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**From:** P W Lynch  
Capital

**cc** Secretary  
Mr Hunter  
Mr McCusker (Cent/Sec)  
Mr Clements (NIO)  
Miss Montgomery  
(EHSSB Nominated Officer)

**Date:** 25 October 1993

**To:** Mr J McGrath  
Director Provider Development

*Handwritten notes:*  
Mr - Dodd  
Mr - Scott  
Miss - Green  
to see  
26/10

**TERRORIST BOMB EXPLOSION -SHANKILL ROAD, BELFAST  
SITUATION REPORT**

A terrorist bomb exploded around 1.00 PM on Saturday 23 October 1993 in a shop on the Shankill Road, Belfast. In total there were 10 fatalities, (2 children, 4 men, 4 women) and over 50 people injured.

**Responses**

**Ambulance Service**

The Eastern Ambulance Service received 999 call at 1.10 PM and tasked 6 vehicles, 3 rapid response cars, 4 team leaders and a total of 25 staff the first responding vehicles arriving at 1.13 PM. One of the Officers later assumed the role of Liaison Officer at the Mater Hospital.

The Ambulance Service's Emergency Plan was put into operation and 7 casualties were transported to the Mater Infirmorum Hospital and 5 to The Royal Group of Hospitals. Two Public Health Doctors and one Public Relations staff were at Ambulance Control, Purdysburn. RUC Casualty Bureau information was documented at Ambulance Control and RUC had a Liaison Officer at the Royal and Mater. The RUC confirmed that the casualty documentation plan was effective.

Two Ambulance personnel suffered a hand injury and a leg injury whilst working around rubble and were treated at the Belfast City Hospital. Off-duty Ambulance personnel volunteered for duty to enable others to stand down. Mr McKee, Deputy Chief Ambulance Officer said that the incident was one of the most stressful incidents that the Service has experienced in recent times in that two-thirds of the Service's resources were tied up by the incident. It was also made evident in the incident that the helmets currently being used by their personnel gave insufficient protection as one officer wearing a helmet was slightly injured by a falling brick. The specification for replacements are currently being examined by the Ambulance Service and DHSS will have to give urgent consideration to fund the provision of personal issue of improved helmets at an approximate cost of

£37,000.

An emergency channel on the Ambulance Service radio system would have made communications better and it is hoped that the new radio system shortly to be installed should facilitate this.

The British Red Cross and St John Ambulance provided back-up cover to the Service.

### Hospitals

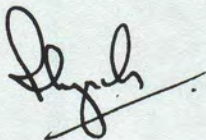
The Mater Infirmorum Hospital received 50 casualties. Their Emergency Plan had been put into operation before the first casualties arrived, most of them arriving as walking wounded. The Mater social services team responded immediately. Six casualties were retained overnight, two in Intensive Care described as stable and the remaining four as comfortable. The Mater Hospital referred two casualties to the Royal for neurosurgery and two casualties to the Ulster Hospital for plastic surgery.

The Belfast City Hospital was on standby and sent a medical crash team to the site. This was however not required.

### Social Services

North & West Belfast Community Social Services responded immediately with an Emergency Trauma Team in accordance with their emergency plan. Other social services staff were deployed at the Mater Hospital, Royal Victoria Hospital and the morgue at Forster Green Hospital to offer what assistance they could to relatives and victims. From the documentation of those dealt with, a follow-up approach will be made for any necessary long term support. Social workers from the Trauma Team are currently in Shankill Health Centre and the telephone number (247181) is to be publicised in the media etc for anyone in the community requiring support. This facility will be reviewed at the end of the week.

I will keep you informed of any developments.



**P W Lynch**