



MINISTER OF STATE



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*file (admission case)*

ROSE PARK HOUSE

UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD

BELFAST

BT4 3NR

The Rev Dr I R K Paisley MP MEP  
256 Ravenhill Road  
BELFAST  
BT6 8GJ

Your ref: ND/1683/95

*30th* May 1996

*Dr I R K Paisley*

Thank you for your letter of 13 May 1996 seeking further information about the possibility of obtaining assistance for victims of violence from the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

The position is unchanged from that outlined in my letter of 19 February 1996. While it is not possible to make personal compensation payments from the Peace Programme, there is scope under Measure 4 of the Social Inclusion Sub-programme for assisting projects, which are designed to help victims of the conflict to come to terms with their losses and accelerate the healing process.

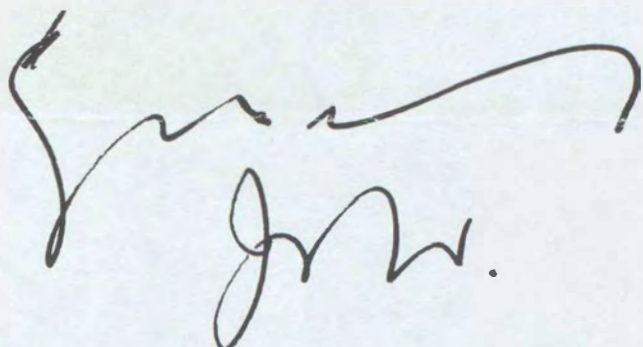
I would encourage any of your enquirers who consider that they have a project which might be eligible under the Programme to contact the Department of Finance and Personnel, The Arches Centre, 11-13 Bloomfield Avenue, Belfast, BT5 5HD (tel Belfast 526950) to obtain an information pack about the Programme, so that they can proceed to make a formal application for assistance.

Victim Support Northern Ireland also continues to welcome representations from potential applicants under the Programme. This independent organisation, which represents the interests of victims, is willing to promote any sensible proposals designed to benefit victims which would meet the criteria outlined in the Programme. As a consequence of my previous



letter, I understand that Victim Support Northern Ireland was contacted by a number of your correspondents, but that their primary concern was to secure compensation rather than to develop a support group or projects. Victim Support Northern Ireland may be contacted at Annsgate House, 70-74 Ann Street, Belfast, BT1 4EH. The telephone number is Belfast 244039.

I hope that this information will be helpful for those wishing to bring forward a project under the Peace Programme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Wheeler', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

THE RT HON SIR JOHN WHEELER DL, MP





DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL  
Archives Centre *covering CONFIDENTIAL*  
11-13 Bloomfield Avenue  
Belfast BT5 5HD

Tele: 01232 520400  
GTN: 440 -

FROM: JACK LAYBERRY  
EUROPEAN DIVISION  
DATE: 25 MAY 1996

*File*  
*Mr M. Gannon*  
*25/5/96*  
*31/5*  
*fw*

PS/Secretary of State (L&B)  
PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, B&L)  
PS/Baroness Denton (DED, DANI&L)  
PS/Mr Moss (DOE, DHSS&L)  
PS/PUS (L&B)  
PS/Sir David Fell  
NI Permanent Secretaries  
Mr Watkins  
Mr Quinn  
Mr Buchanan, NIO  
Miss Wilson ✓

PS/SIR JOHN WHEELER (DFP, L&B)

EU SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION:  
LETTER OF 13 MAY 1996 FROM DR PAISLEY MP, MEP - DFP28/96

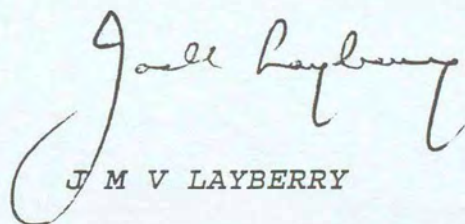
1. Dr Paisley, MP, MEP wrote to the Minister of State on 13 May 1996, indicating that he had received a number of further enquiries about assistance for victims of violence under the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (the Peace Programme) and asking about the current position with the Programme and how such claims should be pursued. Dr Paisley previously raised this issue on 23 January 1996 and the background is contained in my submission of 7 February 1996, a copy of which is attached along with the Minister's reply to Dr Paisley.

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JL/DH/DFP28/96

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2. The position has not changed from that outlined in the previous submission. While it is not possible to make personal compensation payments from the Peace Programme, there is scope under Measure 4 of the Social Inclusion Sub-programme for funding of projects that are designed to help victims of the conflict. In addition, Victim Support Northern Ireland continue to be willing to promote projects designed to benefit victims which meet the criteria outlined in the Programme.
  
3. Following the previous round of correspondence, Victim Support Northern Ireland was contacted by 3 individuals who had been in correspondence with Dr Paisley. However, their primary concern was to secure compensation rather than to develop a support group or project. No other applications have been received under the Programme from any of Dr Paisley's previous correspondents.
  
4. A draft reply is attached.

  
J M V LAYBERRY

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JL/DH/DFP28/96



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DRAFT LETTER FOR SIGNATURE BY  
THE RT HON SIR JOHN WHEELER DL MP

To:

Enc:

cc:

The Rev Dr  
Ian R K Paisley MP MEP  
256 Ravenhill Road  
BELFAST BT6 8GJ

PS/Secretary of State (L&B)  
PS/Michael Ancram  
(DENI,B&L)  
PS/Baroness Denton  
(DED,DANI&L)  
PS/Mr Moss (DOE,DHSS&L)  
PS/PUS (L&B)  
PS/Sir David Fell  
NI Permanent Secretaries  
Mr Watkins  
Mr Quinn  
Mr Buchanan, NIO  
Miss Wilson

Your ref: ND/1683/95

May 1996

Thank you for your letter of 13 May 1996 seeking further information about the possibility of obtaining assistance for victims of violence from the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

The position is unchanged from that outlined in my letter of 19 February 1996. While it is not possible to make personal compensation payments from the Peace Programme, there is scope under Measure 4 of the Social Inclusion Sub-programme for assisting projects, which are designed to help victims of the

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conflict to come to terms with their losses and accelerate the healing process.

I would encourage any of your enquirers who consider that they have a project which might be eligible under the Programme to contact the Department of Finance and Personnel, The Arches Centre, 11-13 Bloomfield Avenue, Belfast, BT5 5HD (tel Belfast 526950) to obtain an information pack about the Programme, so that they can proceed to make a formal application for assistance.

Victim Support Northern Ireland also continues to welcome representations from potential applicants under the Programme. This independent organisation, which represents the interests of victims, is willing to promote any sensible proposals designed to benefit victims which would meet the criteria outlined in the Programme. As a consequence of my previous letter, I understand that Victim Support Northern Ireland was contacted by a number of your correspondents, but that their primary concern was to secure compensation rather than to develop a support group or projects. Victim Support Northern Ireland may be contacted at Annsgate House, 70-74 Ann Street, Belfast, BT1 4EH. The telephone number is Belfast 244039.

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*I hope that this information will be helpful for those wishing to bring forward a project under the Peace Programme.*

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL

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Arches Centre  
11-13 Bloomfield Avenue  
Belfast BT5 5HD

Tele: 01232 520400

GTN: 440 -

FROM: J LAYBERRY  
EUROPEAN DIVISION

DATE: 7 FEBRUARY 1996



cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L)  
PS/Mr Moss (DOE, DHSS&L)  
PS/Baroness Denton (DED, DANI&L)  
PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, B&L)  
PS/PUS (B&L)  
PS/Sir David Fell  
NI Permanent Secretaries  
Mr Watkins  
Mr Quinn  
Mr Buchanan, NIO  
Miss Wilson

PS/SIR JOHN WHEELER (DFP, B&L)

EU SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION:  
LETTER OF 23 JANUARY 1996 FROM DR PAISLEY MP, MEP

1. Dr Ian Paisley, MP, MEP wrote to the Minister of State on 23 January 1996 enclosing a dossier of letters from people who have suffered from the violence of the past 25 years and asking about the possibility of their receiving assistance from the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (the Peace Programme). He has suggested in his letter that Government officials should inform the correspondents about how they should proceed. A draft response from the Minister to Dr Paisley is attached at Annex A.

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**Background**

2. The attached dossier of 28 letters has been received by Dr Paisley in direct response to his appeal in the Belfast Telegraph of 11 December 1995 (Annex B), when he invited 'individuals adversely affected by terrorism, in particular widows and orphans of those murdered by terrorists' to write to him outlining the circumstances of their cases and advised them that he would do his best to ensure that they received a share of the EU Peace Programme. None of them indicate that they are preparing any kind of a project for assistance and, indeed, only 6 of them mention the Peace Programme at all. In practice, therefore, they appear to have had their expectations raised by Dr Paisley's appeal and they are seeking compensation for their losses.
  
3. Dr Paisley recently raised his concerns that the victims of violence were being overlooked in the allocation of European funds from the Peace Programme in a letter to the Prime Minister on 21 December 1995 (Annex C). The Secretary of State replied on the Prime Minister's behalf on 18 January 1996 (Annex D) and assured him that the interests of the victims of violence would not be overlooked in the administration of the Peace Programme. He explained that a particular Measure within the Programme made provision for 'promoting the inclusion of vulnerable groups and improving the accessibility and quality of services aimed at these groups'.

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Discussion

4. There is scope under the terms of the Peace Programme to assist projects proposed by victims of violence, which are intended to help them to come to terms with their losses and to contribute to the broader aims of the Programme. Promoters of such projects will have to complete and submit application forms in the usual way. However, there is no provision for offering any kind of personal compensation payments to individuals. In any case, payment of compensation is not allowable under the Structural Funds which provide the funding mechanism for the Programme. They operate by providing assistance for specific projects which contribute to its aims and objectives.
  
5. Against that background, we are faced with a particularly sensitive dilemma. While we obviously have every sympathy for these people and would therefore wish to help, officials could offer little constructive assistance other than to advise any of them who have a project to contact DFP for an application form and information pack. Given the highly personal and tragic nature of some of these letters and the fact that none of these people in themselves (as distinct from as promoters of an eligible project) appear to qualify for assistance, an official reply of this type might be perceived to be insensitive and unconstructive. Similarly, a personal letter of sympathy from the Minister might comfort some of the writers, but others would be distressed by the fact that the Programme could offer them no financial help in compensation for their suffering.

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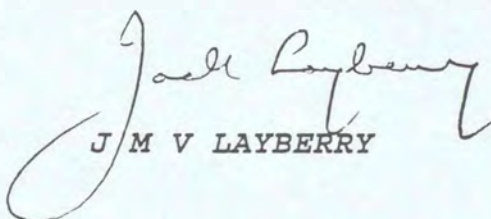
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Recommendation

6. In the circumstances, therefore, the most appropriate solution would appear to be for the Minister to suggest to Dr Paisley that any of these correspondents who either have developed, or might develop, a suitable project should register their interest in the Programme with DFP. In addition, the NIO has suggested an organisation (Victim Support Northern Ireland), funded by the NIO, which might be able to help with the development of such projects. The Minister could also draw attention to its existence in his reply.
  
7. It is further recommended that the Minister should copy his response to Dr Paisley to each of the correspondents so that they are fully aware of the facts. A draft reply on these lines is attached.

  
J M V LAYBERRY

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JL/DH/5713





MINISTER OF STATE

ROSE PARK HOUSE  
UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD  
BELFAST  
BT4 3NR

The Rev Dr Ian R K Paisley MP MEP  
256 Ravenhill Road  
BELFAST BT6 8GJ

19th February 1996

*Dr J. G. W.*

Thank you for your letter of 23 January 1996, enclosing a dossier of letters and enquiring about the possibility of obtaining assistance for victims of the violence from the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

The personal suffering described in some of these letters is deeply distressing and I would offer my sincerest sympathies to all those whose lives have been so sadly touched by the violence of the past 25 years. However, I regret that it is not possible to make personal compensation payments of any kind from the Peace Programme as the Structural Funds, which provide the EU funding for the Programme, do not allow for such compensation payments to individuals. The Structural Funds operate by providing assistance for specific projects which contribute to the aims and objectives of the Programme.

Nevertheless, I would emphasise that the interest of the victims of violence are not overlooked in the Programme. Measure 4 of the Social Inclusion Sub-programme makes provision for 'promoting the inclusion of vulnerable groups and improving the accessibility and quality of services aimed at these groups'.

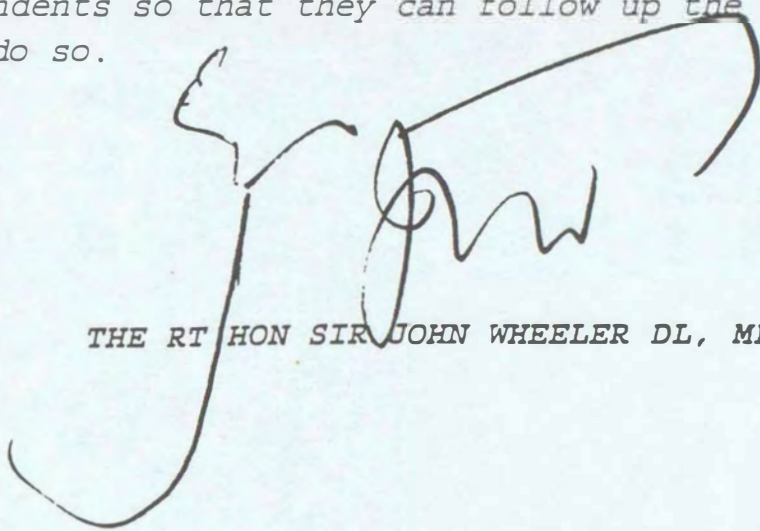
As such, the Measure provides scope for the funding of projects that are designed to help victims of the conflict to come to terms with their losses and accelerate the healing process. I fully appreciate that your correspondents may not have considered the development of such projects at this stage but if they have, or feel that they might do so, I would encourage them to register their interest in the Programme



with the Department of Finance and Personnel, the Arches Centre, 11-13 Bloomfield Avenue, Belfast BT5 5HD [Tel Belfast 526950]. They will then be sent an information pack and can proceed to make a formal application under the Programme.

Alternatively, Victim Support Northern Ireland is an independent organisation which represents the interests of victims and in that context is a member of a consortium, including Queen's University, which is considering how the needs of victims of the conflict might best be served. It would be happy to promote any sensible proposal designed to benefit victims, which would meet the criteria outlined in the Programme. Victim Support's headquarters is at Annsgate House, 70/74 Ann Street, Belfast BT1 4EH. The telephone number is Belfast 244039.

I am sending a copy of this letter to each of your correspondents so that they can follow up the matter if they wish to do so.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Wheeler', is written over the typed name below.

THE RT HON SIR JOHN WHEELER DL, MP