



# Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

Committee Office House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Email [northircom@parliament.uk](mailto:northircom@parliament.uk) Website [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

William Shawcross

Former UK Special Representative on UK victims of Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorism

By e-mail

03 March 2021

Dear Mr Shawcross

## **Attendance at Select Committee**

As Chair of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee (NIAC), I am contacting you in relation to your work as the UK Special Representative on UK victims of Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorism.

As you know, you were appointed in March 2019 to examine the feasibility of making compensation payments to UK victims of Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorism from Libyan assets frozen in the UK. You submitted your report to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in May 2020. Despite repeated public and private correspondence and Written and Oral Parliamentary Questions, the FCDO has taken no substantive action on your report since May 2020 and is apparently determined to suppress your report and the matter.

NIAC has scrutinised potential compensation payments to UK victims in both this and previous Parliaments. That reflects the importance that Members on both sides of the House, and from across the community in Northern Ireland, attach to resolving the question of making compensation payments to UK victims of Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorism from Libyan assets frozen in the UK.

House of Commons Standing Order 152 (4)(a) states that NIAC has the power to “send for persons, papers and records”. At its meeting on 3 March 2021, NIAC exercised that power, which resulted in the following Order:

*Ordered*, That William Shawcross attend the Committee on 24 March 2021.

The Order of 3 March is recorded in the formal minute of NIAC’s proceedings, which is published on the Committee’s website. I note that the Committee unanimously agreed to pursue that course of action.

To be clear, this is a formal summons backed by the authority of the House of Commons to attend NIAC on 24 March 2021 at 09.30am on the record, with parliamentary privilege and in public. This meeting will be virtual and will take place via Zoom. To make sure you have the joining and logistical details, please contact the Clerk to the Committee, Stephen Habberley, who is available on [habberleys@parliament.uk](mailto:habberleys@parliament.uk) to facilitate your appearance at this session and to answer any questions. The Committee is keen to discuss the terms of reference, content, conclusions and recommendations of your report to the FCDO on the feasibility of making compensation payments to UK victims of Qadhafi-sponsored IRA terrorism from Libyan assets frozen in the UK.



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NIAC has explored all other avenues open to it in attempting to scrutinise Government policy on potential payments to victims of Qadhafi-sponsored terrorism, including an informal meeting with the FCDO and extensive public and private correspondence with Ministers. This summons is now the only option open to the Committee. I hope you will agree that this issue has dragged on for too long and, one way or another, needs to be brought to a conclusion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Hoare', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Simon Hoare MP, Chair Northern Ireland Affairs Committee**