

Victims' Payments Board

31 August 2021

TROUBLES PERMANENT DISABLEMENT PAYMENT SCHEME OPENS FOR APPLICATIONS

Mr Justice McAlinden, President of the Victims' Payments Board, today announced that the Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme has opened to receive applications.

The Victims' Payments Board will be responsible for determining who is entitled to payment in respect of an injury caused by a Troubles-related incident. The framework on entitlement is set out in the Victims' Payments Regulations 2020, which establish the Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme, as well as Guidance which was published by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on 14 August 2020.

In a statement, Mr Justice McAlinden said:

"I am delighted to announce that the Troubles Permanent Disablement Payments Scheme has opened today to receive applications. This is an important day for victims and survivors of the Troubles.

It is a novel scheme and a key principle is to be responsive to the needs of victims. The Victims' Payments Board aims to ensure the victims and survivors who have been waiting so long for the opening of the scheme are provided with the recognition they deserve.

As President, I have worked closely with the members appointed to the Victims' Payments Board and the team established by the Department of Justice to develop the administrative arrangements for this important scheme. I have also held a number of constructive meetings with representatives from the main groups supporting victims and survivors of the Troubles.

Further information about the Scheme is available on the Victims' Payments Board website. I would encourage everyone who has a permanent disablement as a result of a Troubles-related incident to consider making an application to the scheme.

Applications can be made using an on-line portal or by submitting a paper copy. The links to these can be accessed on the website: www.victimspaymentsboard.org.uk

Welfare advisers are available to assist applicants through the application process. Contact details for the organisations providing that support can be found on the website."

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The Lord Chief Justice also welcomed the opening of the scheme. Sir Declan Morgan said:

"I am very pleased, on my final day in office as Lord Chief Justice, to welcome the opening of this scheme. I would like to recognise the effort and dedication of the President, Mr Justice McAlinden, the members of the Board and the officials supporting the Board in getting the scheme ready to open. This is a significant day for the victims and survivors of the Troubles."

ENDS

Mr Justice McAlinden was appointed by the Lord Chief Justice as President of the Victims' Payments Board on 1 March 2021. Twenty-six legal, medical and ordinary members of the Board have also been sworn into office.

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

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