



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL  
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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

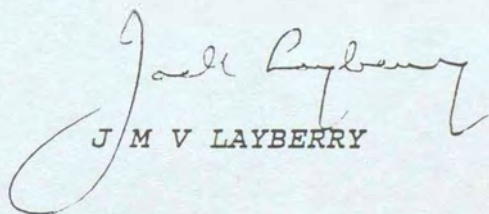
4. There is scope under the terms of the Peace Programme to assist projects proposed by victims of violence, which are intended to help them to come to terms with their losses and to contribute to the broader aims of the Programme. Promoters of such projects will have to complete and submit application 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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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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ANNEX A

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

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

February 1996

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.

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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 organisation, funded by the Northern Ireland Office, 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



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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.

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ANNEX B

# Paisley cash plea for terror victims

By Mark Simpson

DUP leader Ian Paisley today launched a cash appeal for victims of the Troubles.

Mr Paisley wants those bereaved by violence to write to him and he will do his best to ensure they gain a slice of the multi-million pound EU peace package.

Also today, Mr Paisley disclosed that Secretary of State Sir Patrick Mayhew had contacted him at the weekend to request talks.

The DUP is also setting up meetings in the near future with the Alliance Party, SDLP and Ulster Unionists. The party insists the meetings are nothing to do with the 'twin-track' process.

Mr Paisley revealed plans for the meetings at a press conference in Belfast this morning, called to discuss the issue of EU funds.

Allocation of the £240



**Ian Paisley:  
Appeal**

million aid package has already begun but Mr Paisley claims victims of terrorist violence are not doing well enough out of the scheme.

At today's press conference, he said: "I am appealing to individuals adversely affected by terrorism, in particular widows and orphans of those murdered by terrorists, to write to me and outline the circumstances of their case."

"I will be forwarding

each of these cases to those bodies appointed, and also to the Secretary of State for priority funding."

The EU aid package, which was promoted by former EC President Jacques Delors, was formally approved earlier this year.

Mr Paisley, in his role as MEP, has been issuing advice to EU chiefs over allocation of the money, but he is not happy with how the matter is being handled.

He claimed today: "Since this historic package was agreed there has been a flurry of activity by self-appointed community and so-called voluntary organisations to get their hands on the spoils of this package."

"I have witnessed with disgust a deliberate attempt to syphon this funding into the coffers of those who have not been directly affected by the Troubles but, in some instances, were perpetrators of the Troubles."

BELFAST TELEGRAPH

11 DECEMBER 1992





ANNEX C

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

21/12/95

Dear John,

Thank you for visiting Ballymena in your tight schedule today. We have had a roads problem for years now and I trust that you will take time to address that problem so that those travelling to the new Antrim hospital will not suffer from delays which could make the difference between life and death.

A residential part of the town which you travelled through to get to the town hall has suffered from terrible flooding. This has destroyed homes and uprooted families at this festive time of the year. Something must be done to eradicate this persistent and threatening problem from recurring. I would urge you to press home the urgent necessity of finding a resolution to this problem with your Northern Ireland Ministers.

The town has recently enjoyed employment successes but much more needs to be done to alleviate the problems of homelessness, social deprivation and opportunity for employment. These are matters I will leave with you.

The situation in Ulster is very grave with the IRA killing squads at their devilish work in a blatant violation of the ceasefire. The so-called punishment beatings also continue with sickening succession. The spokesmen of IRA/Sinn Fein refuse to condemn these violent acts. Do you still perceive that there is a total cessation of violence? Is your "working assumption" that the ceasefire is permanent challenged by the spate of murderous violence?

The terror amongst my Roman Catholic constituents is mounting. If those killings and beatings were the work of so-called "loyalists" I know what an outcry there

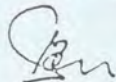
would be and rightly so.

I urge you to press on with the U.D.U.P. Constitutional Convention proposal I first outlined to you in September 1993. This is the democratic way forward and Ulster people are enraged that Dublin is now dictating whether we should be allowed to have the opportunity to give or withhold our consent and have a say in our future.

I am gravely concerned that the victims of violence are going to be overlooked in the allocation of European Money which I helped secure for Northern Ireland. A community group, which is getting a large share of this money, has made it clear that they will be looking after the needs of prisoners' families, the prisoners themselves and "possibly the victims". This is certainly not the priority for which this money was given. Delors made it clear that the package should go to the people who have suffered and not to those who had caused the suffering. I will be sending to you appeals from some of the victims who have contacted me.

I look forward to meeting you early in the new year to discuss these and other issues.

*Sincerely*



Ian R.K. Paisley MP, MEP.  
Leader, Ulster Democratic Unionist Party.





ANNEX D  
NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
WHITEHALL  
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR  
NORTHERN IRELAND

The Reverend Dr I R K Paisley MP MEP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

16 January 1996

In his letter of 22 December, the Prime Minister assured you that the Northern Ireland Office would investigate the points which you raised in your letter of 21 December 1995 about the recent flooding in Ballymena and the allocation of European funding to meet the needs of the victims of violence. The Prime Minister has asked that I reply to you on these matters.

The flooding incident in Ballymena last November occurred in a period of exceptionally heavy and prolonged rainfall which caused both the Braid River and the Ballee Burn to over-top their banks, flooding some 100 properties in the Toome Road area of the town. The local drainage system in the Waveney Road area was also affected. Watercourse Management Division staff of the Department of Agriculture responded to calls from residents in the areas affected by the flooding and provided help by pumping out and sand-bagging properties. Watercourse Management Division are continuing to monitor river levels closely, and staff are on 24 hour standby.



The Department of Agriculture had commissioned a study of the drainage problems in Ballymena last year.

Baroness Denton hopes soon to be able to report the outcome of these investigations, and I know that she plans to meet with you to discuss the issues involved.

On the allocation of European funding, I can assure you that, under the Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, the interests of the victims of violence will not be overlooked in the administration of the Programme. Measure 4 of the Social Inclusion Sub-Programme of the initiative makes provision for "promoting the inclusion of vulnerable groups and improving the accessibility and quality of services aimed at these groups". Among the objectives which have been set for that Measure are:

- . helping those who are victims of the conflict to come to terms with their losses and accelerate the healing process;
- . directing those at risk of offending away from crime, particularly in those areas which have been most affected by the conflict; and
- . promoting the full inclusion and, where appropriate, reintegration of marginalised groups.

Specific provision is therefore made for both victims and ex-prisoners under the Social Inclusion Sub-Programme, with an allocation of 6.6 million ECU of European Union and Northern Ireland Office funding.





The Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, which has been appointed as the Intermediary Funding Body with responsibility for administering this part of Measure 4, will consider applications for funding on their individual merits, against the criteria laid down in the Programme. In these circumstances, none of the target groups to be embraced by the provisions of the Measure will be excluded from receiving funding.

Finally, you also raised a problem regarding road links to the new Antrim Hospital. The Department of the Environment plans to upgrade the road between Ballymena and Antrim to dual carriageway standard. The first stage of this dualling was completed in August 1989 at a cost of £3.7m and the second stage is due to commence later this year at a cost of £2.7m. Stages 3 and 4, which will complete the dualling, are included in the major roadworks programme to be carried out in the period 6-15 years hence. The Department of the Environment is presently reviewing the programme, and the scope for advancing the remaining 2 stages of this scheme is one of several options which will be considered.

Malcolm Moss will be writing to advise you of the outcome of the review in due course.

*Malcolm Moss*  
*25/11/89*