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The Office of the First and Deputy First Minister used £4.8m last year on counselling and welfare groups.

However, victims accused them of helping ex-prisoners and providing services which should be the responsibility of the heath and education authorities.

Kevin Skelton, 52, whose wife Mena was killed in the 1998 Real IRA bomb, said perpetrators of violence should not benefit.

"Victims are the people shot in the back of the head while walking down the street, those blown to pieces," he said.

"The perpetrator isn`t a victim, these groups are not doing the victims any good."



A total of £2,404 was spent last year on republican ex-prisoners` group Coiste. It has helped provide community support and researched ways of

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dealing with the conflict`s legacy.		Murder inquiry launched in Omagh
In 2002/03 there was £468,322 dedicated to survivors and in 2006/07 £4.8m. The largest sums were spent last year on Interim Victims` Commissioner Bertha McDougall`s office and funding the Northern Ireland Centre for Trauma and Transformation for two years.		 100 comments UDA stands down military wing 55 comments Parade ban over intimidation fears 21 comments
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