




Win VIP Six Nations tickets 

 [Email @ireland.com](mailto:Email@ireland.com)
 [Find your ancestors](#)
 [The Irish Times Dating Service](#)

- « Prev
- Next »

IRISHTIMES.com

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

7 °C Dublin » 

- [RSS Feeds](#)
- [Site Map](#)
- [News](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Comment](#)
- [Life & Culture](#)
- [Shop](#)
- [Classified](#)

Search 

- [Ireland](#)
- [World](#)
- [Supplements](#)
- [In Depth](#)
- [Other](#)
- [Today's Paper](#)
- **Sport**
- [Soccer](#)
- [GAA](#)
- [Rugby](#)
- [Golf](#)
- [Other](#)
- [irish-racing.com](#)
- **Business**
- [Latest](#)
- [Markets](#)
- [Exchange Rates](#)
- [Agenda](#)
- [Personal Finance](#)
- [The Economy](#)
- [Management](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Innovation](#)
- [Diary](#)
- **Comment**
- [Opinion & Analysis](#)
- [Letters](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [On the record](#)
- [Pricewatch](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Outside In](#)
- [Pursued by a Bear](#)
- [Today's news poll](#)
- **Life & Culture**
- [Features](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Weekend](#)
- [Magazine](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Pricewatch](#)
- [Education](#)

- [Crossword Club](#)
- [Sudoku](#)
- [Competitions](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Weather](#)

- **Shop**
- [Page Sales](#)
- [Photo Sales](#)
- [DVD Club](#)
- [Readers' Offers](#)

- **Classified**
- [Homes](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Dating](#)
- [Family Notices](#)

- **Other**
- [Search this site](#)
- [Premium Email](#)
- [Digital edition](#)
- [Print on demand](#)
- [Irish Ancestors](#)
- [Irish Times Training](#)
- [RSS feeds](#)

- **About us**
- [Company information](#)
- [Terms & conditions](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Copyright](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)
- [Help](#)

- [Home »](#)
- [Ireland »](#)
- [Other Stories »](#)

- [Email to a friend](#)
- [Email to Author](#)
- [Print](#)
- [RSS](#)
- Text Size:
-
-

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

Eames-Bradley payments termed a 'mistake' by SF

[In this section »](#)

- [Case study: 'We're buckling under the strain'](#)
- [Bus drivers vote to take industrial action](#)
- [Passport control delays at airport](#)
- [Coast Guard to monitor oil spill off Cork coast in joint operation](#)
- [Packed house pays tribute to Leonard](#)
- [Traditional music body accuses FG of 'vendetta' over funding claims](#)

DAN KEENAN, Northern News Editor

A SINN FÉIN Minister has branded the Eames-Bradley proposal to offer a £12,000 payment to all families bereaved in the Troubles “a mistake”.

Gerry Kelly, a Stormont junior minister, says it was “unfortunate” the Eames-Bradley group, which was tasked with examining means to deal with the legacy of the conflict, “fell down” on the issue of the £12,000 payment.

In an interview with BBC News 24 to be broadcast tonight, Mr Kelly criticises the proposal, suggesting instead that families really want access to the truth.

The British government had a particular responsibility to divulge that truth, he added.

He accepted that Denis Bradley and Lord [Robin] Eames had made it clear the payment was not compensation and that it was being proposed simply in recognition of the loss felt by all the bereaved.

“They said it was in acknowledgement of the suffering across the board,” Mr Kelly said.

“I think personally that it was a mistake. It’s easy in hindsight to say that, but clearly it was a mistake because it caused so much controversy.”

He added: “The real issue is that there has to be truth . . . What people want to know is the truth and that’s on all sides. There are many different views on what would bring peace to people’s minds who have lost loved ones. But the one thing which goes through it all is the simple issue of truth. They want to know what happened. There are some

people who want prosecutions, some people may want compensation, other people may want people going to court.”

He called on the British government to admit its role in the deaths of many during the conflict.

“The British government has a great responsibility in producing truth because they have the archives, they have the information,” he said.

“What they should do is open it up. People who complain about the millions that are paid over the Saville inquiry [into Bloody Sunday] – it wouldn’t be necessary if the files were opened up.”

The criticisms are the strongest yet from Sinn Féin.

Party president Gerry Adams, speaking on the day last month of the unveiling of the Eames-Bradley findings, criticised the proposal for a legacy commission rather than the £12,000 payment.

He said such a body “appointed by the British government” was “not the independent and international commission established by a reputable international body like the UN that Sinn Féin believes is necessary”.

The Pat Finucane Centre in Derry, which raises victims’ issues, said: “For us, the important thing is the truth recovery, it isn’t about a one-off payment.” “It is a horrible discussion,” said the centre’s Paul O’Connor, “it is just about money.”

Unionists have also criticised the payment suggestion, arguing that it equated “the terrorist and the terrorised”.

DUP leader and First Minister Peter Robinson said the proposal was “a betrayal”.

The British and Irish governments have given the report by the former Church of Ireland primate and the former Policing Board chairman a cautious welcome.

This article appears in the print edition of the Irish Times

ADVERTISEMENT



Latest »

- [10:40Bus drivers to announce industrial action plans](#)
- [10:36Moody's analyst says chances of Irish default 'remote'](#)
- [10:25AIB, Bank of Ireland fall sharply in early trade](#)
- [10:13Bullard to undergo surgery in the States](#)
- [10:03Search ongoing for Galway tiger raid members](#)
- [09:30China defends Khmer Rouge ties](#)
- [09:26'Killing Fields' torturer goes on trial in Cambodia](#)
- [09:20Two men arrested in connection with Mongan murder](#)

Popular Stories

- [Most Read](#)
- [Most Emailed](#)
- [1FitzPatrick was lent tens of millions in foreign currency](#)
- [2Dubai dries up](#)
- [3Frontrow fired up by 'lack of respect'](#)
- [4Pupil suspended for having long hair awarded EUR 3,500](#)
- [5Bank guarantee likely to deal a crippling blow to the economy](#)
- [1Dubai dries up](#)
- [2FitzPatrick was lent tens of millions in foreign currency](#)
- [3Bank guarantee likely to deal a crippling blow to the economy](#)
- [4Pupil suspended for having long hair awarded EUR 3,500](#)
- [5Tenants set to benefit from 20% rent saving - report](#)

Your Vote »

[« Yes](#)
[No »](#)
[Results](#)

Do you think a second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty should be held before the Summer?

Crossword Club »



[Today's Interactive Irish Times Crossaire and Simplex crosswords, plus 10 years of crossword archive.](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Ads by Google

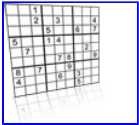
Public Sector Procurement

OGC Buying Solutions Provide Professional Procurement Services
online.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk

Housing Careers in London

LB of Ealing Seek Housing Officers and Managers. From £25K. Apply Now!
www.seehousingdifferently.co.uk

Sudoku »



[Download and print the daily Irish Times sudoku grid](#)



- [Economy needs our urge to splurge](#)In downturns, people stop spending and economies contract, locking us into a much longer depression than necessary



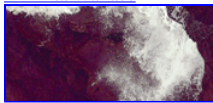
- [Bank guarantee likely to deliver crippling blow](#)Government borrowing is not an immediate problem, but the extent of banks' bad debts may prove catastrophic, argues Morgan Kelly



- [Arms and the Woman](#)Kate Holmquist on Michelle Obama's Vogue Cover



- [A civil farewell](#)In an increasingly secular society civil funerals are seen as providing a more personal ritual for a final parting, writes Armintha Wallace



- [Calling Out](#)Recession-related anxiety is causing an upsurge in calls to support organisations



- ADVERTISEMENT
- CLASSIFIED

Homes



[Cherry Glade, Delgany Wood, Delgany Price: €895,000](#)

[Bedrooms: 5](#) [See More »](#)

• **Jobs**

Select your categories

- Accountancy
- Architecture / Design
- Banking & Financial Services
- Construction
- Customer Service, Call Centres & Languages

[Next »](#)

• **Cars**



[Lexus bows to European tastes with a smart, diesel executive offering](#)

[Find »](#)

• **Dating**

I am a Man Looking for a Woman Located All Only with photos: [Next »](#)

© 2009 [irishtimes.com](#)

- [Company information](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Terms & Conditions](#)