



COMPETITION Sign up for our newsletter and WIN a year's supply of NUTTY KRUST

Halifax Web Saver 1.10% AER



News Sport Business Opinion Life & Style Entertainment Jobs Cars Homes Classified (new)

Local & National World Politics Property Health Education Business Environment Technology Video Family Notices Crime Map Sunday Life The CT

The digital gateway to Northern Ireland news, sport, business, entertainment and opinion

Home > News > Local & National

Police interview of McIlveen suspect 'was unforgiveable'

Friday, 16 January 2009

The police interviews with one of the people accused of murdering Ballymena schoolboy Michael McIlveen were "oppressive" and parts of them can no longer be relied upon, a detective who helped carry them out has said.

The admission from the detective constable was made at Antrim Crown Court where five young Ballymena men face charges relating to the death of 15-year-old Michael, who died from head injuries on May 8, 2006.

The detective admitted to trial judge Mr Justice Treacy that he was "not comfortable" with the interviews he carried out with one of the accused, 18-year-old Christopher Andrew McLeister of Knock Crescent, Ballymena.

However, he added he was "still standing over" the remainder of the interviews.

In an earlier exchange with Mr Justice Treacy, the officer, having listened to a tape of part of an interview, accepted that he now "considered the interviews were oppressive".

"Unfortunately, yes my lord," he agreed.

Later he also accepted a suggestion from the judge that he could not exclude the possibility that some of his comments during the interview "may have added additional pressure on this young man".

His acceptance came during cross-examination by defence QC Paul Ramsey who also put it to the officer that his "job was to get the evidence and if that meant fair means or foul, then so be it".

The detective went on to agree that some of the matters put to a young teenager like McLeister were not only "improper and wrong ... but unforgivable".

"The last bit of tape does not sound good from my point of view, I agree," he answered.

The officer also conceded that he had destroyed notes he took, contrary to PSNI rules.

However, he maintained that he "did not try to mislead the court in anyway, nor did (he) try to mislead, if that is the right way of putting it, Christopher McLeister".

On trial with McLeister for murder are: 19-year-old Jeff Colin Lewis of Rossdale, Christopher Francis Kerr (22), Carnduff Drive, and Aaron Cavana Wallace (20), Moat Road, all Ballymena. A fifth defendant 18-year-old Paul Edward David Henson of Condiere Avenue, Ballymena faces charges of affray and criminal damage.

Another accused, 20-year-old Meryvn Wilson Moon, from Douglas Terrace in the town, whom the court heard hit the teenager on the head with a baseball bat, is awaiting sentence having pleaded guilty to the murder.

At hearing.

Print Email Search Go Bookmark & Share Digg It del.icio.us Facebook Stumbleupon What are these? Change font size: A A A

Northern Ireland Troubles Gallery



Peter Robinson, Middle East visit, 1984

NEXT GENERATION AD SERVING Your Ads will love it! ADTECH SYSTEM

superbreak The SOUND MUSIC JOSEPH hairspray

Post a comment

Limit: 500 characters, left: 1000 View all comments that have been posted about this article * Name (only this field displayed)

* Email

* Town/City

* Country/State

* Required field

Remember Me

Offensive or abusive comments will be removed and your IP address logged and may be used to prevent further submissions. In submitting a comment to the site, you agree to be bound by BelfastTelegraph.co.uk's [Terms of Use](#).

Posts submitted in UPPERCASE letters will be rejected.

Also in this section

- Passport checks between UK and Republic
- Home leave row inmate goes on run
- Widow of guitarist Jim Gilchrist slams £8,500 'insult'
- Government considers motor industry finance plan
- Five years' jail for 'Hannibal Lecter-style' attack on Irish policeman



Internet I

Most likely

- You a
- The w
- There

What you c

[Diagno:](#)

[More in](#)

In Pictures: All Our Yesterdays

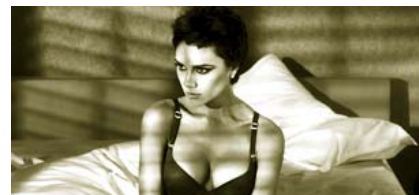


Ulster American Folk Park

In Pictures: Northern Ireland Nightlife



In Pictures: Fashion & Showbiz



Victoria Beckham - Armani underwear

Most popular

1. Gaza: Residents waving white flags 'shot dead as they flee their homes'
2. Posh Spice Victoria Beckham 'does a David' in Armani undies strip
3. 250 arrested in PSNI blitz on crime

4. In Pictures: Gaza under attack
5. UN: Israelis hit our headquarters in Gaza with 'white phosphorus' shells
6. Evans added to United injury list
7. Israel bombs UN headquarters in Gaza
8. Presbyterian Mutual Society investors face deadline over losses
9. David Irving: Hitler wasn't anti-Semitic and the Holocaust wasn't his fault
10. Gruesome advertisement warns public about fake medicines



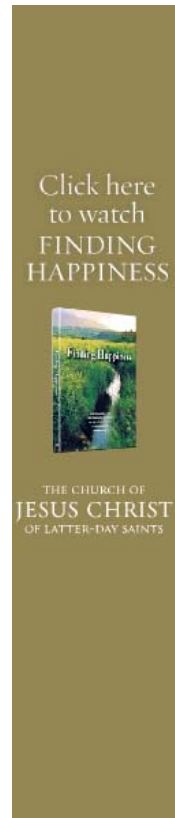
Internet I

Most likely

- You a
- The w
- There

What you c

- [Diagno:](#)
- [More in](#)



[Go](#) [Advanced Search](#)