

# Judicial Communications Office

6 November 2020

## VICTIMS' PAYMENTS BOARD

The Lord Chief Justice today announced the appointment of Mr Justice McAlinden as interim President of the Victims' Payments Board to assist the Department of Justice with the development of the Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme.

The Victims' Payments Board will be responsible for determining who is entitled to payments in respect of injury caused by a Troubles-related incident. The framework on eligibility is set out in the Victims' Payments Regulations 2020 and the Secretary of State's Guidance which was published on 14 August 2020.

In a statement, Mr Justice McAlinden said:

"I am honoured to be asked by the Lord Chief Justice to be the interim President of the Victims' Payments Board. The designation by the Executive Office of the Department of Justice to exercise the administrative functions of the Board has allowed the Department to start to take the necessary steps including the appointment of the non-judicial members and the establishment of administrative arrangements for the payment scheme. As interim President, I will work with the Department to develop the scheme which will provide the many victims of the Troubles in Northern Ireland with the payments they deserve. I would encourage a speedy resolution to the funding issue which will allow the full implementation of the scheme which the legislation envisages."

### NOTES TO EDITORS

The Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme is established by section 10 of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2019 and the Victims' Payments Regulations 2020. The Regulations were commenced on 24 February 2020 and the Department of Justice was designated as the relevant department on 24 August 2020.

Schedule 1 to the Regulations provides for the Lord Chief Justice to appoint a person as the President of the Victims' Payments Board. The legal, medical and ordinary members of the Board will be appointed by the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission. A legal member must be a member of the Bar or a solicitor of the Court of Judicature of at least five years' standing. A medical member must be a registered medical practitioner. An ordinary member may be appointed if it appears to the Department of Justice that the person has appropriate knowledge or experience.

**ENDS**

If you have any further enquiries about this or other court related matters please contact:

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