

NEWS

- [NEWS](#)
[SPORT](#)
[ENTERTAINMENT](#)



PSNI's Sir Hugh Orde

MONDAY
27/08/2007
12:45:23

Government accused over murder probe funding

The British government was accused today of failing to deliver on a pledge to fund an investigative unit re-examining murders from Northern Ireland's Troubles.

Dave Cox, head of the Historical Enquiries Team, revealed that last year's funding, worth £4 million, had to come out of Sir Hugh Orde's policing budget for Northern Ireland, even though the government promised two years ago that it would provide £32 million for the work over six years.

But as Northern Ireland Office officials prepared a stock-take of the HET, Mr Cox vowed the review of 3,268 murders between 1969 and 1998 would go on even if it had to be funded from the existing Police Service of Northern Ireland budget.

"There's been a lot of publicity about a stock-taking of the HET process and that's fine," Mr Cox said.

"We're up for being audited and we're up for justifying what we do because we believe it is a very valuable process.

"But the message this sends out to families is: Are you going to pull the process then? Is it going to stop? I am on the chronological list

CLICKSILVER BROADBAND

HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACCESS **ALWAYS ON**

- Download large files faster than ordinary dial-up
- Your phone line is free to make/receive calls
- Wireless routers give you access anywhere in your home

- ▲ £1m wasted on tourist attraction
- ▲ Landmark case for Ireland
- ▲ Bloomin' marvellous
- ▲ Bin Laden praises 9/11 hijacker
- 12:38 Cat moves into 10 Downing Street
- 12:31 Arson attacks may be linked
- 12:19 Poots moves to stop hooliganism
- 11:57 Prayers for missing Madeleine
- 10:50 Man dies in Co Leitrim crash
- 10:33 Man injured in Ballymun shooting
- 10:11 Tributes pour in for Anita Roddick
- 09:48 Women robbed of pension cash
- 09:29 New law on sectarianism in sport
- 09:05 Brown leads tributes to Roddick
- 08:37 Paisley and McAleese meet up
- 08:18 Education authorities blunder
- ✓ NI security worker dies in Iraq
- ✓ Queens heads cancer breakthrough
- ✓ Jobs boost for Belfast
- ✓ NI papers wage campaign
- ✓ McGuinness calls for tax powers
- ✓ Gallagher global gathering
- ✓ McCann case goes to prosecutor
- ✓ Barrymore out of police custody
- ✓ Coroner queries LVF link

YOUR COMMENTS

- E** Snow to fall on Bangor
13 comments
- N** NI politicians aid Iraq talks
10 comments
- N** Warning over unaffordable housing
7 comments

CLICKSILVER BROADBAND

SPEEDS NOW UP TO 8MB*

FROM ONLY £5.99 NI

€9.99 ROI

ALSO

WIRELESS ROUTER OPTION AVAILABLE

Migrating Customers receive FREE broadband for a month

NEW

UTV TALK PEAK PACKAGE NOW AVAILABLE

* NI only

and they are not going to get to me for another couple of years. Does that mean they are going to change their mind and after all these promises they won't come?"

"The chief (Sir Hugh) has been very upfront about all this and I will as well. We will get around to all the families because the chief has told me if the NIO do not fund us, he will.

"The point is we are almost back to square one as far as the PSNI budget is concerned. You have the demands of current policing on the chief's day-to-day budget, which is why the (NIO-backed) project fund was set up for HET.

"If the money the chief has for current policing is diverted to policing the past, then that has a big impact on his planning."

In March 2005, then Northern Ireland Secretary Paul Murphy earmarked more than £24 million for the unit, which was the brainchild of Sir Hugh, and almost #8 million for forensic scientists assisting its work.

A team of 100 investigators have so far worked on 700 cases and completed 262, working closely with the families of those killed.

However, with former Church of Ireland Primate Lord Eames and ex-Northern Ireland Policing Board vice chairman Denis Bradley heading up a review into how the province can best address the past, concerns are mounting among some families that the Government may be preparing to wind down the HET.

Bernard Moane, whose father, Benny, was abducted in Belfast and murdered by loyalists at a war monument outside Carrickfergus in May 1972, today backed calls for the Government to honour its original funding pledge.

Mr Moane, whose father's murder was reviewed by the team between last October and June, told PA: "There have been certain rumours going around about whether the HET should continue or not or whether there is enough money to enable it to continue or not.

"In my view if the Government can afford to spend well over #100 million on the Bloody Sunday inquiry, then I do not see why they cannot find additional money or enough money, sufficient resources for the HET to deliver on what they were asked to do in their initial brief."

As he prepared to meet NIO officials, Mr Cox said a lot could be learned by the Eames and Bradley review from the HET.

"Our experience to date has been that it's the people who suffered and lost in the Troubles are the people who should first be consulted," he said.

"We devised our process tailored around our interaction with the families,

asking them `What is it you want to know?`

"Any process devised by Bradley and Eames or whoever, if it doesn't start by asking the families what they want out of this and end up by delivering what they need, then in my view that will be a waste of money because you have got to go to the people who are suffering.

"We have started work in 700 cases and that means we have got at least a prospect that within a relatively defined period of time they will have some answers about what happened to their loved ones.

"It is not like these massive public inquiries which sit months and months taking evidence and then their considerations take years after that. We are a much more refined process than that.

"We looked at our set disciplines and try and answer the families' questions. In many cases they are not actually about who pulled the trigger but are much more personal queries."

A Northern Ireland Office spokesman insisted the PSNI had not lost out on any funding, even though the HET money had come out of its budget.

"The total budget for the entire HET project is £34 million," he revealed.

"At the end of the financial year 06/07 the total spend for the project was £9.5 million, of which the PSNI spend was £8.13 million.

"During the 06/07 financial year the PSNI spend was £4.18 million, which was met from the overall PSNI budget and has been deducted from the £34 million allocated to the HET project."

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

[Post your comment](#)



COMMENT TRACKER:
LOGIN to track comments on this story

FILM: DECEMBER BOYS

DIRECTOR: Rob Hardy. **STARRING:** Daniel Radcliffe, Teresa Palmer, Christian Byers, Lee Cormie. Details 105mins/Australia Cert: 15A

Four orphans spend a summer in 1960's Australia, competing to be adopted by the same family. We witness as their friendship grows, through numerous ups and downs, as they spend their summer holidaying on a secluded beach. December Boys is a film with a clear lack of ambition - very little of any interest occurs, as the director focuses on the relationships between the boys, and completely loses track of any real characters outside the foursome. Notable mainly for an early Daniel Radcliffe attempt at derailing the inevitable Harry Potter typecasting; he forces a performance that shows he has much to learn when it comes to portraying varied emotion without the aid of CGI. The only other cast member to get enough screen time to impress is Lee Cormie, who plays (the most desperate for affection of the foursome)

RATING: ★★☆☆☆

[ALL REVIEWS](#)

NOW SHOWING AT...

Select from the following:

[FIND](#)

GIGS

Gerry Busher...

THEATRE

Fr Mathew...

COMEDY

Battle of the Axe Comedy Club...

CLUBBING

Renaissance Night Club...

FESTIVAL

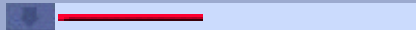
Festival of the Peninsula...

VOTING POLL

Is taking a gap year before university or college beneficial and something to be encouraged?



Yes



No

[VOTE NOW!](#)

[Post a comment](#) [4 comments so far]

SEARCH ARCHIVES

Browse through the online news, sport and entertainment archives.

[BROWSE](#)

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

UTV NEWS ON AIR

Watch the latest UTV Live at 6 bulletin.

Select the quality of your version depending on your internet connection

[LOW](#)

[HIGH](#)

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

[BROWSE HERE](#)