

# Healing Through Remembering

## Response Aid Document Guidance Notes

HTR Document offered to assist groups in responding to the NIO Consultation on the Report of the Consultative Group on the Past

### Introduction

1. The Response Aid Document collapses the questions into 6 sections using the six distinct areas identified in the Report of the Consultative Group on the Past. These are
  1. Legacy Commission
  2. Remembering
  3. Victims and Survivors
  4. Societal Issues
  5. Processes of Justice and Information Recovery
  6. Legacy of the past and reconciliation
2. The introduction to each section summaries the relevant recommendations of Report of the Consultative Group on the Past. This and the full report are downloadable from the CGoP website at [www.cgpn.org.uk](http://www.cgpn.org.uk)
3. The recommendations are referred to in the text of the Response Aid Document as R1, R2, R3 etc
4. After each question, the numbers followed by letters (1a, 1b, 1c etc.) refer to the questions listed under each recommendation in the NIO consultation paper. This is available for download at the following address  
<http://www.nio.gov.uk/government-launches-consultation-on-eeames-bradley-recommendations/media-detail.htm?newsID=16068>
5. Suggestion: for ease of use print each page of the Response Aid Document in a different colour.

### Stage 1

1. Appoint a chair and minute taker for the full group discussion.
2. Consider the questions in section 1 on a Legacy Commission. (Suggestion: allow a minimum of 30 minutes).

### Stage 2

1. Divide into four or five groups. Ask each group to look at one of sections 2-5 (suggestion: our experience of using the Response Aid Document has been that sections 3 and 4 can be grouped together).
2. Designate a chair and a minute taker for each group.
3. In groups consider the questions posed. (suggestion: allow a minimum of 30 minutes).
4. Return to a large group discussion and ask the chairs of each group to provide feedback on the discussion. (Suggestion: allow a minimum of 5 minutes for feedback and 15 minutes for discussion.) Ensure discussion is minuted also.

5. As a full group consider the section on the Legacy of the past and reconciliation.

6. Return to section 1 on the legacy commission and discuss as a group.

**Note: Discussion on Section 2 – 5 should also inform discussion on Sections 1 and 6.**

### **Stage 3**

Using your notes from the discussions insert the points made into the relevant sections of the NIO Consultation document. *For example Justice and information recovery info should largely be covered in sections 4, 5 and 6, but check the 6 sections in case they are cross referenced more than once.*

Alternatively prepare and submit a text response to each of the six areas.

**Note:** This process may identify issues that do not fit the NIO response format. These could be addressed in a covering letter or on a separate sheet.

### **Stage 4**

Circulate the document to the group and ask for feedback.

### **Potential Stage 5**

Develop a further discussion with the same group or a smaller group if this can be agreed and agree the final response. You may find it useful to repeat stages one and two using the draft response.

You may wish to include a covering letter. We suggest that in this you cover the key points identified in your discussions.

### **Key points to ponder**

- *Do you need to go through each question (94 in total)*

*Or*

- *Take five minutes to agree what are the most important and concentrate on these.*

*Or*

- *Are you best concentrating on the more general areas eg. Section 1 – Legacy Commission, or Section 6 – Legacy of past.*

- *You may wish to respond in an alternative format. One option for this would be written considerations on each section with an introduction and conclusion.*

**Hints** – *You don't have to consider everything*

– *You could send the NIO consultation paper out before the meeting and ask people to identify the key issues for discussion.*

*The consultation will end on 2 October 2009. Responses to the consultation paper can be made in writing to the Legacy Policy Unit, c/o Room B3.18, Block B, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SG.*

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