



Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023

2023 CHAPTER 41

PART 2

THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION FOR RECONCILIATION AND INFORMATION RECOVERY

The ICRIR, the Commissioners and ICRIR officers

2 The Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery

- (1) The Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery is established.
- (2) The ICRIR is a body corporate.
- (3) The ICRIR consists of—
 - (a) the Chief Commissioner,
 - (b) the Commissioner for Investigations, and
 - (c) between one and five other Commissioners.
- (4) The principal objective of the ICRIR in exercising its functions is to promote reconciliation.
- (5) The functions of the ICRIR are—
 - (a) to carry out reviews of deaths that were caused by conduct forming part of the Troubles (see sections 9 and 11 to 13);
 - (b) to carry out reviews of other harmful conduct forming part of the Troubles (see sections 10 to 13);
 - (c) to produce reports (“final reports”) on the findings of each of the reviews of deaths and other harmful conduct (see sections 15 to 18);

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (d) to determine whether to grant persons immunity from prosecution for serious or connected Troubles-related offences other than Troubles-related sexual offences (see sections 19 to 21);
 - (e) to refer deaths that were caused by conduct forming part of the Troubles, and other harmful conduct forming part of the Troubles, to prosecutors (see section 25);
 - (f) to produce a record (the “historical record”) of deaths that were caused by conduct forming part of the Troubles (see sections 28 and 29).
- (6) In exercising its functions, the ICRIR must have regard to the general interests of persons affected by Troubles-related deaths and serious injuries.
- (7) At least three months before the start of each financial year, the ICRIR must—
- (a) produce and publish a work plan for that year, and
 - (b) give a copy of the plan to the Secretary of State.
- But this duty does not apply in relation to any financial year which starts before 1 April 2025.
- (8) A work plan must deal with the following matters—
- (a) the caseload which the ICRIR is expecting;
 - (b) the plans which the ICRIR has for dealing with its caseload;
 - (c) the plans which the ICRIR has for engaging with persons entitled to request reviews of deaths and other harmful conduct;
 - (d) policies which the ICRIR is planning to introduce, review or change;
 - (e) such other matters as the ICRIR considers appropriate.
- (9) No later than six months after the end of each financial year, the ICRIR must—
- (a) produce and publish an annual report in relation to that year, and
 - (b) give a copy of the annual report to the Secretary of State.
- (10) An annual report must deal with the following matters—
- (a) the finances of the ICRIR;
 - (b) the administration of the ICRIR;
 - (c) the volume of information received by the ICRIR;
 - (d) the number of requests for reviews that have been made;
 - (e) the number of final reports on the findings of reviews that have been provided to persons requesting them;
 - (f) the number of applications for immunity from prosecution that have been made;
 - (g) the number of applications for immunity from prosecution that have been decided by the immunity requests panel;
 - (h) the number of persons who have been granted, and the number of persons who have been refused, immunity from prosecution;
 - (i) progress made in producing the historical record;
 - (j) such other matters as the ICRIR considers appropriate.
- (11) The Secretary of State may make payments or provide other resources to, or in respect of, the ICRIR in connection with the exercise of the ICRIR’s functions.
- (12) Schedule 1 contains provision about the ICRIR, the Commissioners and the ICRIR officers.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

(13) In this section “persons affected by Troubles-related deaths and serious injuries” means—

- (a) family members of persons whose deaths were caused directly by conduct forming part of the Troubles (and the reference to those deaths has the meaning given in section 9(9)),
- (b) persons who suffered serious physical or mental harm that was caused by conduct forming part of the Troubles, and
- (c) family members of persons who suffered such harm and have subsequently died.

(14) In this Act “financial year”, in relation to the ICRIR, means—

- (a) the period which—
 - (i) begins with the day on which this section comes into force, and
 - (ii) ends with the following 31 March; and
- (b) each subsequent period of one year which ends with 31 March.