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It was good to speak recently and discuss the issue of a pension for injured victims in Northern Ireland.

We are both acutely aware of the depth of feeling about the legacy of Northern Ireland's past. As Secretary of State, I have heard first-hand from victims' and other representative groups that provide support to victims and survivors in Northern Ireland. I have also met people injured during the Troubles and have been deeply moved by their stories. There is a clear need for progress on a long-term solution to a pension for victims.

In 2014, the UK Government supported the Stormont House Agreement, which set out a commitment that further work would be undertaken to seek an acceptable way forward on the proposal for a pension for severely physically injured victims in Northern Ireland.

This was intended to be for the Northern Ireland Executive to take forward. Indeed, it is one of the many reasons why it is so important to have an Executive restored. However, in the absence of an Executive I am aware of how deeply upsetting and frustrating the continuing delay is for those who suffered so much during the Troubles. I believe we must make progress on finding a solution.

During our conversation, we discussed providing further advice on a way forward on the proposal for a pension. I am now writing to request formally that you prepare that advice, under article 6(4) of the Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006; I will be depositing a copy of this letter in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament. My officials will also be in touch with officials in the Commission to finalise the scope of that advice.

I would like to thank you for your assistance on progressing this issue and look forward to speaking soon.

Yours ever

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RT HON KAREN BRADLEY MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND