

Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery

Accountability Update

1 September 2024 - 31 March 2025

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Accessible document request service

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We offer a range of accessible formats and services, such as large text, Braille, audio formats, Easy Read, translations and accessible PDFs.

Sir Declan Morgan, Chief Commissioner

“ Getting answers to provide the unvarnished truth is critical if we are to promote reconciliation. Promoting rights-based reconciliation is fundamental if young people are to understand the brutality and horror of settling differences through violence.”



Promotion of reconciliation

The Commission's principal objective in exercising its functions is to promote reconciliation. It seeks to do this, including by:

- Recovering and disclosing information about the Troubles/Conflict;
- Objectively telling unvarnished truths about the past;
- Delivering accountability and acknowledgement for wrongdoing;
- Vindicating the memories of people killed during the Troubles/Conflict; and,
- Providing dedicated, sensitive and sustained case support to all Requesting Individuals.

The Legacy Act does not define reconciliation, and the Commission is clear that it cannot impose a definition. However, it is the case that each Requesting Individual has their own perspective on reconciliation. The Commission requires compliance with: the principles of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement; the ECHR; s75 of NI Act 1998; organisational values; and our victim-centred Trauma and Resiliency Informed Model. The Commission has adopted a voluntary 'due regard' duty based on those criteria that require the conscientious consideration of the promotion of reconciliation in discharging all of its functions. Implementation is underway and subject to ongoing review.

Future publications

We are committed to making our processes and publications as easy as possible to understand. This will shortly see the publication of information for Requesting Individuals (RIs) about the stages of an investigation, what they can expect, and an Easy Read version.

We are currently considering design of the first Findings Reports, which will be comprehensive, clear, accessible, accurate and consistent, and seek to answer the questions asked by RIs.

The Commission has decided that future Accountability Updates will be incorporated into the cycle of our statutory reporting, such as the Annual Report and Accounts and the Work Plan, as appropriate. This includes relevant information on our staff composition/backgrounds, our processes and investigations.



Peter Sheridan, Commissioner for Investigations

“ There are forensic opportunities. There are investigative lines of enquiry. Our work is not a ‘light-touch review’. We’re trying to encourage people and build confidence in this Commission. I will sit down with anyone and explain how, in every single case, I put Senior Investigating Officers in to investigate all of the information available.”



Our investigations

In the period from 1 May 2024 to 31 March 2025, 154 people (Requesting Individuals) have come to the Commission. There are 50 live investigations underway.

We can accept Requesting Individuals affected by the Troubles/Conflict, from any jurisdiction. A number of Requesting Individuals have made more than one request. Some individuals’ requests have been withdrawn or closed, for example if an individual decided not to proceed. Nevertheless, numbers continue to grow.

■ 154

Total number of Requesting Individuals

■ 50

Total number of live investigations

■ 96

Total number of deaths associated with our live investigations

We publish details of [our live investigations on our website here](#). The published details do not reflect every request that is being investigated, rather they reflect those which Requesting Individuals, in agreement with the Commission, have confirmed can be made public.

There may be reasons, such as prejudice to obtaining evidence, threat to life or other matters which mean that the fact of an investigation being underway is not published. Such decisions are kept under review, and in any event the final Report from the investigation will always be made public.

Our staff composition

The Commission is committed, both organisationally and legally, to monitoring the composition of staff backgrounds and demographics. Our ability to represent the society that we serve is important.

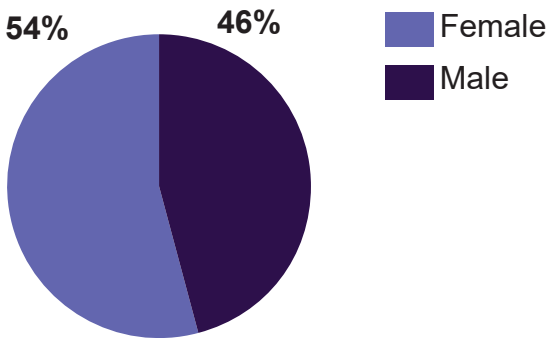
- When seconding/employing individuals, the Commission is legally required to ensure, as far as it is reasonably practicable, that these individuals include:
- a. persons who have experience of conducting criminal investigations in Northern Ireland; and,
 - b. persons who do not have that experience but have experience of conducting criminal investigations outside Northern Ireland.

Our 172 staff (direct recruits and seconded/loan) are located across two sites. 66% are based in Belfast and 34% are based in London.*

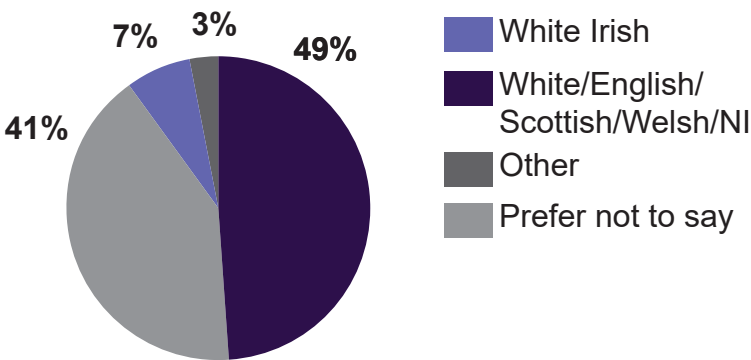
As at 31 March 2025, 43 staff work in the Information Recovery (IR) team of the Investigations directorate. 65% are based in London with 35% based in Belfast. This includes Senior Investigating Officers, IR Team Supervisors, Investigating Officers and Investigation Support Officers.

The wider operations work also includes Case Support and Findings. Of the 86 people working in operations, 45% have investigative experience in Northern Ireland. A further 36% have investigative experience solely outside of Northern Ireland. The remaining 19% of people have other relevant experience for the delivery of the Commission’s work, such as Analysts.

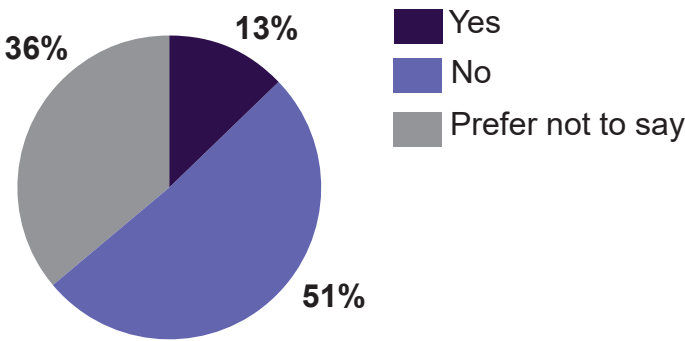
Gender



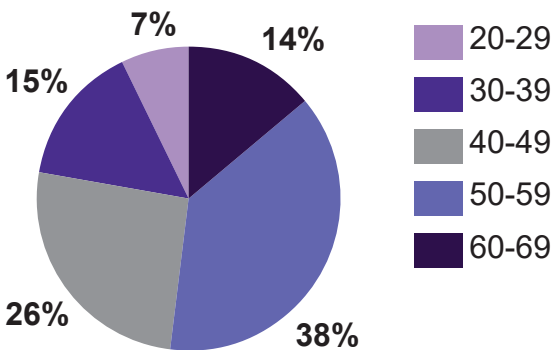
Ethnicity



Disability



Age



*These figures and chart data relate to 28 February 2025
97% of staff declared their diversity information. 100% of staff location and age band information was available.

Louise Warde Hunter, CEO and Commissioner



Our commitment is to provide the best possible public service to everyone. We are working consistently with government, with partners, and with stakeholders to promote constructive legislative changes that can enhance our powers and independence.”



Our engagement

We welcome opportunities to talk about the Commission and its work, and are grateful to those who give their time to engage, listen and share their views. These discussions contribute to how we can improve and enhance our delivery for those who access our services.



Our Commissioners regularly meet with a range of stakeholders, both locally and further afield. During the reporting period, our meetings included the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, Dr Michael O'Flaherty (pictured left), US State Department officials (pictured below, Dori Winter, Ted Danowitz and Matt Jones), and members of the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the ECtHR.

Engagement is an element of many of our operational roles, whether in Case Support, Investigations or Findings. Our Officers regularly meet with a range of stakeholders, relevant to their role, to build understanding of how we operate and demonstrate our commitment to delivering the 'unvarnished truth' for victims, survivors and families.



Find out more

- [Watch our Trauma and Resiliency Informed Model webinar](#)
- [Watch our Commissioners give a briefing to The Executive Office](#)
- [Read our submission to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee](#)
- [Listen to Sir Declan Morgan's interview on the BelTel podcast](#)
- [Read Peter Sheridan's interview in The Sunday Times](#)
- [Read Keith Surtees' article in The Irish News](#)



Contact us about an investigation:

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