

For more information [CLICK HERE](#)  
or call 0808 127 0000.




**7 Inch Digital Photo Frame With Remote Control And MP3/MP4**  
This seven inch colour TFT screen allows you to view all of your favourite digital photos

**BELFAST TELEGRAPH**  
**Reader Offers**



**£79.99**  
plus p&p

ADVERTISEMENT

**Belfast Telegraph - IPR Website of the Year**

[Search Site](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

- [Loadzajobs.co.uk](#)
- [Propertynews.com](#)
- Belfast Telegraph**
  - [Home](#)
  - [News](#)
    - [Local & National](#)
    - [World news](#)
    - [Politics](#)
    - [Education](#)
    - [Letters](#)
    - [Opinion](#)
  - [Breaking News](#)
  - [Northwest Edition](#)
  - [Business](#)
  - [Business Telegraph](#)
  - [Sport](#)
  - [Features](#)
  - [Columnists](#)
  - [Entertainment](#)
  - [Weather](#)
  - [Archive](#)
- Inside Belfast**
  - [Jobs](#)

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

## Local & National

# Ombudsman report on Special Branch is 'extremely critical'

Friday, December 22, 2006

By Brian Rowan

A date has been set for the publication of a damning report on the Special Branch's handling of the loyalist agent Mark Haddock.

The report by the Police Ombudsman will be published on January 21, senior sources have told the Belfast Telegraph. A hotel has been booked for a news conference on the same date.

The report follows the biggest and longest investigation ever undertaken by the Ombudsman's office after a complaint by Raymond McCord relating to the UVF murder of his son - Raymond McCord junior in 1997.

Mr McCord believes Special Branch agents inside the UVF - including Mark Haddock - were involved in the killing.






According to a senior source the report by the Police Ombudsman will be "extremely critical" of the Special Branch.

"It's about the lack of management control of informers and the implications of that," the source told this newspaper.

In presenting a context, the report will look wider than the McCord killing and at more than one informer.

There will be two documents, a private report of around 200 pages which goes to the Chief Constable, the Secretary of State and the Policing Board, and a public report of around 100 pages.

It will not name Haddock - a former senior UVF figure in Mount Vernon in north Belfast - but he is the informer, the covert human intelligence source, under the spotlight in this report.

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

**Belfast Telegraph**  
**ONLINE ARCHIVE**

- Search from over 400,000 articles
- Dating back to 1995

Belfast Telegraph titles

**ADVERTISEMENTS**

---

**ADVERTISEMENTS**

Training	
Dating	
Gaming	
Reader Offers	
Services	
RSS	
Media Kit	
Other Titles	
Sunday Life	
Ireland's Saturday Night	

The UVF attempted to murder Haddock in May while he was out on bail. He has since been jailed for an attack on a nightclub doorman.

A senior police source with knowledge of Haddock's agent role described the Special Branch's handling of the informer as "unforgivable".

How bad was it? "Off the Richter scale," is the response.

The source is convinced that Haddock was involved in murders. The report of the Police Ombudsman will contain recommendations, but no detail of these is being made public at this stage.

In an interview with this newspaper in late August, the UVF leadership said its "internal security section" was standing by and waiting for the document to emerge.

The UVF will read in it what it already knows - that a senior figure in its organisation was also working for the Special Branch.

### [The murky tale of UVF informer Haddock](#)

IT will be another of those moments when Special Branch's past collides with the policing present.

We now know the date € January 21, and we know the story.

It's the stuff of the dirty war - the Special Branch, agents and murder - puppets and strings, all tangled in a mixed-up, murky world.

The loyalist, who is the principal character in the report that is to be published by the Police Ombudsman, is Mark Haddock.

He was a member of the UVF, and a Special Branch informer.

Loyalists tried to murder him in May while he was on bail. He survived and was jailed for an attack on a nightclub doorman.

The Ombudsman started investigating Mark Haddock after a complaint from Raymond McCord, whose son Raymond jnr was murdered by the UVF.

Mr McCord believes agents working for the Special Branch were involved.

The report published next month looks wider than Haddock and the McCord murder. It has to, to tell the whole story.

Its context will bring in other killings and other informants, and it will look at "the lack of management control of informers and the implications of that".

The source didn't expand. He didn't need to. We all know what is meant by implications - that an agent, or agents, participated in murder.

Haddock is no longer an informer - what is called a covert human intelligence source.

He has been struck off or de-activated to use the proper term.

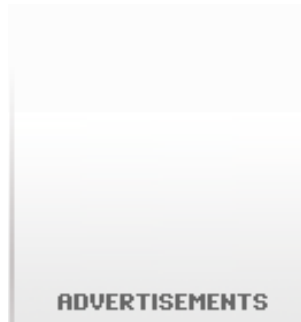
When? The report next month might answer that question.

And there is another question. Who is going to carry the can for this?

Those who are part of the policing present will have to implement whatever recommendations come with the Ombudsman's report. But Haddock was run by another regime, not by the one now in place.

No one who was involved with him is currently working within the police intelligence system.

What Hugh Orde will stress is the "root and branch review of informant handling", the review of informants and the "decommissioning" of some, "new management" and "tighter controls".



The chief constable won't need the report of the Ombudsman to tell him how bad things were. He will know, because he will have read the Haddock file.

It will have been one of his first acts when he became chief constable in 2002, and, even before then, he'd seen the stuff of the dirty war as part of the Stevens investigation into the murder of the Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane - a killing involving not one agent but many.

Sir Hugh Orde's dilemma is how to respond to the report that is coming to his desk.

How close will he come to saying it wasn't on his watch, and how close will he come to pointing the finger at others?

A senior police source, speaking to this newspaper described the Special Branch's handling of Haddock as "unforgivable".

The chief constable won't try to defend what happened. He can't and wouldn't want to.

Who let it happen? Who couldn't see what was going on? Who wasn't looking?

Why has it taken another investigation - the biggest and longest ever undertaken by the Ombudsman's team - to open up another can of worms?

How many more Mark Haddock-type cases are there?

What was he paid for?

Some time ago, someone with knowledge of the Ombudsman investigation told me that it would point to an institutional lack of control in relationships between handlers and agents.

He wasn't suggesting that those precise words would be used, but he was pointing to what had been found.

Another source reckons the above description is "too kind".

What about the UVF? It also knows what's coming.

The leadership of that organisation, in an interview with this newspaper in August, said its "internal security section" was standing by and waiting for the document. But in the waiting, the UVF has been piecing its own jigsaw together.

It knows that Haddock was an agent, but it maybe doesn't know for how long.

It knows he did damage to the organisation, but it maybe doesn't know how much.

Inside the loyalist group there will be those who will want to know why it took so long to find him out.

It's the same everywhere and in every organisation when these types of stories emerge.

Questions are asked and suspicion falls on others. This case will be no different.

Haddock was not the only informer inside the UVF.

The group's leadership will tell you that had they known - had they had proof that Haddock was an agent before he went to jail - they would have had him killed. Somebody tried that in May. Haddock wasn't meant to survive.

Now pages and pages of fine detail are about to emerge. The report won't name Haddock, but everybody knows it's him. He's no longer a secret of a dirty war. He's out in the open now.

From inside the old Special Branch you'll be told that Haddock saved lives. But how many did he take, and who knew? Who will answer those questions?



**Hotshots**  
Sunday  
**Life**

**Hotshots**  
**Life**  
**FOURMIDABLE**  
MIND & HEART-DEMANDING

**The new weekly football pullout!**

ADVERTISEMENTS

**More articles in Local & National**

- [Seize chance for a shared future: Eames](#)
- [Girl \(5\) fighting for life after house fire](#)
- [Ulster roads claim first victim of new year](#)
- [Teenager stabbed as New Year parties turn violent](#)
- [Search for missing plumber Kelly one of largest launched in Ulster](#)