



Independent Commission for
Reconciliation and Information Recovery

A guide to the Commission and its services



April 2026

Our Executive Commissioners



Chief Commissioner: Sir Declan Morgan

Sir Declan Morgan is a former Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland. He is a Judicial Commissioner at the Investigatory Powers Commission and a Supplementary Panel member of the UK Supreme Court.



Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner: Louise Warde Hunter

Louise Warde Hunter was Chief Executive and Principal of Belfast Metropolitan College, previously serving as a civil servant for over 13 years shaping social policy in a range of Northern Ireland government departments.



Commissioner for Investigations: Peter Sheridan

Peter Sheridan was the CEO of Co-operation Ireland (a peace-building organisation) for 15 years. From 2003 to 2008, Peter served as Assistant Chief Constable with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), having spent 32 years policing in Northern Ireland.

The Commission

The Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR) provides information to victims, survivors and their families about Troubles/Conflict-related deaths and serious injury, and promotes reconciliation.

What we do

The Commission is a statutory body, independent from government, whose function is to carry out information recovery through investigations and to operate as a law enforcement agency. The principal objective of the Commission is to promote reconciliation. It:

- Investigates deaths and other harmful conduct that were caused by conduct forming part of the Troubles/Conflict.
- Produces reports on the findings of each of its investigations.
- Can refer cases for prosecutors.
- Will produce a record of deaths that were caused by conduct forming part of the Troubles/Conflict.

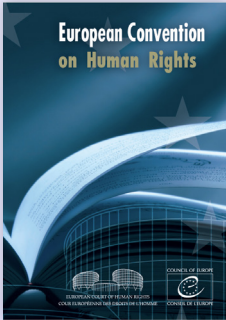
Our mission and values

The Commission is committed to serving victims, survivors and families by thoroughly investigating and establishing the facts of events, to provide an acknowledgment of the wrongdoing, in a way that is sensitive to the trauma experienced and assists with the promotion of reconciliation. Our work is conducted in accordance with our core values of integrity, openness, respect, impartiality and accountability.

A more detailed explanation of the Commission's processes can be found on our website at www.icrir.independent-inquiry.uk.

Our guiding principles

In addition to the principal objective of promoting reconciliation and the need to follow a trauma-informed approach, the Commission undertakes its work based on three essential principles:



Compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights



Respect for the principles of the 1998 Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement



Focus on providing information to those affected by the Troubles/ Conflict

Our Trauma and Resiliency Informed Model

The Commission acknowledges that it will engage with individuals who have experienced traumatic events. At an early stage in its development, the Commission recognised there was a need to design practice, process and policy in a way that was attentive to the impacts of trauma on individuals.

The Commission has embedded a Trauma and Resiliency Informed Model across its operations and staff. The Model ensures staff engaging with those seeking investigations are trauma trained and resiliency focused and can support and equip Requesting Individuals. It informs how reports are written and how information is communicated and published.

The skills it provides can help individuals to understand how continued stress and deep grief affects wellbeing, and how they can feel more able to cope with the experience of engaging with the Commission.

It provides staff with wellbeing support for themselves and the skills to help each other so they can support those engaging with the Commission.



Our investigations

The Commission investigates deaths and serious injuries related to the Troubles/Conflict.

What the Commission can investigate

Time period: the Commission can investigate incidents that occurred between 1 January 1966 and 10 April 1998. The key factor is when the event occurred, not the date of any outcome. For example, if the date of the incident was within this period but led to the death of an individual after 10 April 1998, the Commission can investigate it.

Troubles/Conflict-related: The perpetrator, or suspected perpetrator, of any incident the Commission investigates must have been an active participant in the Troubles/Conflict.

Serious physical or mental harm: This means paraplegia, quadriplegia, severe brain injury or damage, severe psychiatric damage, total blindness, total deafness, loss of one or more limbs, severe scarring or disfigurement.



The investigation journey

- Individual contacts the Commission.
- A Case Support Worker meets the individual to listen to their experience. They will explain the investigative process and support the individual to make their request.
- The Case Support Worker will make sure the individual has information and support throughout their time with the Commission.
- The individual's eligibility for an investigation is assessed.
- There may be more engagement about the individual's questions and meetings with members of the Commission team.
- The individual may consider making a personal statement.
- The investigation continues, based on agreed terms of reference.
- The Reports and Findings Team engages with investigators throughout the investigation and at its conclusion drafts a written report on behalf of the Chief Commissioner that will make findings about what happened.
- The Reports and Findings Team will share the draft report with the individual and they will have the opportunity to discuss it with them and ask questions about its contents before it is published.
- A final report is published.

Types of investigation

The Commission offers three types of investigation to meet the different needs and circumstances of each Requesting Individual (the person seeking an investigation). All three meet the requirements of an investigation compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights. All are thorough and carried out by trained investigators.

When sufficient information has been gathered, the Commissioner for Investigations decides which type of investigation is most appropriate for the case.

A report is published at the conclusion of each investigation.

Focused investigation

Aims to recover information that answers or addresses the Requesting Individual's questions.

Liability investigation

Will seek to discover all the circumstances of the death or serious harm, including accessing sensitive information if required. It may lead to a referral for prosecution.

Culpability investigation

Will seek to discover all the circumstances of the death or serious harm, including accessing sensitive information if required. Will make findings on the balance of probabilities.

The three stages of an investigation

Stage 1: Support

This is the start of an individual's journey with the Commission. Case Support Workers help individuals and families better understand how the Commission may be able help them (and what it will not be able to do), the different options available to them, and the information the Commission will need to move to the next stage.



While this is the first stage of the journey, that support will be available throughout the entire process. The Case Support Team provides a point of contact and consistent, objective support for the Requesting Individual and family throughout their time with the Commission. They respond to any questions and provide people with the space, time and information to make decisions that are right for them and the information recovery outcomes they seek.

Stage 2: Information recovery

In this next stage, a team of investigators gathers information and evidence and seeks to answer the questions the Requesting Individual and family have raised. The team has a range of skill sets to comb through archives, interview witnesses and secure evidence. Investigators work across a range of different cases at any one time to maximise progress and efficiency. Investigators are able to require access to all material from any previous fact-finding and determination



processes, as well as all material held by the state, no matter how sensitive. They may also undertake new investigative work. Investigative teams follow defined terms of reference for each investigation, which start with a scoping exercise, based on an approach to cold case reviews that follows internationally recognised best practice.

Stage 3: Findings

The Chief Commissioner is responsible for the production of reports at the conclusion of investigations. In this work, he is supported by the Reports and Findings Team. A Reports and Findings Officer is assigned to each investigation from an early stage and independently challenges the direction of investigative work.



As the investigation nears its conclusion, the Commissioner for Investigations and wider team present their evidence to the Chief Commissioner who assesses and evaluates it to determine findings. Further investigative work may be requested.

Reports are produced to record the findings that have been made and to seek to address Requesting Individuals' questions.

If a person or body is criticised in a report they are given the opportunity to make representations about that content. These are considered by the Chief Commissioner.

Close family members of the person about whom the request for an investigation is being made are entitled to receive the draft report. This is so they know what will be said before publication and to provide comments for consideration by the Chief Commissioner. 'Close family members' are defined as a spouse, civil partner, cohabitee, child, parent, sibling, stepchild/sibling/parent, or half-sibling.

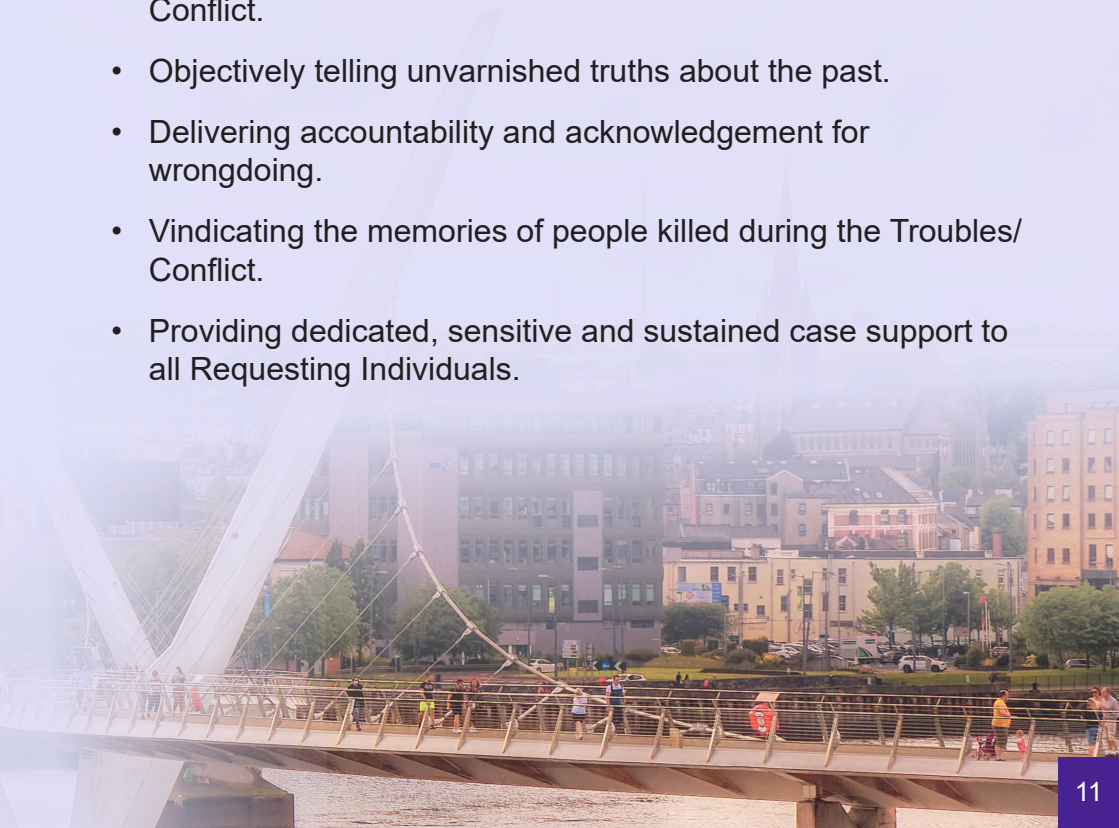
In investigations relating to a death, close family members of the deceased person are entitled to make a personal statement. In a case of serious injury, the Requesting Individual can make a statement. It sets out how the incident investigated has affected and continues to affect the individual. The statement is published at the same time as the report.

Promotion of reconciliation

The Commission's principal objective in exercising its functions is to promote reconciliation.

It seeks to do this 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.
- Providing dedicated, sensitive and sustained case support to all Requesting Individuals.



Request an investigation

Email casesupport@icrir.independent-inquiry.uk

(This address is monitored 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, except public and bank holidays.)

Call 028 9036 2093

(Our dedicated line is open 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, except public and bank holidays.)

Write to ICRIR, The Vantage,

32 – 36 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7BA

Emergency contact details

Crisis support and intervention

Lifeline NI and Samaritans provide counselling, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for anyone who needs support.

Call Lifeline NI: 0808 808 8000 or use Deaf and Hard of Hearing textphone: 18001 0808 808 8000

Call Samaritans: 116 123

Victims and Survivors Service (VSS)

The VSS delivers services and support to victims and survivors of the Troubles/Conflict. It funds and works in partnership with community-based organisations.

Email: enquiries@vssni.org

Call: 028 9027 9100

Web: www.victimsservice.org

If you require this document in an accessible format, please contact us at equality@icrir.independent-inquiry.uk