

**THE REMEMBRANCE COMMISSION AND SCHEME OF
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, REMEMBRANCE, AND ASSISTANCE FOR
VICTIMS IN THIS JURISDICTION OF THE CONFLICT IN NORTHERN
IRELAND**

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The Remembrance Commission

The Remembrance Commission and Fund were established by the Irish Government to give assistance to those who were injured, or to the surviving families of those killed, in this jurisdiction or who were normally resident here at that time, in an incident relating to the conflict in Northern Ireland.

The Commission has responsibility for the administration of the “Scheme of Acknowledgement, Remembrance and Assistance for Victims in this Jurisdiction of the Conflict in Northern Ireland”.

The Scheme has four categories of payments which are as follows:

Acknowledgement Payment:

This payment, €15,000, is paid where a person was fatally injured in a conflict related incident. The deceased person would need to have been normally resident in this jurisdiction at the time the fatal injury occurred **or** have been fatally injured in this jurisdiction.

Economic Hardship Payment:

There are three sub-categories of payments under this heading and they are as follows:

Spouse & Dependent Children – Subject to conditions a payment of up to €15,000 could be paid to a spouse and dependent children where a person was fatally injured as a result of the conflict in Northern Ireland who was normally resident in this jurisdiction at the time the fatal injury occurred **or** who was fatally injured in this jurisdiction.

Incapacity to work:

If a person has received an injury in a conflict related incident which has necessitated him/her to remain off work for a continuous period of at least one year and up to three years or more due to that incident a payment of up to €15,000 may be made. To qualify you would need to have been normally resident in this jurisdiction at the time the injury occurred **or** have been injured in this jurisdiction.

However, if you have suffered injury in Northern Ireland but are now normally resident in this jurisdiction and have been for at least three years prior to your application you may qualify under the terms of the Scheme.

Displacement:

If you, or your family, had to move from Northern Ireland to this jurisdiction as a direct consequence of an incident related to the conflict and now wish to return to your original jurisdiction you may, subject to certain conditions, qualify for a payment of €15,000.

If you, or your family, had to move from this jurisdiction as a direct consequence of the conflict in Northern Ireland and now wish to return to your original jurisdiction, you may qualify for a payment of €7,500.

Medical Payments:

Under the terms of the Scheme, if you are obtaining medical treatment for an injury received in a conflict related incident and you have vouched, ongoing and unmet expenses relating to that treatment you may apply to the Commission for re-imbursment of these costs, if they are not being met by any other public or private agency or by a Health Board or private health insurer.

Medical payments can, at the discretion of the Commission, also include the provision of respite home help expenses, prosthesis, or other such forms of assistance to injured persons as is deemed appropriate.

If you have amassed debts in obtaining medical treatment prior to the establishment of the Scheme which in the opinion of the Commission you would have great difficulty in discharging you may make an application for assistance under the Scheme.

Other Payments

Funding of Victim Support Groups

Funding is available for the provision of counselling services to victims of the conflict and also to the surviving family members.

Funding for Memorials

The Commission shall also decide on requests for memorials or other such forms of commemoration for victims of the Northern Ireland conflict.

Payments under the Scheme will be made to those who suffered as a result of acts of violence which were associated with the Northern Ireland conflict and who were either normally resident in this jurisdiction at the time of the incident, OR were injured/killed in this jurisdiction.

To enquire about the Scheme:

Phone: + 353 1 6696862

or

email: remembrancecommission@justice.ie

More details about the Scheme are attached

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE SCHEME

Acknowledgement Payment

You may be entitled to an Acknowledgement Payment of up to €15,000 if a member of your family died in this jurisdiction or was living in this jurisdiction at the time of their death, where their death was as a result of the Northern Ireland conflict.

Who is entitled to receive the payment?

- Where a spouse survives the victim, he/she will receive the payment;
- Where the spouse does not survive the victim the payment will be made to, or divided among, the victim's surviving child/children.
- Where there is no surviving spouse or children, the payment will be made to the parent or parents of the victim.
- Where there is no surviving spouse, children or parents and you are related to a victim you should contact the Remembrance Commission to establish your entitlement, if any, to an Acknowledgement Payment.

To assist in establishing your claim for an Acknowledgement Payment you should attach supporting documentation to your application, i.e., the victim's birth and death certificate, newspaper or other reports, photographs and personal statements.

Economic Hardship

There are three categories under which economic hardship payments are made. These are payable to:

Surviving spouse and dependent children: Payments of up to €15,000 may be made to the surviving spouse and dependent children of a fatally injured victim.

The conditions pertaining to the payment are:

- (a) the victim was fatally injured in this jurisdiction or had been normally resident in this jurisdiction at the time of their death;
- (b) The applicant must establish that they are currently suffering from economic hardship. Copies of all P60's, or other such forms of income certification, received over the last three tax years should be submitted;
- (c) If the applicant is in receipt of a "contributory" or a "non-contributory" pension or a disability benefit they must submit a statement from the Department of Social & Family Affairs in support of their claim for a payment under this category, and,
- (d) The applicant must submit a signed statement confirming that the information supplied constitutes all of the household income.

Where a claim is being made by, or on behalf of an adult child dependent, they will be assessed on a case by case basis. Applicants should provide details of Invalidity Pension, Disability Allowance and any other entitlements which may support the claim. If a claimant is in possession of assessments prepared by a health professional in support of an application for Social Welfare payments, they should submit these with their application.

To a victim: Payments of up to €15,000 may be paid to a victim who suffered injuries sustained as a result of the conflict in Northern Ireland which resulted in them being rendered incapable of working for at least a continuous period of one year, (full award will be paid if the applicant has been unable to work for a period of three years or more).

The conditions pertaining to the payment are that the victim was:

- (a) Injured in this jurisdiction, or
- (b) Normally resident in this jurisdiction at the time he or she was injured, or
- (c) Normally resident in this jurisdiction and has been for at least three years prior to the date of application.

In addition, an applicant must:

- (a) Provide details of the incident in which their injuries occurred;
- (b) Provide evidence of receipt of invalidity pensions or disability allowance from the Department of Social & Family Affairs or an equivalent agency to prove incapacity to work for a continuous period of at least one year;
- (c) Medical evidence to support the claim that the incapacity to work arose from injuries received as a result of the Northern Ireland conflict.

Displacement payments:

Displacement from Northern Ireland

Payments of up to €15,000 may be made, subject to certain conditions, to a victim, or to the surviving family of such a victim, who had to flee from Northern Ireland to this jurisdiction as a direct consequence of the conflict in Northern Ireland and who now wishes to return to their original jurisdiction.

Displacement from the Republic of Ireland

Payments of up to €7,500 may be made, subject to certain conditions, to a victim, or to the surviving family of such a victim, who had to flee to this jurisdiction as a direct consequence of the conflict in Northern Ireland and now wishes to return.

To qualify for a Displacement Payment an applicant must establish that they are currently suffering economic hardship as a result of the displacement.

The conditions pertaining to the payment are :

An applicant will need to provide

- (a) Details of the incident which resulted in the displacement;
- (b) Details of the address where they were residing at the time of the incident;
- (c) Details of the address to where they moved and the date on which the displacement occurred;
- (d) Copies of all P60's, or equivalent income certification, for the previous three tax years;
- (e) A signed statement confirming that the details supplied in relation to income constitutes all the income into the household;
- (f) Details of the address that you intend to return to and documentation supporting your intention to return to your original jurisdiction;
- (g) Details of purchase or rental agreement regarding the premises to which you intend to return.

Where an applicant's only income is a contributory, non contributory pension or a disability benefit a statement from the Department of Social & Family Affairs or an equivalent agency should be provided in support of your claim.

Medical Payments

To qualify for a payment under this element of the Scheme it will be necessary for an applicant to have been :

- (a) Injured in this jurisdiction, or
- (b) Normally resident in this jurisdiction at the time they were injured, or,
- (c) Have been normally resident in this jurisdiction for at least three years prior to the date of your application.

There are three types of payment which may be made under this heading:

- vouched unmet and continuing medical expenses;
- other payments i.e., home help expenses (in the manner of respite payments in respect of persons who care for victims requiring a high degree of such care and attention as a direct result of their injuries), prostheses or other such forms of assistance;
- Once-off payments of up to €25,000 in exceptional cases.

Vouched unmet and continuing medical expenses:

To qualify for payment under this section of the Scheme you must be receiving medical treatment in respect of an injury sustained in the conflict in Northern Ireland. In addition these expenses must not be met or paid by another public or private body, e.g. Public Health Service, or a private healthcare insurer – VHI, BUPA, etc.

Expenses under this category of payment refer to those costs incurred for medicines, surgery, etc that have arisen since the commencement of the Scheme, (October, 2003). Original copies of invoices or receipts should - where possible - be supplied in support of the claim for payment.

An applicant must provide a certificate from a qualified medical practitioner confirming that the medical treatment is required and relates to injuries received in an incident in the Northern Ireland conflict.

Other payments:

Prosthesis and other forms of assistance

The Commission may, subject to certain conditions, provide funding for the provision of prostheses or other such forms of assistance to a victim who was injured as a direct consequence of a violent action in the conflict in Northern Ireland.

To qualify for a payment under this element of the Scheme it will be necessary for an applicant to provide, in writing, confirmation from a qualified medical practitioner that:

- (a) Such a procedure is, or was, necessary and the prostheses was not, or is not, available under the public health care system or that the applicant does not qualify for such a provision under a private health insurance scheme, and,
- (b) An outline of the anticipated costs associated with the provision of such assistance.

Home Help Expenses

The Commission may, at its discretion, fund home help expenses in the manner of respite payments in respect of persons who care for victims requiring a high degree of such care and attention as a direct result of such injuries.

To qualify for such a provision an applicant must supply details of their current care arrangements and the cost of alternative care provision while their regular carer takes a break. The Commission would also require details of the payment, if any, being made by the relevant Department or Health Board, to their regular carer.

If an application is approved the Commission will fund the cost of a “respite” carer for up to 4 weeks.

Exceptional payments:

The Commission may approve payments for debts that arose prior to the commencement of the Scheme in obtaining medical treatment for an injury sustained in the Northern Ireland conflict which the Commission considers the applicant would have great difficulty in discharging.

To qualify for such payments, you will need to provide a signed statement to the effect that your costs were not met or paid from another source i.e. Health Board, Private Health insurer, etc.

Payments under this category include costs incurred for medicines, surgery, or other costs such as counselling, etc., which were not available from another agency or private health insurer.

An applicant should supply, where possible, original copies of invoices/receipts in support of their claim. A letter of confirmation from a qualified medical practitioner stating that the injuries were as a result of a violent incident in the Northern Ireland conflict, also confirming that the medicines or procedure(s) were necessary to treat the injury sustained.

If an applicant is not in a position to furnish originals of the documentation required you may submit an estimate of the costs incurred which must be certified by a qualified medical practitioner as having been incurred in obtaining treatment for injuries obtained in a conflict related incident.

Supplementary Information:

Original documents, where submitted, will be photocopied and the original documents will be returned to the applicant.

The Commission will not pay the costs of any legal representation incurred by an applicant.

The Commission may be contacted on

Phone: + 353 1 6696862

or

email: remembrancecommission@justice.ie