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Billy Wright

MONDAY
21/01/2008
18:31:28

Stolen laptop linked to Wright inquiry

A laptop computer containing confidential information has been stolen from the London offices of a barrister involved in the public

inquiry into the murder of loyalist paramilitary Billy Wright.

The computer contained details of a number of people in Northern Ireland, who are now being notified of the theft.

The Northern Ireland Office said it was informed over the weekend that the computer had been taken from the private chambers of the lawyer representing the Northern Ireland Prison Service at the inquiry.

A statement said: "The laptop stolen from the barrister`s chambers contained confidential and legally privileged information in connection with the inquiry, including some details about a number of individuals in Northern Ireland.

"Those individuals are being notified and the potential implications of the theft are being assessed with them, in consultation with the Crown Solicitor`s Office and the PSNI."

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The Billy Wright Inquiry and the Information Commissioner have also been informed.

Wright, the leader of the Loyalist Volunteer Force, was shot dead inside the Maze Prison in 1997 by members of the republican Irish National Liberation Army.

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