



20 November 2019
Belmont House Hotel, Banbridge

Present

Judith Thompson (JT)
Andrew Sloan (AS)
Peter Mann (PM)
Alana Fisher (AF)
Holly Taylor (HT)

Alan Brecknell	Paul McCormac
Paul Crawford	Minty Thompson
Paul Gallagher	
Mary Moreland	

Apologies

Kathryn Johnston	Donal Dunn
Niall Ó Murchú	Emmet McConomy
Mina Jadeja	Lesley Veronica
Sam Wilson	

Outline of Meeting

JT welcomed Forum members and noted apologies.

JT requested for expressions of interests for Forum members who wish to participate within the Standards Services Working Group. Additionally, JT highlighted the current Northern Ireland Office consultation regarding the Victims Payment Scheme, noting that the Commission will be submitting a response.

JT highlighted future engagements with the Forum in December and January, noting that Commission staff will be attending Christmas lunch as an opportunity for Forum engagement.

Victims Payment Scheme Arrangement Consultation

JT outlined the current consultation regarding the Victims Payment from the Northern Ireland Office. There was discussion regarding the Commissions advice regarding the victim's payment, and the points of difference raised by the consultation.

Update on the Commissioner's Policy Advice in relation to the extension of the current victims and survivors strategy

JT delivered a presentation regarding her policy advice for the extension of the current victims and survivors strategy for a period of approximately two years. This is because in the absence of Ministers a new strategy cannot be agreed or implemented.

There was discussion regarding the Commission's advice for the extension of the current strategy. This is policy under development at present and will be made public in due course.

There was discussion regarding the competence based process by which the Forum is to be replenished. Current forum members will play a role in publicising the invitation to apply. There was discussion regarding media engagement.

Preliminary discussion on the development of the new Strategy for Victims and Survivors

AS advised of the period of extension for the current Strategy, and the implications upon current programmes and projects for Victims and Survivors

Action Point: CVS to ascertain a visit with RSM to the Forum

There was discussion surrounding the current mechanisms which work positively for Victims and Survivors and the areas that need to be addressed in the new strategy.

Engagement with a Journalist

JT welcomed a journalist and the Forum members introduced themselves.

The journalist introduced themselves, noting their role as a South African journalist and their engagement with the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission and following peace process.

There was discussion surrounding the importance of 'story telling' within a peace process, and the benefits which this can possess for the wider society.

The journalist highlighted the importance of 'story telling' within a peace process, outlining their involvement and experience through being involved in this process within South Africa.

There was discussion highlighting the benefits this can provide to individuals through their participation in this process. Additionally, discussion further denoted the benefits of the removal of identity to ensure successful story telling.

There was discussion surrounding how best to project stories into the public domain, and the considerations to be given to timing if a project was to be successful.

There was discussion regarding the impact of transgenerational issues upon young people within Northern Ireland and South Africa.

Meeting closed.

Agreed Actions

1. **CVS to ascertain a visit with RSM to the Forum.**