

8/33V.

From: William Stevenson  
Victims Liaison Unit  
13 August 1999

philip  
28/8

Mr. Mills

pl. P/A a

cc see distribution list below

loc 8/33(V)

Mr. Loman

b. Loman

Noting to us,

19/8/99

newspaper!

16/8

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**RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE IRISH VICTIMS COMMISSION**

My note of 10 August 1999 gave a brief summary of the recently issued report of the Irish Victims Commission, including a list of recommendations which referred directly or indirectly to Northern Ireland (this list is attached at Annex A for your information).

The Secretary of State has asked that a response to the Commissioners report should be prepared. I will prepare a co-ordinated response and would be grateful for your input on those areas for which you have responsibility.

An urgent reply would be appreciated.

*William Stevenson*

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NC 84/8

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L)  
PS/Mr Ingram (B&L)  
PS/Mr McFall  
PS/Mr Howarth  
PS/Lord Dubs  
PS/Mr Semple  
Mr Jeffrey  
Mr Bell  
Mr Maccabe  
Ms Johnston  
Mr Travis  
Ms Butcher  
Mr Baxter  
Mr O'Mahony  
Members of Interdepartmental Group on Bloomfield

## IMPLICATIONS FOR US

Some recommendations specifically refer to Northern Ireland or have an obvious implication - they are:

- A review of the Irish Compensation Scheme is recommended which, inter alia, should consider the particular issues of the “disappeared” including seeking to establish an agreed approach in both jurisdictions.
- The enquiry into the Dublin-Monaghan bombings should consider, inter-alia, the adequacy of co-operation with authorities in Northern Ireland.
- Seamus Ludlow - recommends an enquiry along the lines of the Dublin-Monaghan bombing although recognising that a file on this case is with the DPP in Northern Ireland.
- The Irish Government should urge its UK counterpart to publish (possibly edited) the Stalker/Sampson report and the Steven’s reports. (Following on from a recommendation that the Irish Government should release the Crowley report on the shooting of Aidan McAnespie).
- The Human Rights Commissions in NI and the Republic should consider concerns about the use of deadly force by law enforcement and security personnel.
- The Irish Government should seek to establish with its British counterparts an independent Victims Cultural and Historical Resource Body to encourage and support the telling of victims stories.

- Any future physical memorial or monument should be designed following the widest consultation with the bereaved in Britain, Ireland North and South and elsewhere.
- A Memorial Building is highly desirable. Should be in a border location.
- Payments up to £10K to bereaved families or injured persons who suffered financially from being displaced from Northern Ireland to the Republic.
- Up to £5K payable to those displaced who now wish to return to Southern Ireland.
- For those who are displaced for “legal reasons” (ie absconded while awaiting trial and who maintain that they were accused in the wrong) should have the opportunity to apply for a review of their case by the DPP in the Republic. Further recommends that the Irish Government should seek similar arrangements be put in place in Northern Ireland.
- For those exiled from Northern Ireland, Social Services should establish lines of communication with counterparts in Northern Ireland and with appropriate voluntary organisations to facilitate verification of cases and the transfer of benefits and allowances. Similar arrangements should be instigated for those wishing to return home to Northern Ireland.
- The Irish Government examine with its British counterpart the question of the transfer of pension rights between different pension schemes for public and health sector employees.