

**Victims Liaison Unit  
Room 123  
Stormont House Annex  
Stormont  
Belfast  
BT4 3ST**

**9052 7952**

**Victims Unit  
Room E5-03  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont  
Belfast  
BT4 3SR**

**9052 3167**

**25 January 2001**

**Dear Colleague**

You may be aware that there are now two dedicated units in Government devoted to meeting the specific needs of the victims and survivors of "the Troubles". This letter provides clarification on the respective responsibilities of each organisation.

The Victims Liaison Unit (VLU) was set up in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) as a response to the report compiled by Sir Kenneth Bloomfield 'We will Remember them'. The NIO also appointed Adam Ingram as Victims Minister and took the lead in responding to victims' issues across the whole of Government.

After devolution many of the issues facing victims became the responsibility of the devolved administration. Accordingly, a dedicated Victims Unit was set up in the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) with Denis Haughey and Dermot Nesbitt being given specific responsibility for victims matters.

However, as many of the issues important to victims have not been devolved ("reserved and excepted" matters), it was necessary to retain the VLU within the NIO. Having two units will ensure that the maximum standard of service is available to victims and survivors and their representatives. Ministers are committed to close working between the Units to ensure that this happens.

For your information we have attached a sheet which lays out the broad split of responsibilities between the VLU and the Victims Unit. We have

also included information on the major areas of responsibility of each of the devolved Departments and a number of other organisations.

Should you require any further clarification please contact either of us.

Yours sincerely,

William Stevenson

Fergus Devitt

**WILLIAM STEVENSON**  
**Victims Liaison Unit**  
**Northern Ireland Office**

**FERGUS DEVITT**  
**Victims Unit**  
**Office of the First Minister and**  
**Deputy First Minister**

## **SPLIT OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE VICTIMS UNIT AND THE VICTIMS LIAISON UNIT**

The following are the current responsibilities of OFMDFM's Victims Unit:

- Support for Ministers in the devolved administration;
- Development of a suitable programme under PEACE II to address victims' needs;
- Development of a separate programme of activities designed to meet the strategic needs of victims;
- Ensuring the needs of victims are addressed in the devolved administration including management of an interdepartmental working group on victims' issues;
- Ensuring that the commitments on victims contained in the draft Programme for Government are met;
- Articulating the case for victims within the devolved administration.

The following are the current responsibilities of the NIO's Victims Liaison Unit

- Support for Ministers in the NIO;
- Provision of core funding to victims' support groups;
- Management and provision of grant aid to the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund;
- Ensuring victims issues are dealt with in the reserved and excepted fields in Northern Ireland, particularly in areas such as compensation, criminal justice, security and dealing with 'the disappeared';
- Articulating the case for victims in the reserved and excepted fields.

Both organisations have responsibility for:

- Improving the capacity and professionalism of victims organisations and introducing core values and standards for groups to adhere;
- Implementing the findings of the Bloomfield report;
- Building networks for victims and victims' organisations to share experience and best practice.

## **DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATION**

### **Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister**

Economic Policy; Equality; Civic Forum; European Affairs; Public Appointments Policy; Honours; Freedom of Information; Victims, Human Rights and Community Relations.

**Contact Address:** Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast BT4 3SR

**Telephone:** 028 9052 8400

### **Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**

Food, farming and environmental policy; Agri-food development; Veterinary; Rural development; Forestry; Sea Fisheries; Rivers.

**Contact Address:** Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Belfast BT4 3SB

**Telephone:** 028 9052 4999

### **Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI); N.I. Events and Millennium Companies; Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland; Inland Fisheries and Inland Waterways and the Cross-Border Implementation Body responsible for Inland Waterways; Language Policy and its own Cross-Border Implementation Body.

**Contact Address:** Interpoint  
20-24 York Street  
Belfast BT15 1AQ

**Telephone:** 028 9025 8825

### **Department of Education**

All policy, legislation and resource issues relating to schools and the Youth Service.

**Contact Address:** Rathgael House  
Balloo Road  
Bangor BT19 7PR

**Telephone:** 028 9127 9279

### **Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

Resources Management; Regulatory Services; Industrial Development Board; Industrial Research and Technology Unit; Local Enterprise Development Unit; Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

**Contact Address:** Netherleigh  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast BT4 2JP

**Telephone:** 028 9052 9900

### **Department of the Environment**

Planning Control; Environment and Heritage; Protection of the Countryside; Waste Management; Pollution Control; Wildlife Protection; Local Government; Sustainable Development; Driver & Vehicle Test Agency; Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency; Transport Licensing Enforcement Branch; Road Safety.

**Contact Address:** Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
Belfast BT1 2GB

**Telephone:** 028 9054 0540

### **Department of Finance and Personnel**

Central Finance Group; Central Personnel Group; Central Management Group; Office of Law Reform; Departmental Solicitor's Office; Business Development Service; Government Purchasing Agency; Valuation and Lands Agency; Rate Collection Agency; N.I. Statistics and Research Agency; Land Registers of Northern Ireland; Construction Service.

**Contact Address:** Rathgael House  
Bangor  
BT19 7NA

**Telephone:** 028 9127 9279

### **Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety**

Health and Personal Social Services; Public Health; Public Safety.

**Contact Address:** Castle Buildings  
Stormont  
Belfast BT4 3SJ

**Telephone:** 028 9052 0500

### **Department of Higher & Further Education, Training & Employment**

Higher Education; Further Education; Vocational Training; Employment Services; Employment Law and Labour Relations; Teacher Training and Teacher Education; Student Support and Postgraduate Awards; Training Grants.

**Contact Address:** Adelaide House  
Adelaide Street  
Belfast BT2 8FD

**Telephone:** 028 9025 7777

### **Department of Regional Development**

Strategic Planning; Transport Planning; Provision and Maintenance of Roads; Provision and Maintenance of Water and Sewerage Services; Rail and Bus Policy; Ports and Airports Policy; Water Policy.

**Contact Address:** Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
Belfast BT1 2GB

**Telephone:** 028 9054 0540

### **Department for Social Development**

Urban Development; Community Development; Voluntary Activity; Social Legislation; Social Security; Child Support; Central Adjudication Services; Independent Tribunal Service; Office of Social Fund Commissioner; Housing Policy; Northern Ireland Housing Executive; Housing Benefit Review Board; Rent Assessment Panel; Laganside Corporation; Lands Division.

**Contact Address:** Churchill House  
Victoria Square  
Belfast BT2 4BA

**Telephone:** 028 9056 9100

### **Northern Ireland Housing Executive**

Regular examination of housing conditions and housing requirements and development of programmes to meet those needs; Closure, demolition and clearance of unfit houses; Improvement of the condition of the housing stock; Encourage the provision of new houses; Establish housing information and advisory services; Consult with District Councils and the Northern Ireland Housing Council; Manage its own housing stock in Northern Ireland; As the Home Energy Conservation Authority for Northern Ireland, promote energy efficiency in the residential sector.

**Contact Address:** NIHE Headquarters  
The Housing Centre  
2 Adelaide Street  
Belfast

**Telephone:** 028 9024 0588

## **Social Security Agency**

Administration of the following benefits:

Attendance Allowance  
Child Benefit  
Disability Living Allowance  
Guardians Allowance  
Income Support  
Industrial Injuries Scheme  
Invalid Care Allowance

Incapacity Benefit  
Jobseekers Allowance  
Supplement  
Maternity Allowance

Minimum Income Guaranteed  
Old Person's Pension  
Pensioners Lump Sum Payment  
Retirement Pension  
Severe Disablement Allowance  
Sickness Benefit  
Social Fund Payments, Grants and  
Loans  
Widows Benefits  
Workman's Compensation

**Contact Address:** Social Security Benefit Shop  
Castle Court  
Royal Avenue  
Belfast  
BT1 1DF

**Telephone:** 028 9033 6000