

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Summary of Recommendations

5.1 Dealing with emotional trauma

5.1.1 An integrated plan and a trauma team

Each Health Board should establish a Trauma Team and develop an integrated plan for dealing with the emotional and psychological aspects of major incidents. (4.1.1 to 4.1.7)

5.1.2 Outreach to past victims

Voluntary groups should be involved in an outreach programme to past victims to provide counselling where this is still necessary. The Health Board Trauma Teams should provide professional backup to this programme as required. (4.1.8)

5.1.3 Long term care

The Government should look at ways of accelerating the implementation of plans for the development of Mental Health Services. (4.1.9)

5.2 Financial support

5.2.1 Review of Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

For future victims, I recommend a review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. (4.2.5 to 4.2.6)

5.2.2 Aid for past victims

Funds should be made available to provide acknowledgement payments to the families of those killed and to cover victims continuing costs arising from the injuries done to them. (4.2.7)

A Victims Pension should be established for certain categories of victims. (4.2.8)

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5.3 Medical issues

5.3.1 Sensitivity towards victims

Where they do not already exist, Health Boards and Hospitals should formulate explicit written policies on victims so as to ensure that patients and their families are treated with dignity, courtesy and sensitivity. (4.3.1)

5.3.2 Review of long term care of physical trauma

I recommend the establishment of a joint North South review of the State of expertise, technology and practice in the long term treatment of physical trauma. (4.3.2)

5.4 In the service of the State

5.4.1 Compensation schemes to allow for a review

All schemes of compensation for those in the service of the state should allow for a review in appropriate circumstances. (4.4.3)

5.4.2 Stopping pensions on remarriage

The provision for stopping pensions on remarriage should be eliminated in relation to any public service pension payable to the spouses of those killed in the line of duty. (4.4.4)

5.4.3 Critical incident and stress programmes

There should be a joint services review of the programmes for dealing with stress and emotionally traumatic incidents. (4.4.5)

5.4.4 Care of the injured and families

The welfare and medical care extended to those injured in the service of the

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state should be fully extended to the families of those killed or seriously injured in the service of the state. (4.4.6)

5.4.5 Annual commemoration

There should be an annual full Government Commemoration Ceremony to honour those Gardaí who have died in the service of the people. (4.4.7)

5.5 Truth and Justice

5.5.1 Truth Commission

A Truth Commission is not recommended at this time but is not ruled out at some future date. (4.5.1)

5.5.2 Dublin - Monaghan bombings

A retired Supreme Court Judge should be appointed to privately conduct an independent enquiry into the Dublin-Monaghan Bombings. (4.5.2)

5.5.3 The Case of Séamus Ludlow

A similar enquiry should be conducted into this case. (4.5.3)

5.5.4 Other cases of concern

Procedures should be introduced to allow families to request reports on investigations of murders, arising from the conflict in Northern Ireland over the last 30 years, where no one has been made amenable. (4.5.4)

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5.5.5 Cases involving State forces

The Crowley Report on the shooting of Aidan McAnespie should be published. The Government should urge its British Counterpart to do likewise with the Stalker/Sampson report and the Stevens's reports. (4.5.5)

5.5.6 The disappeared

Anyone with the slightest shred of information on the possible location of bodies should make this known to the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims Remains. (4.5.6)

5.6 Memorials and commemoration

5.6.1 Victims Cultural and Historical Resource Body

The Government should seek with its British counterpart to establish an independent Victims' Cultural and Historical Resource Body whose main purpose will be to encourage victims in telling their stories to a wider public. (4.6.2)

5.6.2 Funding for the body

The Body's administrative costs should be paid by both Governments. The Governments should commit, between them, to match any private project funding raised by the Body. (4.6.2)

5.6.3 Memorial schemes

The Body will in consultation with others consider the appropriateness and timing of various memorial schemes. It will also manage the processes of consultation, design and implementation in each case (4.6.2). Some of the suggested schemes are:

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- A physical monument or memorial (4.6.3)
- A Day of Remembrance (4.6.4)
- A Memorial Building (4.6.5)
- A Victims Archive (4.6.6)

5.7 Displaced persons

5.7.1 From Northern Ireland to this jurisdiction

Payments of up to £10,000 should be paid to bereaved families or injured persons who have had to move to this jurisdiction as a result of violence and who can show economic needs as a result. (4.7.1)

5.7.2 Returning to this jurisdiction

A relocation grant of up to £5,000 should be paid to assist those bereaved and injured who now wish to return to this jurisdiction. (4.7.2)

5.7.3 Displaced for legal reasons

Procedures should be put in place to allow accused individuals, outside this jurisdiction, to apply for a review of their cases by the D.P.P. for a decision as to whether they still have a case to answer. (4.7.3)

The Government should seek to have similar arrangements put in place in Northern Ireland. (4.7.3)

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5.7.4 "Exiles"

The relevant Social Services in their jurisdiction should seek to establish lines of communication with their counterparts in Northern Ireland and with appropriate voluntary organisations to facilitate the verification of cases and the transfer of benefit and allowances. (4.7.4)

Some form of rent guarantee scheme should be considered to help at the start in getting accommodation in the private rental sector. (4.7.4)

Similar arrangements should be instituted to facilitate those who wish to return home to Northern Ireland. (4.7.4)

5.8 Economic effects

5.8.1 Damage to property

The Department of the Environment and Local Government should review the provisions and operations of the Malicious Injuries Acts. (4.8.1)

5.8.2 Transfer of pension rights

The Government should examine, with its British counterpart, the question of the transfer of pension rights between different pension schemes for public and health sector employees in both jurisdictions in the manner in which such transfers operate within the jurisdiction. (4.8.3)

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5.9 Awareness and sensitivity to victims' needs and concerns

5.9.1 General courtesy and sensitivity

Organisations which have dealings with victims need to ensure that staff are sensitive to their needs and concerns and act accordingly. Appropriate training and "courtesy cards" should be provided for this purpose. (4.9.1)

5.9.2 Government Agencies and employers

In dealing with victims administrators should consider how they themselves would like to be treated or how they would like members of their own family to be treated. (4.9.2)

When formulating or administering schemes, official bodies should look at ways of providing a more co-ordinated and integrated response to the needs of victims. (4.9.2)

Both Public and Private sector employers should show every consideration to the needs of victims. (4.9.2)

5.9.3 Churches

The Churches should review aspects of the training of clergy to ensure that they have the understanding and knowledge to help victims in their time of need. (4.9.3)

5.9.4 Media

The various media should consult with families before publishing any material and, in particular, images relating to the violent death of a loved one. (4.9.4)

The media should exercise particular sensitivity and care when commenting or reporting on victims and victims issues. (4.9.4)

At times of distress, the media should exercise sensitivity towards victims and show respect for their privacy when approaching them for comments. Care should be taken in the use of unguarded comments made by victims at such times. (4.9.4)

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5.10 Implementation

5.10.1 Responsibility

A high ranking civil servant, preferably in the Department of the Taoiseach, should be designated to advance and monitor the implementation of these recommendations. (4.10.1)

5.10.2 Consultations

Interested parties should be allowed three months to respond. An outline implementation plan should be produced within six months. (4.10.2)

5.10.3 Review

A review of the implementation process should be made within 3 years of publication. (4.10.3)

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