



the
OMAGH
fund

**Final Report of Trustees
&
Accounts**

30 September 2008

THE OMAGH FUND

Trustees Report for the period 1 May 2002 to 30 June 2008

Introduction

The Omagh Fund was set up by the Omagh District Council on 17 August 1998, in the immediate aftermath of the Omagh bomb. The period from then, until the first report was published in September 2002 was one of intense activity for the Fund. During that period £6,159,700 was donated to the Fund and £5,112,837 was disbursed.

The first report provided detailed accounts of income, disbursements, expenditure, and significant activities of the Omagh Fund from its inception. This second report is of necessity shorter because it covers the period since September 2002 during which time the Fund decreased and the intensity of the work lessened.

Trustees

The Duke of Abercorn resigned as a Trustee in December 2003. His interest, involvement, advice and support were invaluable in those early years and the Trust is indebted to him.

Mrs Shiela McCaul and Dr Clive Russell were appointed in February 2004, joining Mrs Joy Mc Cormick, Dr Clifford Mc Cord and Mr Sean O'Dwyer on the Board of Trustees.

Activities

The Northern Ireland Centre for Trauma and Transformation (NICTT) is widely recognised for its expertise and success in treating and healing victims of trauma and it continues to provide a valuable service to those who seek it.

The Trustees have heard at first hand, moving accounts of the healing journey experienced by those who have gone through the complete twelve session programme and of the benefits to themselves, their families and to society.

NICTT expected that, as time went on, there would be reducing numbers seeking help for chronic psychological and mental health problems, but recognised that there remained people in the community whose lives continued to be affected by their experience of the tragedy.

Consequently, efforts were made by Centre staff to liaise with other services (eg. GP's) to identify people who might potentially benefit from the treatment programme. Whilst this did result in others coming forward it still did not meet the original projections. The Trustees therefore, in discussion with the Centre took a decision to reduce the funds set aside for NICTT from one million pounds to £235,254.

NICTT will continue to offer its services free of charge to the "Omagh" sufferers until such times as the fund allocation is fully utilised.

Arising from their continuing interaction with the people affected by the events of 15 August 1998 and the insights gained by this, NICTT, TARA and WAVE made representations to Trustees on behalf of these people. As a result Trustees established a Hardship Scheme under the chairmanship of Mr John McKinney. An amount of £685,965 was paid from the Fund to 261 families and individuals.

Strenuous efforts were made to trace and locate the young people from Spain and Buncrana and with the assistance of Mr David Bolton and the staff of NICTT these efforts were successful in all but four cases. The Spanish Ambassador, during his visit to Omagh, also offered help in this regard.

The Trustees allocated and paid £87,620 to TARA and £105,000 to WAVE to support their services to the people who continued to suffer from the effects of the tragedy.

Memorial

The Omagh District Council organised and led the Omagh Memorial Working Group. The Group was responsible for the very fitting memorial which was dedicated on the 10th anniversary of the tragedy. Initially £50,000 was allocated by the Fund but following a request from the Group, the Trustees increased this contribution to £120,000. The Trustees hope the memorial will forever be a reminder for and to all people of the tragic events in Omagh on 15 August 1998.

Income and Expenditure Account

The account for the two periods to 30 June 2008 is attached. Donations received amounted to £6,211,685 and net interest £357,457. Donations to beneficiaries totalled £5,591,655 and allocations to various groups including the Memorial Committee, the Community House, NICTT, WAVE, TARA and the Omagh Support and Self Help Group amounted to £934,070.

Administration Expenses

As explained in our interim report, all personnel associated with the Fund gave their services free of charge; all staff were seconded without charge and practically all services, including legal and professional advice, were provided without cost to the Fund.

The amount expended from the Fund on administration was £28,419. The major items of expenditure incurred by the Fund included insurance, audit and accountancy, some printing and a feasibility study prior to the setting up of NICTT.

Acknowledgements

In the ten years since the Omagh bomb, the Trustees have been grateful to the many individuals and organisations who have helped and supported their work and to the thousands who generously donated to the Fund. Most of these people and organisations were thanked in our first report.

Particular thanks is due to Mr John Mc Kinney and the members of the Hardship Committee for their diligence and to Mr Greg Parke solicitor who continued to be available to give legal advice when needed. Thanks is also due to Omagh District Council, Mr Danny McSorley and staff who have been unfailingly courteous and supportive.

Special thanks is due to Mr Brian Oliphant, Fund Manager, who, despite his retirement, has continued to work tirelessly for the Fund.

Throughout, the Trustees have been mindful that central to their work remains the affected individuals, the bereaved, the injured, the traumatised, the families and friends of the deceased who suffered grievously and continue to do so, within Northern Ireland, the Irish Republic, Spain and elsewhere. It is recorded that more than eight hundred people were present when the car bomb exploded on 15th August 1998. The carnage was immense and the effects on people, both mentally and physically have been, and continue to be, devastating. The Fund's legacy lies in its contribution, directly and indirectly, to bringing as many as possible of those affected towards their individual healing potential.

Conclusion

During the period from September 1998 until 30 June 2008 the Trustees held 92 formal and recorded meetings and had many other meetings supporting their activities in Omagh and elsewhere.

The Trustees feel privileged to have been entrusted to carry out the work involved and have done so with care and interest and to the best of their ability.

THE OMAGH FUND

Income and Expenditure Account from 15 August 1998 to the dates shown.
(Charitable and Discretionary Trusts combined)

	Total period to 30/04/02	Total period to 30/06/08	Period 01/05/02 to 30/06/08
	£	£	£
Income.			
Donations received	6,174,700.	6,211,686.	36,986.
Less costs incurred	15,000.	(15,000.)	0.
Net donations received	6,159,700.	6,196,686.	36,986.
Interest received	246,501.	371,861.	125,360.
Less tax incurred	(22,656.)	(14,404.)	8,252.
Net interest	223,845.	357,457.	133,612.
Net Income	6,383,545.	6,554,143.	170,598.
Disbursements from the Trusts			
Allocations to beneficiaries			
Families of the deceased	2,165,500.	2,165,500.	0.
People physically injured	2,737,190.	2,740,190.	3,000.
Hardship Fund	0.	685,965.	685,965.
	4,902,690.	5,591,655.	688,965.
Other disbursements			
Allocations to community groups	46,000.	83,750.	37,750.
Omagh Community House	150,000.	285,656.	135,656.
NICTT		235,254.	235,254.
Tara		87,620.	87,620.
Wave		105,000.	105,000.
Rehabilitation Equipment		16,790.	16,790.
Memorial		120,000.	120,000.
	196,000.	934,070.	738,070.
Administration expenses	14,147.	28,419.	14,272.
Total payments	£5,112,837	£6,554,144	£1,441,307
Balance unexpended	1,270,708.	0	
Represented by			
Cash at bank	1,236,021.	0	
Income tax recoverable	34,687.		
	£1,270,708		

Trustee

P. Smyth

Fund Manager

W.B. O'Leary

30/06/08

