

**WEATHER** 4°C  
 Waterford 7°C  
 TODAY  
 5 DAY

[LOGIN](#)
[WEBMAIL](#)
[SITEMAP](#)
[CONTACT US](#)
[CUSTOMISE](#)
[SEARCH](#)

**HEADLINES**
**ALL IRELAND Flat Rate Internet Access**

[INTERNET](#)
[NEWSROOM](#)
[TELEVISION](#)
[UTV plc](#)



COURT NEWS

TUESDAY 09/01/2007 18:26:31  
**Hoey will not give evidence in Omagh bomb trial**

Alleged Omagh bomb mass murderer Sean Hoey has turned down the chance to give evidence at his own trial.

By: Press Association

VIDEO
 COMMENTS
 HOT TOPIC
 RELATED STORIES

As a forensic expert claimed fibre matches which allegedly link the electrician from south Armagh to another terrorist attack were coincidental, a defence lawyer confirmed he did not intend to go into the witness box at Belfast Crown Court.

Hoey, 37, denies 56 charges connected to a series of dissident republican strikes, including the August 1998 Omagh atrocity when 29 people were killed.

**All named drivers  
 earn their own  
 no claims discount**

**PLUS**  
 Buy online and **save 10%**  
[GET A QUOTE](#)

**directline.com**  
 A GOOD DEAL BETTER

As well as voice analysis and DNA profiling, the case against him is based on four fibres taken from a timer power unit recovered from a massive

**NEWS HEADLINES**

- PSNI & MI5 will be 'enirely separate'
- Man released in hospice probe
- Eames' successor to be named
- Omagh memorial to be discussed
- 10:33 Blair to set out MI5 role in north
- 10:01 3000 Irish laws to be repealed
- 09:52 O'Leary greener than green
- 09:49 Man hit by tree in Co Meath
- 09:27 Two arrests after Wexford death
- 09:10 Bid to block gay legislation fails
- 09:06 Ahern weighs in on policing debate
- 08:56 Jeering fans 'let themselves down'
- Hoey will not give evidence
- Tributes continue for David Ervine
- Man held over care home deaths
- O'Leary slams aviation critics
- Armed bank robbery in Killyleagh
- €600,000 heroin seizure in Dublin
- SF set date for policing talks
- Limerick TD faces tax charges trial
- FG's McGuinness to contest election
- Antrim foot and mouth false alarm
- Hain warns of policing outsider
- Gay protest groups slammed
- ETA claim responsibility for bombing

**UTV NEWS ON AIR**

[Click here to apply online](#)

Based on ufirstgold customers borrowing £7,000 or more.

car bomb defused in the centre of Lisburn, Co Antrim, months before the Omagh outrage.

Another forensic scientist told the trial earlier that these finds were indistinguishable from fibres retrieved five years later during searches of Hoey`s mobile home at Molly Road, Jonesborough.

But the defence opened its case on the 52nd day of the trial by calling a specialist in textiles examination who disputed Dr Ruth Griffen`s findings.

Roger Cook told the court that thousands of fibre types from Hoey`s home were compared with the timer power unit.

He said: "What`s happened in this case is instead of having one garment from which fibres may have come, there would be hundreds, so the chances of a coincidental match would go up enormously."

Mr Cook added that once any fibres are transferred, they start to shed almost immediately.

"Within the first two to three hours, almost all are gone," he said.

"Within the first few days ,virtually all are gone and we`re talking about a gap of five years."

Hoey`s barrister, Orlando Pownall QC, told Mr Justice Weir, the judge in the non-jury trial, that he expected to finish calling any witnesses and make final submissions by the end of this week.

After that, Mr Justice Weir is expected to reserve judgment in one of the biggest criminal trials in British legal history.

But when the judge told Mr Pownall that it had now reached the stage where his client could indicate whether he intends to give evidence, the lawyer replied: "He does not."

Earlier the trial heard that a detonator used in another of the terrorists` plot Hoey is charged with underwent unexplained changes after it was first examined.

His legal team recalled a forensic scientist who studied the device and asked him to give a reason for the apparent significant differences in a length of wire attached to a detonator used with 500lb of home made explosives planted near a police station in Armagh in May 1998.

Photographs seemed to show this had been extended by up to three times from when Gordon McMillen examined the device months after the foiled attack and when a new analysis was carried out late last year.

Mr Pownall told him: "You have got no explanation for why about one and a half centimetres of wire is protruding in the photographs at the end of last year and significantly less in photographs taken at the scene."



Watch the latest on-air news bulletins.

[WATCH HERE](#)

If you have a **broadband** connection, such as **UTV ClickSilver**, you can watch a higher quality version.

[WATCH HERE](#)

Click below to browse through the archives of online streaming news.

[BROWSE HERE](#)

### SEARCH ARCHIVES



Enter a keyword above and select the newsroom section to search.

Click below to browse through the online news, sport and entertainment archives.

[BROWSE HERE](#)

The forensic expert agreed with his assessment, replying: "I have no explanation."

Wrongly-labelled exhibits have become a key issue in the trial, along with the discrediting of DNA forensic techniques used to link Hoey to a number of the terrorist offences.

The accused denies all the charges against him and even though he declined the chance to give evidence on his own behalf, the offer is expected to be put to him again after new tests are carried out tomorrow on the detonator equipment in question.

The trial was adjourned until Thursday.

 [E-mail this story to a friend](#)



COMMENT TRACKER:  
**LOGIN** to track comments on this story

post your comment 

[Privacy Policy](#) | [House Rules](#) | [Acceptable Use Policy](#) | [UTV Corporate](#) | [u.tv Journalism](#) | [UTV Local](#)

Copyright © 2007 UTV Internet and the UTV plc Group. All rights reserved.