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KELLY: BRITISH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES MUST DELIVER TRUTH TO VICTIMS

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SDLP Victims spokesperson Dolores Kelly MLA has called on the British Government to step up to the mark and ensure that their agencies and forces do everything to deliver truth and reconciliation for victims.

Speaking after the Secretary of State ruled out the possibility of a £12,000 to the families of everyone bereaved as a result of the Troubles, the Upper Bann Assembly Member said this decision was inevitable.

She said: “Today’s decision by the Secretary of State to rule out a £12,000 payment to all families bereaved as a result of the Troubles was somewhat inevitable.

“The SDLP raised concerns about this proposal from the start and are on the record as saying this particular recommendation needed re-visited.

“However, it is worth remembering that this is only one element of a comprehensive report which contains many worthy issues that merit careful consideration.

“The SDLP has always maintained that victims need truth, recognition and remembrance and this position remains unaltered.

“We believe that recognition is an issue perhaps best addressed by the Victims and Survivors Forum and it is arguable that Eames/Bradley was not the best vehicle for this to be discussed and decided.

“Having dealt with this issue, the onus is now on the British Government to confront the realities of Eames/Bradley and to state unequivocally that their forces and their agencies will co-operate fully and measure up in terms of delivering truth and achieving reconciliation for all victims and survivors.”

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