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Northern Ireland
Victims Commission
Report on
Resource Implications

From: D C GOWDY
Date: 11 May 1998

Mr J Semple

**REPORT OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND VICTIMS COMMISSION:
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Summary

Issue: To flag up the financial implications of the recommendations contained in the Bloomfield Report on Victims

Timescale: Initially, prior to publication on 13 May.

Conclusion: To acknowledge that additional funding will be required if the recommendations are to be delivered.

1. As you are aware the Bloomfield Report is due to be published on Wednesday 13 May. The discussion and expectations which this report is likely to generate, associated with the intense interest in further compensation for victims following the Prime Minister's visit last week, will create financial implications which need to be recognised at an early stage.
2. The Bloomfield Report makes over 20 major recommendations. One relates to the recently published Social Services Inspectorate's study of "Living with the Trauma of the Troubles" and urges that the recommendations in this study "should be energetically implemented by those interests to which they are



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directed". The SSI study contains a further 22 recommendations, some of which overlap with other areas in the Bloomfield Report but many of which are separate.

3. We have completed an initial costing of the SSI recommendations which indicates that in total they would cost between £4/5m to implement. Moreover, much of the financial need will be recurrent, on the basis of the requirements for the employment of additional specialist staff.
4. We have not been in the position to carry out even the most provisional costing of the Bloomfield recommendations, but it is clear that there too significant amounts will be required if the Government accepts that these recommendations are to be implemented. For example, the recommendation that a much higher priority should be given to the treatment of and local research into chronic physical pain and that there should be the establishment of a professional Trauma Centre and the enhancement of psychiatric facilities for children and adolescents could only be delivered if substantial additional resources were provided. Again, these will be in the main revenue costs.
5. Whilst we will be flagging up the likely costs of the SSI recommendations in our Public Expenditure return and will seek to develop some costings on the Bloomfield recommendations, I would be very fearful of moving forward on these reports without an acknowledgement that the additional financial provision will be made available. There is simply no way in which the Department could respond within its current baselines on the recommendations



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requiring action within the HPSS and I strongly suspect that the same point would be made by other colleagues in respect of those recommendations which affect their responsibilities. We therefore need to press strongly for additional resources to meet the pressures and expectations which will be created once those reports are published.

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