

# Victims' Payments Board

15 June 2021

## **TROUBLES PERMANENT DISABLEMENT PAYMENT SCHEME: OPENING DATE**

Mr Justice McAlinden, President of the Victims' Payments Board, today announced that the Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme will open for applications on 31 August at 12 noon.

In a statement, Mr Justice McAlinden said:

"I previously announced my intention for the Scheme to open on 30 June 2021. This would have coincided with publication of guidance on how the level of permanent disablement of applicants is to be medically assessed. While it remains the intention to publish the guidance by 30 June, it is anticipated that the guidance will be complex and detailed and I recognise that it is important that applicants can familiarise themselves with the guidance in advance of submitting an application.

Over the past days I have held discussions with representatives from the main groups supporting victims and survivors who are likely to be applying to the scheme. I believe this short delay will ensure that the scheme is equitable and fair to all applicants as it will give them, and those who may be supporting them through the application process, time to consider the detailed guidance. The Victims Payments' Board will organise information sessions during July and August to provide more detail on the scheme and the medical assessment guidance in particular.

I realise that this short delay will be disappointing to some of the many victims who have struggled long and hard to get the recognition and payments to which they are entitled. However, it is important that applicants and those supporting them should have appropriate time and information to engage effectively with the scheme and familiarise themselves with the guidance. The Board feels that to open on 30 June risks causing additional harm by raising expectations that applications need to be submitted immediately after the medical guidance is available. A key principle of the scheme is to be responsive to the needs of victims and I want to ensure the victims and survivors who have been waiting for the opening of the scheme that all of the diverse aspects of the process are fully effective when it opens for applications."

The medical assessment guidance and information on the Scheme will be available on the Victims' Payments Board website which will be kept updated. Anyone wishing to register

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an interest in the scheme or the information sessions can do so by emailing [vpb@justice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:vpb@justice-ni.gov.uk).

**ENDS**

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

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