the Shadow Secretary of State Louise Haigh MP, Shadow Minister for Northern Ireland Karin Smyth MP, and team members.

Louise Haigh MP expressed importance of direct engagement, and ensuring victims and survivors are central to processes and issues overseen in Westminster.

There was discussion surrounding Stormont House Agreement, and the 100 day timeframe which had been due to be implemented by Stormont.

There was further discussion surrounding the Victims Payment Scheme, Amnesty and Article 2 Compliance.

There was discussion surrounding the impact of the conflict on mental health, the provision of mental health services particularly for young people, and the Regional Trauma Network.

Forum members expressed their support for JT in her role as Commissioner. Louise Haigh MP expressed thanks to the Forum, and expressed desire to continue to work alongside one another.

A press release was agreed by Forum members.

Meeting closed.

### **Agreed Actions**

- 1. Any Forum members who know young people who would like to participate in Anonymised Storytelling Project are to let AF/HT know**
- 2. The survey regarding the Strategy for the Victims and Survivors is to be disseminated to Forum members**