



Nuala O'Loan

1 comment
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'Collusion' on the agenda at policing board meeting

The Chief Constable of the Police Service in Northern Ireland (PSNI) Sir Hugh Orde is due to face questions about the Police Ombudsman report which revealed collusion between police officers and a gang of loyalist killers.

By: Press Association

He is to meet members of the Policing Board in Belfast following a damning report into the protection Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) Special Branch handlers gave to Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) informers behind up to 15 murders.

Nuala O'Loan, the Police Ombudsman whose dossier revealed the intelligence scandal, is also to give a separate briefing to the watchdog. With nationalist MPs demanding the resignation of Sir Ronnie Flanagan, the police chief constable at the height of the UVF's bloody campaign, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator Martin McGuinness is also to meet Irish Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern in Dundalk to express their alarm at the findings.

Sir Ronnie has come out fighting, however, amid a barrage of criticism over how Special Branch paid and shielded a terrorist agent at the centre of the storm.

Sir Ronnie has insisted he knew nothing about the disclosures made by Mrs O'Loan.


Denying any suggestion that he refused to cooperate with the three-year inquiry, he said: "With respect to the specific matters dealt with in the Ombudsman's report, at no time did I have any knowledge, or evidence, of officers at any level behaving in the ways that have been described.

"I would find such conduct to be abhorrent, and if such behaviour took


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place my hope would be that it would be the subject of criminal or disciplinary proceedings."

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I find the idea that the Head officer of RUC Special Branch didn't know that 80,000 pounds was paid to a UVF volunteer unbelievable.

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