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NEWS ARCHIVE

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- 11:20 RAF pilots not cleared
- 11:15 Oil feed at centre of pork scare
- 09:08 Barristers may strike over fees
- 08:45 Beware illegal driving instructors
- 08:03 Two horses die in collision
- 08:00 `Black box` destroyed in PSNI crash
- 00:15 Cricketer in custody on airport
- 00:15 Two Commons inquiries into Green
- 00:15 Opera, politics and cheese
- 00:15 St Helena smoulders as airport
- 00:15 Rise in home loans for first-time
- 00:15 Anti-trafficking law will be hard
- 00:15 Country diary
- 00:15 The hills are alive with the sound
- 00:15 Magical and real: Garcia
- 00:15 Magazine pulled over Thai story
- 00:15 Bangladeshi director to build
- 00:15 India releases pictures of Mumbai
- 00:15 Brazilian eco-farmers thrive

YESTERDAY

- 13:11 Man arrested over McGlynn Murder
- 12:13 Pipe bomb made safe
- 12:04 Pensioner attacked during robbery
- 12:04 Teens remain in custody over murder
- 09:42 Househunters drawn back to market
- 09:02 New Disappeared campaign
- 08:43 Chinook pilots may not be cleared
- 00:15 Ice sheet at risk
- 00:15 Too late? Why scientists say we

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LOCAL NEWS



Lord Saville

Wednesday 03 December 2008 20:51

Lord Saville declines to explain report delay

The head of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry has told a Westminster Committee he cannot meet it to explain the delay in his 10-year investigation.

The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee said it was disappointed Lord Saville declined to give evidence on why the final report of his inquiry had been delayed for a further year.

Lord Saville said he could not discuss the issue without divulging sensitive details of his investigation.

Thirteen people died after paratroopers opened fire during a civil rights march in Derry in January 1972, while a further person later died of their injuries.

The committee said it had received a letter from Lord Saville in which he said he could make no detailed comment ahead of the release of his final report which is now expected in the autumn of 2009.

Lord Saville wrote: "I understand from your letter that the purpose would be to examine reasons for the delay recently announced in the final publication of the inquiry`s report and the continuing costs arising therefrom."

"You inform me that the Committee would not wish in any way to inquire into the details of the inquiry itself and that it is fully aware that it would be inappropriate to seek to do so."

"However, without going into such details it would not be possible for me to say more to the Committee than I have already said publicly, namely that this has been an inquiry involving nearly two thousand five hundred witnesses and tens of thousands of documents; and that the Tribunal are determined to deal fairly, accurately and thoroughly with all the many issues to which it has given rise, as they are sure Parliament intended when setting up the inquiry."

"In these circumstances I regret to say that I must decline the invitation."

Sir Patrick Cormack, chairman of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, said he was disappointed at the response, but that he respected Lord Saville`s position.

Sir Patrick added: "I must make it very plain, however, that the Committee is extremely disappointed and concerned at this further delay and the consequential costs, and at the inevitable worry that gives to many people."

"We sincerely hope that this will be the last delay and that the inquiry`s report will be published before the end of 2009."

Last month Lord Saville said his report would not be ready until late next year.

The Bloody Sunday inquiry has so far cost more than £181 million, making it the longest and most expensive inquiry in Britain`s legal history.

About half of this cost was for legal services, while the first witness to the inquiry was heard in November 2000 and the final testimony given in January 2005.

The material for this story has been provided by PA

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