



Miami Showband Survivor wins VPB Appeal

We act on behalf of two of the survivors of the 1975 Miami Showband atrocity. One of the victims, Stephen Travers was initially refused an award under the Troubles Victims Payments Scheme.

He was deemed to have already received compensation because he'd previously sued the State over collusion allegations. In 2022, he received a damages settlement in his High court civil action against the MOD and the PSNI. After his Victims Payment application was rejected he successfully appealed the refusal and was awarded a full payment in February this year.

The Appeals Panel accepted they had a full discretion when assessing the existence and level of compensation paid out previously. A key finding related to the distinction between "disablement payment" and "personal injuries". A previous civil settlement cannot be classified exclusively as a Disablement Payment.

Speaking after the ruling Sam Bernard of KRW LAW said,

"This is an important precedent- setting ruling from the Appeals Panel. The anxiety suffered by Mr Travers waiting on his High Court civil case to resolve was compounded then by the VPB refusing his Troubles Payment Application. It was unfair that he was penalised like this for taking a civil case alleging collusion. The original VPB Refusal decision had it not been reversed amounted to a deterrent for many others taking legal action over Conflict- related incidents.

We thank the Appeals Panel for it's considered decision making on this important appeal case. It paves the way for all other similarly afflicted survivors and victims to go ahead with both court cases and Troubles Payments Applications. We are confident the VPB will now assess the application of another Miami survivor, Des McAlea, in line with this landmark ruling."

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