

VICTIMS' PAYMENTS BOARD  
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Dear colleagues

### **Northern Ireland Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme**

We are writing to you to seek your involvement in the Northern Ireland Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme (TPDPS). This historic and unique scheme was launched on 31 August 2021, and is designed to award recognition payments to victims and survivors of Northern Ireland's "Troubles" who have suffered long-term harm and disablement, both physical and psychological.

The TPDPS is being delivered by the Victims' Payments Board ([www.victimspaymentsboard.org.uk](http://www.victimspaymentsboard.org.uk)) and is different from other schemes of which you may be aware. It is neither a compensation scheme nor a pension arrangement but rather is a recognition payment for the pain and suffering of those injured as a consequence of a Troubles-Related Incident.

The legislation underpinning the TPDPS dictates that successful applicants must demonstrate that they have suffered an "*injury caused by a Troubles-related incident*", and that the injury has resulted in "*permanent disablement*."

When a person applies to the TPDPS because of a psychological injury, a diagnosis is required in order for the applicant to be successful. In many cases, applicants will have a pre-existing diagnosis because of contact with mental health services. The pre-existing diagnosis will therefore often be established from the clinical records.

When there is no pre-existing diagnosis, it will be necessary for a clinical assessment to be completed to provide a diagnosis.

The participation of experienced psychiatrists and clinical psychologists will be essential to the success of the Scheme if it is to meet the requirements under the legislation, so that each individual applicant can receive a timely determination. Your training and experience mean that you bring a high level of understanding of the

harm which arises from the infliction of inter-personal violence and are well-placed to assist in the delivery of the Scheme.

To date, the number of applications to the TPDPS is approaching 2000, of which approximately 7% are from residents of England, Scotland and Wales. The Scheme will run for five years, and over this period several thousand more applications are expected.


We are writing to you to ask if you would be willing to add your name to a 'call off' list of clinical psychologists and psychiatrists who are prepared to a) examine existing clinical records for the purposes of the Scheme and/or b) to engage in psychological assessments for the purposes of the Scheme (most assessments will be carried out online rather than face-to-face).

The assessment which we would wish you to carry out will require a full I assessment, potentially including the use of standardised questionnaires, leading to a formulation and diagnosis and a comment as to whether a person's condition is stable (that is, the condition is permanent).

Remuneration for this work is paid at BMA rates of £215.30 for the first hour, then 50% per hour thereafter. There will also be opportunities for more substantial involvement in the Scheme, including salaried employment.

This is an opportunity to make a real difference, and to contribute to an historic process. We therefore encourage you to consider becoming involved in the assessment process, which you can undertake flexibly in the context of your availability.

If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Professor Ciaran Mulholland, Consultant Psychiatrist and Psychiatric Advisor to the Scheme at [c.c.mulholland@qub.ac.uk](mailto:c.c.mulholland@qub.ac.uk) for a more detailed conversation about the exact workings of the scheme.



**PROFESSOR CIARAN MULHOLLAND**



**JUSTICE McALINDEN  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
VICTIMS' PAYMENTS BOARD**