CONSULTATIVE GROUP On The Past

DEALING WITH THE LEGACY

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION ENDS

25 January 2008

The Consultative Group on the Past has ended its public consultation after almost five months.

By the end of the consultation the Group will have met and listened to over 100 organisations and individuals and received over 200 written submissions.

The Group will now begin the difficult task of writing a report containing recommendations on how to deal with the past.

Lord Robin Eames, co-chair of the Group said, "Since September we have been engaging with and listening to a wide range of organisations and individuals who have told us harrowing stories of human pain and suffering.

"We have been overwhelmed by the response we have received in that time and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has taken time to give their views to the Group.

"As we begin the immense task of writing our report I can assure everyone that what we have heard will weigh heavily upon our minds as we proceed."

Co-chair Denis Bradley said, "Dealing with our troubled history is a difficult and emotive issue for many people in our society.

"Over the months we have met the two governments, political parties and many victims and survivors and have heard many views on how we can deal with the past.

"In the months ahead the Group will reflect on what we have heard during the public consultation.

"We have listened to arguments for and against many differing views and finding a way to deal with the past is going to be a monumental challenge. But that is a challenge our Group is determined to meet."

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