

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 August 2026 17:24
To: VictimsandWitnessesofCrimeBill <victimsandwitnessesofcrimebill@niassembly.gov.uk>
Subject: Attn. Paul Frew, Chairperson, Committee for Justice, Northern Ireland Assembly

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Dear sir/madam,

It is difficult to address any aspect of compensation for 'victims' without acknowledging that even the very definition of a victim is contested.

Those in SEFF argue (*News Letter*, July 10) that victims of republican terrorism have few options for compensation claims given there is no P.O. Box address for the Provisional Irish Republican Army Council.

But are they right to do so?

First let's state the obvious; when seeking compensation it is better to lodge a claim against those with deep pockets instead of those with few assets where any victory would be pyrrhic.

Second, are Irish republicans really responsible for creating these victims or are there other actors more responsible who do have deep pockets?

During 2002 I petitioned the European Parliament (24/022002): Competing claims by the Irish Government, the Provisional IRA, Real IRA, Continuity IRA and their political representatives to be the 'legal and lawful government of the Irish Republic' (*The IRA* by Tim Pat Coogan, Glasgow, page 679).

The full text is available via the European Parliament website and also Mulholland, *The man from MENSA - 1 of the 600: Politics 1990-1995* (2016).

At that time the Attorney General of the Republic of Ireland, Michael McDowell, had publicly acknowledged the 'sovereign authority' of these other actors and I argued this posed a threat to the legality of the European Union (EU).

In brief, each Treaty of the EU must be signed and ratified by the legal government of each Member State to take effect and become a legal instrument, and so the contested legal claims to be the legal government of Ireland undermined the legality of the 1973 Treaty when Ireland and the UK joined, and the Maastricht Treaty (1992), Amsterdam (1997) and Nice (2001).

At the time I was also editor of British Mensa's monthly political journal *Poliphony* – I am also its current editor - and I published the petition in full that year together with supporting arguments for doing so, and that included the analogy of a leaf-eating caterpillar metamorphosing into a nectar-sipping flying butterfly – same creature, same DNA but a different function – which was repeated by Bobby Storey when the Provisional IRA Council left the stage during 2005.

But, what has this to do with securing compensation for 'victims'?

Well, when Ireland and the UK joined the forerunner of the EU during 1973 the claim by the Irish Republican Army Council to be the 'legal government of the Irish Republic' was already well known as it underpinned the legal right of their volunteers to bear arms.

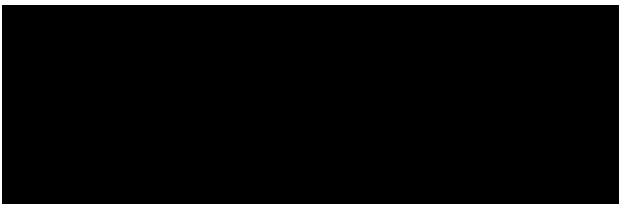
The European Commission, the executive branch of the EU, was formed in 1957 and is arguably responsible for ensuring the legality of each EU Treaty, and so must bear responsibility for not resolving these competing claims to be the legal government of the Irish Republic, surely?

Had they done so then the entirety of the 30-year Troubles may have been avoided. And with sufficiently deep pockets to compensate all those who suffered unnecessarily during the 30 years of the Troubles.

And, of course, the UK and Irish governments would surely want to be co-respondents as they bear much of the blame for not conducting due diligence vis a vis the legality of their admission to the European Community/European Union?

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Bernard Mulholland



Publications

Fiction:

Bernard Mulholland, Nazareth Quest (2022).

Non-fiction:

Bernard Mulholland, The man from MENSA - 1 of 600: Mensa research (2016).

---, The man from MENSA - 1 of the 600: Politics 1990-1995 (2016).

---, Ratio analysis of financial KPI in the Higher Education sector: a case study (2018).

---, Early Byzantine Ireland: a survey of the archaeological evidence (2021).

---, Navan Fort, Ireland: archaeological and palaeoecological analysis (2021).

---, The Early Byzantine Christian Church (Oxford, 2014).

---, 'Identification of Early Byzantine Constantinopolitan, Syrian, and Roman church plans in the Levant and some possible consequences', Patristic Studies in the twenty-first century: proceedings of an international conference to mark the 50th anniversary of the International Association of Patristic Studies, ed. Brouria Bitton-Ashkelony, Theodore de Bruyn and Carol Harrison (Turnhout, 2015), 597-633.

Mulholland, B. (2021). 'Can archaeology inform the climate change debate?'

Academia Letters, Article4385. <https://doi.org/10.20935/AL4385>