

SECTION 6.

SUMMARY

6.1 The past six months have been a learning and developmental phase for the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund. Since the inaugural meeting of eight Directors in December 1998, the Board has expanded to fourteen in number, and throughout the months that followed the Directors focused considerable time and effort into what is a very complex, emotive and largely unaddressed issue. The Directors have been moved, both collectively and individually, by the many harrowing stories told by victims and were distressed to discover the lack of support that victims had generally received throughout the 'Troubles', particularly from the statutory sector. The Directors would like to pay particular tribute to the many voluntary and community groups that have, in difficult circumstances and with limited resources, dedicated themselves to providing support to victims.

6.2 It would be misleading to say that the task the Directors faced during the past six months was either easy or straightforward; and the task now in front of the Directors - to implement the recommendations put forward in this report - will attract a very different and indeed more challenging set of problems. Administration and funding are the two areas upon which the Directors believe the future success of the Fund will depend: obtaining staff and/or finding suitable organisations willing to administer all of the schemes, and acquiring the necessary funding to support the schemes. The latter will essentially reflect the extent to which the British Government and the Directors are serious about providing help to victims; the former will be dependent on the availability of additional staff or outside organisations capable of handling these schemes, and the willingness of any organisations identified to administer the schemes on behalf of the Fund.

6.3 This report is, therefore, the Directors' best attempt at providing an attainable, albeit measured, response to how the Memorial Fund might provide assistance to victims in a practical and meaningful way. If the Government is serious about its commitment to providing assistance to victims, then the Directors will help the Government to be serious. There is much work still to be done and the Directors believe, based on the reasons detailed throughout this report, that the support of the Government is central to the success of the Fund. The Directors, therefore, await a response from the Minister to the recommendations contained in this report.

THE DIRECTORS

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**PAIN RELIEF AND RESPITE CARE****Pain Relief**

Recommendation 1: That the DHSS review the level of services currently provided to those victims suffering chronic physical pain with the aim of increasing the number of pain clinics and specialists providing the service, improving existing facilities and treatments and reducing the current referral times and waiting lists to an acceptable level. The Government is therefore, urged to provide the DHSS with additional funding to specifically improve the provision of treatment for victims suffering chronic physical pain.

Recommendation 2: That the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund provide those victims suffering chronic physical pain with a maximum individual grant of £500 per annum to enable them to obtain private consultations and associated treatments of their choice for the management of their pain.

Recommendation 3: Victims suffering chronic physical pain who consider they would benefit from a surgical implant to block the pain, should be referred to a specialist for a clinical assessment. Subject to a specialist report recommending the benefits to the individual, the Memorial Fund will provide the individual with a maximum grant of £7000 to enable them to undergo this surgical procedure.

Artificial Limbs

Recommendation 4: That the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund provide a £10,000 research bursary to allow a suitably qualified specialist to identify and report on the most suitable and up-to-date prosthetics available.

Recommendation 5: Any victims who consider they would benefit from an alternative type of artificial limb should be referred to Musgrave Park for a clinical assessment as

to the suitability of an alternative limb. Subject to a specialist report recommending benefits to the individual, the Memorial Fund will provide the individual with a maximum grant of £6000 to enable Musgrave Park to purchase and fit an alternative limb. The unit at Musgrave Park would, in this case, be responsible for servicing the new limbs.

Wheelchairs

Recommendation 6: That the Memorial Fund provides, subject to a clinical assessment, a maximum grant of £1500 to enable individuals to purchase a lighter, more suitable wheelchair than that currently offered by the Health Service.

Respite Care

Recommendation 7: That the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund provide a maximum individual grant of £400 per annum, subject to a positive recommendation from the individual's General Practitioner, towards the cost of one week's respite care in a private nursing home.

TRAUMA AND COUNSELLING

Recommendation 8: That the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund provide a £20,000 research bursary to support research into best international practice in the area of counselling. The results would be the bases on which an agreed standard of accreditation might be based.

Recommendation 9: Following on from recommendation 1, the Fund should then support institutions offering counselling training and qualifications in an attempt to standardise and accredit courses currently available. Grants could then be offered to individuals, tied into a selection procedure that would help test the extent of commitment to victims, to attend accredited and recognised courses.

Recommendation 10: The Fund should pursue the possibility of funding the Family Trauma Centre to develop a programme to train representatives from groups

supporting victims to enable them to provide basic counselling within their own organisations.

VICTIMS RELIEF FUND

Recommendation 11: That the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund launch a small grants scheme with a maximum individual grant of £1000 for individuals suffering financial hardship to help towards domestic and household appliances, minor household maintenance, school uniforms etc.

Short Breaks

Recommendation 12: That the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund launches a scheme to provide small grants to individuals, families and groups to allow them to avail of short breaks at a selection of locations in the British Isles.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Recommendation 13: That the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund re-launch the Educational Bursary Scheme offering grants up to a maximum of £1000 towards tutoring, course fees, attendance fees and books, to a broad range of individual victims at six specific transitional points:

1. Pre-school - to provide assistance for children aged three to four to attend playschool or playgroups.
2. Primary education - to assist children aged four to nine.
3. Transfer Test - to prepare children moving from Primary to Secondary education - ages nine to eleven.
4. Secondary education - to assist young people approaching GCSE/ A levels - ages twelve to eighteen.
5. Tertiary education - to assist young people entering further education and universities - age sixteen plus.

6. Re-skilling/re-training - to assist individuals seeking vocational and skills training - age sixteen plus.

NETWORKING, LOBBYING AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Recommendation 14: In view of the increase in the number of groups supporting victims and the limited resources that are available, the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund will develop with groups the benefits of working more closely together to share resources and experience. The Memorial fund will provide financial assistance towards setting-up appropriate physical or human structures to facilitate a collaborative and co-ordinated approach to the provision of support for groups and victims.

THE DISAPPEARED

Recommendation 15: That the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund provide a one-off payment of £4000 following the identification of the remains to each of the families of the nine victims identified by the IRA, at a time when they will be making arrangements for the burial of their loved ones. This offer will be extended to other families if the remains of their loved ones are discovered and identified.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEMES

Recommendation 16: That the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund negotiate with the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust and other organisations to administer some or all of the schemes identified. If the Fund's attempts to secure organisations to deliver all of the schemes are unsuccessful, then the Government should provide additional members of staff to administer the above schemes.

FUNDING

Recommendation 17: That the Directors commit to raising £2.5 million over the next four years, and the British government contribute a further £1 million per year, for each of the next four financial years.

QUALIFYING CRITERIA

The following criteria are the broad basis by which the Directors anticipate eligibility for each scheme will be assessed. The Directors accept that these criteria are both broad and general and will require further refining as the precise details of each scheme are developed.

Recommendations 2 & 3 - Pain Relief

Individuals who have been injured as a result of the 'Troubles' with resulting physical and/or psychological effects, who can obtain a report from their General Practitioner or surgical specialist clearly recommending the benefits of either a referral to a private consultant or surgical procedure.

Recommendation 5 - Artificial Limbs

Individuals who have lost limbs as a result of the 'Troubles', who can obtain a report from a consultant in rehabilitation medicine clearly recommending the benefits of an alternative artificial limb for that individual.

Recommendation 6 - Wheelchairs

Individuals who have been injured as a result of the 'Troubles' with resulting physical effects, who can obtain a report from their General Practitioner clearly recommending the benefits of an alternative model of wheelchair.

Recommendation 7 - Respite Care

Individuals who have been injured as a result of the 'Troubles' with resulting physical and/or psychological effects, who can obtain a report from their General Practitioner

clearly recommending the benefits to the individual of a respite break in a private nursing home.

Individuals who have become the primary carer for a member of their immediate family who has been injured as a result of the 'Troubles' with resulting physical and/or psychological effects, who can obtain a report from their General Practitioner clearly recommending the benefits to the carer of the family member availing of a respite break in a private nursing home.

Recommendations 9 & 10 - Trauma & Counselling

Individuals who are employed either on a paid or voluntary basis by groups predominantly working to provide support to victims and who are nominated by their organisations' management committee to undergo training to become a qualified counsellor for that group.

Recommendation 11 - Victims Relief Fund - Small Grants Scheme

Individuals who, as a result of the 'Troubles', have lost either a partner or immediate family member or have themselves been injured with resulting physical and/or psychological effects and can demonstrate that this has had a clear negative impact on their current financial circumstances.

Recommendation 12 - Short Breaks

Individuals and families who, as a result of the 'Troubles', have lost an immediate family member and can demonstrate (a), that this has had a clear negative impact on their current financial circumstances and, (b) that they have not for financial reasons, had a holiday or break in the past 5 years.

Individuals who have been injured as a result of the 'Troubles' with resulting physical and/or psychological effects and can demonstrate (a), that this has had a clear

negative impact on their current financial circumstances and, (b) that they have not for financial reasons, had a holiday or break in the past 5 years.

Individuals who have become the primary carer for a member of their immediate family who has been injured as a result of the 'Troubles' with resulting physical and/or psychological effects and can demonstrate (a), that this has had a clear negative impact on their current financial circumstances and, (b) that as a direct result of their role a 'carer', they have not been able to avail of a holiday or break in the past 5 years.

Recommendation 13 - Training and Education

Individuals who have lost a parent, immediate family member or other significant person as a result of the 'Troubles' and can demonstrate (a), that this has had a clear negative effect on their education or career and, (b) that they can identify a clear link between the grant requested and the benefits to their education or career.

Individuals who have been injured as a result of the 'Troubles' with resulting physical and/or psychological effects and can demonstrate (a), that this has had a clear negative effect on their education or career and, (b) that they can identify a clear link between the grant requested and the benefits to their education or career.

Northern Ireland Memorial Fund
Projection of Estimated Funding Required 1999 to 2004 - Pain Relief

Financial Year	Pain Relief Grants	Surgical Implants	Research Bursary	Artificial Limbs	Wheelchairs	Respite Care	Total per annum
1999/2000	£35,000	£14,000	£10,000	£30,000	£15,000	£10,000	£114,000
2000/2001	£35,000	£35,000	£0	£90,000	£30,000	£40,000	£230,000
2001/2002	£35,000	£35,000	£0	£90,000	£0	£40,000	£200,000
2002/2003	£35,000	£35,000	£0	£90,000	£0	£40,000	£200,000
2003/2004	£35,000	£35,000	£0	£90,000	£0	£40,000	£200,000
Total per issue	£175,000	£154,000	£10,000	£390,000	£45,000	£170,000	£944,000

Breakdown

Financial Year	Pain Relief Grants	Surgical Implants	Research Bursary	Artificial Limbs	Wheelchairs	Respite Care
1999/2000	70 @ £500	2 @ £7,000	1 @ £10,000	5 @ £6,000	10 @ £1,500	25 @ £400
2000/2001	70 @ £500	5 @ £7,000	nil	15 @ £6,000	20 @ £1,500	100 @ £400
2001/2002	70 @ £500	5 @ £7,000	nil	15 @ £6,000	nil	100 @ £400
2002/2003	70 @ £500	5 @ £7,000	nil	15 @ £6,000	nil	100 @ £400
2003/2004	70 @ £500	5 @ £7,000	nil	15 @ £6,000	nil	100 @ £400

Northern Ireland Memorial Fund
Projection of Estimated Funding Required 1999 to 2004 -Trauma & Counselling

Financial Year	Research Bursary	Course Development	Training Grants	Total per annum
1999/2000	£20,000	£20,000	£10,000	£50,000
2000/2001	£0	£20,000	£30,000	£50,000
2001/2002	£0	£20,000	£30,000	£50,000
2002/2003	£0	£20,000	£30,000	£50,000
2003/2004	£0	£20,000	£30,000	£50,000
Total per issue	£20,000	£100,000	£130,000	£250,000

Breakdown

Financial Year	Research Bursary	Course Development	Training Grants
1999/2000	1 @ £20,000	1 @ £20,000	10 @ £1000
2000/2001	nil	1 @ £20,000	30 @ £1000
2001/2002	nil	1 @ £20,000	30 @ £1000
2002/2003	nil	1 @ £20,000	30 @ £1000
2003/2004	nil	1 @ £20,000	30 @ £1000

**Northern Ireland Memorial Fund
Projection of Estimated Funding Required 1999 to 2004 - Relief Fund**

Financial Year	Small Grants Scheme	Holiday Scheme	Disappeared	Total per annum
1999/2000	£250,000	£100,000	£36,000	£386,000
2000/2001	£500,000	£200,000	£28,000	£728,000
2001/2002	£500,000	£200,000	£0	£700,000
2002/2003	£500,000	£200,000	£0	£700,000
2003/2004	£500,000	£200,000	£0	£700,000
Total per issue	£2,250,000	£900,000	£64,000	£3,214,000

Breakdown

Financial Year	Small Grants Scheme	Holiday Scheme	Disappeared
1999/2000	250 @ £1000	100 @ £1000	9 @ £4000
2000/2001	500 @ £1000	200 @ £1000	7 @ £4000
2001/2002	500 @ £1000	200 @ £1000	nil
2002/2003	500 @ £1000	200 @ £1000	nil
2003/2004	500 @ £1000	200 @ £1000	nil

Northern Ireland Memorial Fund
Projection of Estimated Funding Required 1999 to 2004 - Education & Training

Financial Year	Playgroup - 3 to 4	Primary - 4 to 9	Primary - 10 to 11	Secondary - 12 to 18	Tertiary - 16 +	Re-skilling/training - 16 +	Total per annum
1999/2000	£25,000	£25,000	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000	£60,000	£260,000
2000/2001	£25,000	£25,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£160,000	£510,000
2001/2002	£25,000	£25,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£160,000	£510,000
2002/2003	£25,000	£25,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£160,000	£510,000
2003/2004	£25,000	£25,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£160,000	£510,000
Total per Issue	£125,000	£125,000	£450,000	£450,000	£450,000	£700,000	£2,300,000

Breakdown

Financial Year	Playgroup - 3 to 4	Primary - 4 to 9	Primary - 10 to 11	Secondary - 12 to 18	Tertiary - 16 +	Re-skilling/training - 16 +
1999/2000	50 @ £500	50 @ £500	50 @ £1000	50 @ £1000	50 @ £1000	60 @ £1000
2000/2001	50 @ £500	50 @ £500	100 @ £1000	100 @ £1000	100 @ £1000	160 @ £1000
2001/2002	50 @ £500	50 @ £500	100 @ £1000	100 @ £1000	100 @ £1000	160 @ £1000
2002/2003	50 @ £500	50 @ £500	100 @ £1000	100 @ £1000	100 @ £1000	160 @ £1000
2003/2004	50 @ £500	50 @ £500	100 @ £1000	100 @ £1000	100 @ £1000	160 @ £1000

Northern Ireland Memorial Fund
Projection of Estimated Funding Required 1999 to 2004 - Group Development

Financial Year	Victims Group Conference	Central Resources	Total per annum
1999/2000	£20,000	£50,000	£70,000
2000/2001	£20,000	£50,000	£70,000
2001/2002	£20,000	£50,000	£70,000
2002/2003	£20,000	£50,000	£70,000
2003/2004	£20,000	£50,000	£70,000
Total per issue	£100,000	£250,000	£350,000

Breakdown

Financial Year	Victims Group Conference	Central Resources
1999/2000	Groups Plus Guests	Various initiatives
2000/2001	Groups Plus Guests	Various initiatives
2001/2002	Groups Plus Guests	Various initiatives
2002/2003	Groups Plus Guests	Various initiatives
2003/2004	Groups Plus Guests	Various initiatives

**Northern Ireland Memorial Fund
Projection of Total Estimated Funding Required 1999 to 2004**

Financial Year	Pain Relief	Trauma & Counselling	Relief Fund	Education & Training	Group Development	Administration	Total per annum
1999/2000	£114,000	£50,000	£386,000	£260,000	£70,000	£75,000	£955,000
2000/2001	£230,000	£50,000	£728,000	£510,000	£70,000	£75,000	£1,663,000
2001/2002	£200,000	£50,000	£700,000	£510,000	£70,000	£75,000	£1,605,000
2002/2003	£200,000	£50,000	£700,000	£510,000	£70,000	£75,000	£1,605,000
2003/2004	£200,000	£50,000	£700,000	£510,000	£70,000	£75,000	£1,605,000
Total per Issue	£944,000	£250,000	£3,214,000	£2,300,000	£350,000	£375,000	£7,433,000