



Know Your Rights

Compensation for Survivors - The Criminal Injuries Helpline

About The Traveller Movement

The Traveller Movement (TM) is a UK charity challenging discrimination and promoting inclusion of ethnic Romani (Gypsy), Roma and Irish Traveller communities. TM facilitates legal education, strategic litigation and direct advocacy to support their access to justice and fair treatment.

The Criminal Injuries Helpline webinar was prepared in partnership with Gabriella Lowe and Libby Newman, legal claims handlers with the Helpline.

Watch the Webinar

You can watch this topic in short video segments [here](#).

Information

The Criminal Injuries Helpline (CIH) helps victims of violent crimes obtain financial compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (the Authority). It offers a confidential, no win no fee service to help survivors of abuse and violence apply to the Authority. The CIH will evaluate your case, offer expert guidance, gather police and medical evidence and submit your claim to the Authority.

It will keep you informed during the process and will only charge you for this service if your claim succeeds.

The CIH keeps claimant information confidential under data protection laws; the assailant is not contacted, and police involvement is limited to providing evidence without direct contact with claimants.

Survivors can make a claim regardless of their relationship to the assailant; living with the assailant requires special consideration as the latter must not benefit from any compensation. Legal separation is not required provided there is no contact with the assailant.

The CIH would usually ask for ID and proof of address. Lack of a permanent address, bank account, or identification documents will not prevent you claiming as statutory declarations can be used instead. CIH will help applicants with literacy difficulties and can take details of your claim over the telephone.

You will be asked to sign a consent form.



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The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

The Authority is funded by government to compensate victims of violent crime. Applications to the Authority are free and can be made online, or through the CIH. The Authority will consider claims for:

- mental or physical injury
- sexual or physical abuse
- loss of earnings - where your ability to work is seriously affected
- where a violent crime resulted in death - bereavement payments, payments for loss of parental services and financial dependency, and funeral payments.

The Authority has a tariff scheme which sets the level of compensation. It will assess the severity and duration of your injuries against its tariff to decide the payment amount.

The violent crime must have been reported to the police. Your claim for compensation must usually be made as soon as possible and within two years of police reporting; extensions are possible for valid reasons such as medical or mental health reasons. The claim deadline for minors is their 20th birthday.

The Authority will usually take 12 to 18 months to decide on a claim, but this can vary. Awards are normally paid as a single lump sum, but interim payments are available in certain circumstances.

Contact the Solicitor

Telephone or WhatsApp 01422 702082. You can request a call back on the [CIH website](#).

Contact The Traveller Movement on [020 7607 2002](tel:02076072002) for more help.