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## Encouraging response to Campbell murder probe

Saturday, 28 February 2009

Following a positive response to an appeal for information regarding the murder of RUC Sergeant Joe Campbell, the Police Ombudsman's Office has decided to extend its operations in Cushendall for another week.

Members of Al Hutchinson's office had been in the picturesque Co Antrim village all week after it emerged new evidence had been uncovered by the team re-investigating the murder of the Catholic policeman.

Sgt Campbell, who was a father-of-eight, was shot dead as he locked the gates to the local RUC station on February 25, 1977.

According to investigators, a bingo session and a theatrical event were taking place in the village that night and they are hoping someone who was at either of those events may remember something.

Sgt Campbell had earlier walked the short distance from his house to the police station. Investigators believe the gunman must have lied in wait for him.

No-one has ever been convicted of his murder.

After receiving a number of complaints alleging police mis-conduct in relation to the murder, the Police Ombudsman's Office decided to re-open the case.

Sgt Campbell's widow Rosemary said earlier this week that she was still hoping for justice for her murdered husband, even after all this time.

A spokesman said: "We have been heartened by the response to our appeal. A large number of people have been wanting to share with us what they know about the incident, and our investigators will remain in the village until we have taken their statements."

Responding to ongoing speculation about police involvement in the murder earlier this week, the spokesperson said: "It is in the interests of both the Campbell family and policing in Northern Ireland that we do all we can to discover the truth about whether or not there were any police issues related to the murder."

Investigators will remain in The Old School House in Mill Street, Cushendall until next Friday, March 6.

Anyone with information is asked to speak to Police Ombudsman investigators in The Old School House, or to call the Freephone number 0800 032 7880.

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