

Troubles Permanent Disablement Scheme - Eligibility Checklist

Please use the checklist below to help you make an informed choice about whether to apply for victims' payments under the [Victims' Payments Regulations 2020](#). Where you are making a **posthumous application**, please note this checklist applies to the person who would have been, before death, entitled to victims' payments.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, **all** of the following conditions must apply:

- There must have been a Troubles-related incident
- The incident must have occurred between 1/1/1966 – 12/04/2010 (discretion may be applied if the incident took place outside of these dates)
- The incident must have occurred in the UK, or (subject to certain conditions) in Europe
- The victim must suffer from permanent physical and/or psychological injury/injuries, illness and/or condition(s) caused by the incident

TROUBLES-RELATED INCIDENT

For an incident to be a Troubles-related incident, **both** the following tick boxes must apply:

- There must have been an act of violence or force carried out **and**
- That act of violence or force must have been carried out for a reason related to the constitutional status of NI **or** political **or** sectarian hostility between people in NI

CAUSE OF INJURY

For an injury to be considered as **caused** by a Troubles-related incident, **one** of the following three tick boxes must apply. The victim must have been:

- Present at a Troubles-related incident at the time it occurred **or**
- Present in the immediate aftermath of a Troubles-related incident in which a loved one died or suffered an injury **or**
- Responding, in the course of employment, to a Troubles-related incident, in which the victim reasonably believed a loved one died or suffered significant injury.

PERMANENT DISABILITY

- The victim must suffer from permanent physical and/or psychological injury/injuries, illness and/or condition(s)

NB: There may be an assessment by a Health Care Professional during the application process to determine the degree of disablement. For applicants to be eligible for victims' payments, the assessed degree of disablement must be not less than 14%.

Terminology Explained

Posthumous application

An application can be made on behalf of someone who would have been eligible to apply to the Scheme but who has passed away on or after 23 December 2004. An application can be made by the deceased's spouse, civil partner, cohabiting partner or carer.

Present in “immediate aftermath” of a Troubles-related incident

Immediate aftermath includes any time when your loved one was in the same condition they would have been in at the scene of the Troubles-related incident. Click [here](#) for Victims' Payments Board Guidance on “Presence at a Troubles-related Incident or Immediate Aftermath”.

Loved one

This requires a close relationship of love and affection. This is presumed for spouses; civil partners; people who live together as if married or civil partners; and a parent and child. Other cases are not presumed but may, for instance, include siblings, a grandparent/grandchild.

Other important factors to think about

Past-Compensation and Other Payments

When deciding upon a case, the Victims' Payments Board panel must look at any **past compensation** and/or **other payments** (or similar) for the same disability (for example Injury on Duty Pensions). **State benefits for disability (e.g. DLA, PIP) are not taken into account.**

If you have a past compensation payment or a relevant pension or similar payment you should **still consider applying** to the Scheme, but keep in mind that your payment may or may not be adjusted once the Regulations are applied to your case.

Past Convictions or Exceptional Circumstances

Under regulation 6, a person is not entitled to victims' payments in respect of a Troubles-related incident if:

- (a) the victim has a conviction (whether spent or not) in respect of conduct which caused, wholly or in part, that incident; or
- (b) the Board considers the person's “relevant conviction” makes entitlement inappropriate.

Panels may also consider exceptional circumstances that may make entitlement inappropriate e.g. involvement in recent terrorist activity.

For further information about exceptional circumstances and convictions, including the definition of “relevant conviction”, click [here](#) for Guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Advice and Support

If you require advice and assistance with your application, support for your health and wellbeing or independent advice on money management or debt, a list of support services is available on the Victims' Payments Board website by clicking [here](#).

If you require a hard copy version of the Guidance referenced in this Checklist, please contact the Victims' Payments Board by emailing vpb@justice-ni.gov.uk or calling 0300 200 7808.