

BELEAST TELEGRAPH

ADVERTISEMENT

Belfast Telegraph - IPR Website of the Year

Search Site

Advanced Search

- [Loadzajobs.co.uk](#)
- [Propertynews.com](#)
- [Belfast Telegraph TV](#)
- [Family Notices](#)
- [Ads For Free](#)

Belfast Telegraph

- Home
- News**
 - Local & National**
 - World news
 - Politics
 - Environment
 - Education
 - Letters
 - Opinion
 - Technology
- Breaking News
- Northwest Edition
- Business
- Business Telegraph
- Sport
- Health
- Features
- Columnists
- Entertainment
- Homefinder
- Weather
- Archive
- Calendar 2008
- Telegraph Travel
- Shopping Directory

Inside Belfast

- Jobs
- Training
- Dating
- Casino
- Bingo
- Reader Offers
- Diners' Club

Services

- RSS
- Media Kit

Other Titles

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Local & National](#)

Local & National

Sir Ronnie gets support from Brown

Wednesday, January 09, 2008

By Sam Lister

The Prime Minister has given his backing to Sir Ronnie Flanagan and insisted he was "doing an excellent job".

Gordon Brown was quizzed about the under-fire former RUC Chief Constable's role in the Omagh bombing investigation, after the only man charged with the devastating attack was cleared of any involvement last month.

At his first monthly Westminster Press briefing of 2008, the Prime Minister was asked if he still had confidence in Sir Ronnie, who is now heading up a review of policing in England and Wales, and if he should be held accountable.

Mr Brown said: "I have worked with Sir Ronnie Flanagan on many occasions. He is conducting a review of policing in this country. He is doing an excellent job. He has published an interim report which is very helpful to the process and I'm not going to change my judgement on that."

Mr Hoey (38), an electrician, walked out of Belfast Crown Court a free man in December after Lord Justice Weir dismissed each of the 56 charges, including 29 counts of murder, made against him.

In total, 29 people - including a woman pregnant with twins - died in the bomb attack, which devastated the Tyrone town on August 15, 1998.

Sir Ronnie's involvement in the investigation has attracted widespread criticism from officials and relatives of the victims for many years.

In 2001 former Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan's made a stinging attack of the then-chief constable in a report.

Mrs O'Loan blamed the "defective leadership" of the former chief constable, describing it as "seriously flawed" and highlighted the inefficiencies of the authorities in relaying vital intelligence in the lead up to the atrocity.

After Mr Hoey was cleared, English lawyer Victor Barker, whose 12-year-old son, James, died in the attack, also hit out at what he described as a "deeply flawed" initial investigation.

"He (Sir Ronnie Flanagan) said he would fall on his sword if anything was wrong with this investigation.

"I will give him the sword," he said.


- Email Article
- Print Version
- Search
- +Most Emailed
- +Most Read

Don't Miss . . .

Double whammy

 Could CD albums become a thing of the past?

Stormont heroes

 Meet the people behind a political miracle


Quotes of 2007

 From Printed errors to radio and TV bloomers

The Great Pretenders

 Gary Grattan with Queen tribute band Flash Harry

Mark Steel

 All my son wanted was a bacon sandwich

ADVERTISEMENTS

More articles in Local & National

- [Tragic Rebecca killed by tealight](#)
- [Protect pets from winter chills warns animal charity](#)
- [Trio get Hans on Sloane Award](#)
- [Dump red tape, plead farmers](#)
- [Gales cut power in 6,000 Ulster homes](#)

ADVERTISEMENTS

3 Sunday Life

3 Ireland's Saturday Night

3 Community Telegraph

ADVERTISEMENTS

Best of 2007 . . .

Records



Music stars reveal their pick of this year's tunes

Gigs



The pick of this year's finest concerts and performances

Films



Our experts reveal their pick of the year's movies

Books



Authors reveal their pick of this year's finest writing

2007 In Pictures

[Jan & Feb](#)

[March](#)

[April](#)

[May](#)

[June](#)

[July](#)

[August](#)

[September](#)

[October](#)

[November](#)

[December](#)

Video

[A taste of tinseltown](#)



Mischa the belle of Belfast city for movie premiere

[What's the big Ikea?](#)



The iconic Swedish superstore opens

[BT Woman of the Year](#)



Applauding Ulster's most exceptional women

[Omagh blaze tragedy](#)



Special report on Northern Ireland's worst house fire

[Belfast Telegraph Property Awards](#)



Celebrating excellence at the inaugural awards gala

[Best view in town](#)



Special multimedia report on Belfast Wheel

[Big Man's big fry](#)



First Minister's vision is outlined over breakfast



Ulster's boy wonder



Watch our interview with golf sensation Rory McIlroy

In Pictures . . .

News

- [Ulster Fry event](#)
- [The Twelfth](#)
- [Bull Run](#)
- [Award-winners](#)
- [Flooded Ulster](#)
- [Sunny Northern Ireland](#)
- [Devolution Day](#)
- [Assembly Elections](#)
- [Maze tumbles](#)
- [Blair quits](#)
- [Last watchtower](#)
- [Carrick-a-rede](#)

Events

- [Derry Xmas](#)
- [Boss is back](#)
- [Xmas: what a turn on](#)
- [Property Awards](#)
- [50 Cent](#)
- [Enrique Iglesias](#)
- [Halloween](#)
- [Fantasy Fest](#)
- [Rolling Stones](#)
- [Oxegen 07](#)
- [Beach Party 07](#)
- [Balmoral Show](#)
- [Razorlight](#)
- [St Patrick's Day](#)
- [Mardis Gras](#)
- [Justin Timberlake](#)
- [Brit Awards 07](#)

Sport

- [Spain 1 Norn Iron 0](#)
- [Win over Denmark](#)
- [Windsor win](#)
- [Golf: Rory McIlroy](#)
- [British Open](#)
- [Copa America Final](#)
- [N Ireland v Sweden](#)
- [Six Nations](#)
- [World in Sport](#)