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LOCAL NEWS



Victims Commissioners

Wednesday 06 August 2008 23:15

Multi-million pound victims package

Details have been announced of a £36 million package to help victims of the Troubles.

The proposals represent a blueprint for how the Stormont administration intends to deal with the sensitive and contentious issue in the future.

It will see victims and survivors issues dealt with by three bodies - a Victims Commission, a Victims Forum and a Victims Service.

The draft proposals have already been discussed at committee level at Stormont and will now go out for a 12-week public consultation.

DUP Junior Minister Jeffrey Donaldson unveiled the strategy with his colleague, Sinn Fein's Gerry Kelly.

"It is our desire to ensure that everyone who needs help and support gets and receives that support. That is why we are proposing the establishment of a new victim's service so that there is one point of contact," Mr Donaldson told us.

Mr Kelly is also optimistic that victims will be provided with a good service.

"The commissioners are set up, they have been working very hard and once we get the forum, the victims and survivors forum set up and indeed the victims and survivors service set up, then it will be a full fledged, organised and comprehensive approach to the issue of victims and survivors."

The consultation period will run for three months and anyone with a view can express it by contacting the victims unit in the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister.



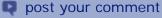
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On 6 Aug at 23:53 - mike from lurgan said:

mmmm I am very sceptical of this ,, will this b available to members of the security forces udr rir police etc for what they had to endure , living with terror also the families, who had to live on their nerves 24 7 an with the threat of being killed murdered at what time !! Mmm I think not I think all members of the security forces should if they've had to move house etc be compensated, they are victims to!! And despite whatever they've got from the government they should also benefit! If not its total discrimination!!

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