

EP 43/98



# COMPENSATION

**FROM: D A STANLEY  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
28 AUGUST 1998**

57618

28 AUG 1998

See Copy Distribution Below

PS/MR INGRAM (B&L)

*Mr. Delaney*  
*Circ. EPU & PA*  
*[Signature]*

## **CAR BOMB IN OMAGH: 15 AUGUST 1998**

### **Summary**

The Agency now has at hand the preliminary estimates of the cost of damage resulting from the car bomb in Omagh on the afternoon of Saturday, 15 August 1998. There are expected to be around 130 claims for criminal damage compensation totalling in the region of £6m. The individual potential claims are as shown in paragraph 3 below.

2. The Agency has so far received only 103 Notices of Intention to claim criminal injuries compensation in respect of the people killed and injured, both physically and mentally, by the bomb. It will take some time for claim details to be submitted and it would clearly be insensitive for Agency staff to seek such details with any degree of vigour at present. There are undoubtedly many claims to be made and the final criminal injuries compensation total will be substantial, probably on a par with the estimated criminal damage figure.

### **Details of Criminal Damage**

3. The individual criminal damage claim expected as follows:



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Royston House, 34 Upper Queen Street, Belfast BT1 6FD. Telephone: 01232 249944 Fax: 01232 246956

CHIEF

AN EXECUTIVE AGENCY WITHIN THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE





**Estimated Extent of Damages**

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

Periphery buildings, approximately  
75 properties, say

€1,230,000

50 vehicles, mostly private cars, say

£100,000

**Total, say**

£6,000,000



## **Major Incident Team**

4. The Agency's major incident team was activated on Sunday, 16 August but when I visited the Council Offices that day with my senior colleagues it was apparent that the team should not be deployed until Monday, 17 August. The team has been in place ever since, providing advice and guidance on compensation matters to all those affected by the bomb. In addition, the Agency's loss adjusters have visited all sites of damage. The major incident team will remain in Omagh as long as it is deemed appropriate, and no decision to withdraw the team will be taken without the agreement of the Council.

## **Professional Advice**

5. The Agency's Legal Unit and Forensic Accountancy Unit stand ready to provide professional advice to solicitors and accountants in Omagh and surrounding district who might feel the need to go through the claims procedures, particularly in respect of serious criminal injuries. (Mr Semple has already agreed to approach the President of the Law Society in Northern Ireland in this regard.) The advice could be provided by way of half-day seminars, say in an Omagh hotel, followed by telephone guidance on a personal basis for as long as needed. Agency staff will do whatever they are asked to in the best interests of applicants.

## **Liaison with Omagh District Council**

6. My senior colleagues and I have remained in close contact with the Chief Executive of Omagh District Council and his senior staff since 16 August and intend to continue to liaise with them as needed. Briefings have been given by ourselves to meetings of traders and other owners of property damaged by the bomb. Further meetings are planned, together with a co-ordinated effort to ensure that all claims are submitted in due course.



## Conclusion

7. Should the Minister of State wish to discuss any aspect of the compensation process, I am, of course, available at any time.

D A STANLEY  
Ext 47323

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