

*MR. GREER*  
*to note and file with the*  
*earlier papers.*  
*1. Mr. Greer*  
*2. Mr. Fall*  
*10/5*  
- 4 MAY 1999

*STK*

From: J P Bill  
Trusts & Human Resources Directorate

COR/388/99

Date: 29 April 1999

*Mr. D. Reynolds*  
*STK*

PS/Mr Mc Fall

**ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL MONIES TO ASSIST IN DEALING WITH THE AFTERMATH OF THE OMAGH BOMB.**

**Summary**

**Issue:** Mr Paul Murphy's letter of 31 March 1999 to Mr Adam Ingram about Victims Support and Mr Ingram's subsequent request for details of how the additional monies allocated in relation to the Omagh bomb were spent.

**Timescale:** Normal private office deadline.

**Recommendation:** Minister to reply along lines of the draft letter attached.

**Introduction**

1. Mr Murphy wrote to Mr Ingram on 31 March confirming that apart from the £5m made available by HM Treasury in 1998/99 no allocations were made to NI Departments in the Comprehensive Spending Review for Victims Support. In his letter Mr Murphy did however point out that additional provision was made in the 1998/99 monitoring rounds in relation to the Omagh bomb. Mr Ingram has subsequently asked for details of this expenditure.

## Background

2. Following the recovery plans presented by Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust and the Western Health & Social Services Board, bids were made in the October and December 1998 monitoring rounds for additional funding to defray some of the costs associated with dealing with the aftermath of the Omagh bomb. Minister will recall that he visited the Omagh Trauma Centre on 21 December 1998 and announced that he was making substantial funding available to help cover the additional expenditure generated by the Omagh bomb.
3. In February 1999 the HSS Executive channelled a total of £2.683 million additional funding through the Western Health & Social Services Board to the service. A number of HSS Trusts were heavily involved in the aftermath of the bomb incident and were accordingly earmarked to receive funding, but the bulk of the additional funding went to Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust which developed schemes to assist and support victims, their relatives and the Trust's own staff.
4. The additional costs include expenditure actually incurred by Trusts, arising within the initial 48 hour emergency period, caused by extra overtime and calling staff in to work, goods and services and the cost of lost or damaged equipment. In addition, in-year expenditure on patient care was incurred through, among others, the establishment of a Community Trauma and Recovery Team, enhanced psychological support, the continued involvement of voluntary organisations and the development of a rehabilitation service.
5. As well as the Trust's Community Trauma and Recovery Team, a range of voluntary organisations are also located in the new Trauma Centre and these include Victims Support (NI), WAVE, Tara Centre, Cruse (Counselling), Samaritans, Red Cross and St Vincent de Paul. Funding of £120,000 was earmarked for the Trauma Team and £150,000 for the voluntary services sector from the £2.683m additional allocation.



**Advice**

6. I attach, for Minister's consideration, a draft letter to Mr Ingram. It provides a breakdown of the total additional monies allocated to the Western Health & Social Services Board in 1998/99 to cover health and social care costs resulting from the Omagh bomb. Minister may also wish to copy his letter to Mr Murphy for information.



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**Copy Distribution**

Secretary  
Mr McGrath  
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Mr Reynolds

The Rt Hon Adam Ingram JP MP  
Northern Ireland Office  
Block B  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast

April 1999

Fiona McCoy's minute of 13 April asked for a report on how the additional monies allocated in the 1998/99 monitoring round in relation to the Omagh bomb were spent.

In total, £ 2.683 million was allocated to defray health and social care costs arising as a result of the Omagh bomb. The HSS Executive channelled these additional funds through the Western Health & Social Services Board to the service. I attach a table which sets out details of the areas of expenditure which make up the total allocation.

I should point out that although a number of HSS Trusts were heavily involved in the aftermath of the Omagh bomb, the bulk of the additional funding went to the local Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust, which developed a number of schemes and services to assist and support victims, their relatives and, indeed, its own staff. For example the Trauma Centre established in Omagh after the bombing incident received funding of £120,000. Incidentally, in addition to the Trust's Trauma Team, a range of voluntary organisations are also located in the Trauma Centre premises, including Victims Support (NI), WAVE, Tara Centre, Cruse (Counselling), Samaritans, Red Cross and St Vincent de Paul. Voluntary Services were earmarked to receive £150,000 from the total additional allocation.

The additional funding has also meant that, patients needing hospital services will not have to remain so long on waiting lists, and that the delivery of community services in Omagh will not be restricted, as consequence of the bombing.

I hope this information is helpful.

John McFall  
Minister for Health and Social Services

**Analysis of monies available (£2.683m) to cover additional health care costs resulting from the Omagh bomb in 1998/99.**

<b>Areas of Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 000</b>
Direct patient care costs	231
Trauma team	120
Community psychological needs	120
Voluntary services sector	150
Short stay hospital & community care costs	109
Staff training costs	24
Relief staff for training sessions & counselling	45
Rehabilitation facility	100
Cover for staff sickness	120
Research project	20
Intensive community care packages to support 23 hospital inpatients discharged to various locations around the Province	479
Ten critically ill patients with an estimated hospital stay of one year	300
Costs to other providers	*865
<b>Total costs for 1998/99</b>	<b>2,683</b>

**\* Estimated costs to other providers**

**£000s**

Ulster Community & Hospitals HSS Trust	178
Royal Victoria Hospitals HSS Trust	250
NI Ambulance Service HSS trust	146
NI Blood Transfusion Service	44
Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust	27
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	31
Altnagelvin Hospitals HSS Trust	85
Green Park HSS Trust	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>865</b>