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Local & National

Sir Hugh denies refusing to meet family

Thursday, February 15, 2007

By Chris Thornton

Embattled PSNI Chief Constable Sir Hugh Orde has denied refusing to meet the family of a police informer's victim. The brother of north Belfast woman Sharon McKenna, one of the first victims of UVF informer Mark Haddock, said yesterday he was "very, very disappointed" Sir Hugh had refused to meet him.

Mr McKenna's solicitor has written to Sir Hugh twice to ask for meetings. The Chief Constable first suggested he meet the PSNI's legal team, and responded to the second request yesterday by saying he should contact the Historic Enquiries Team.

The HET has been re-examining Ms McKenna's murder. She was shot dead while cooking dinner for a Protestant friend just released from hospital.

In last month's Ombudsman report, Nuala O'Loan said there was intelligence rated "reliable and probably true" indicating an agent known as Informant One took part in the killing.






Informant One has been named in the Dail as Mark Haddock, a North Belfast loyalist currently in prison for assault.

Mr McKenna said yesterday, "Bearing in mind that this is a high-profile case, and I believe he is prepared to meet Raymond McCord soon, I would have thought he would see us."

He said he will request to see Sir Hugh a third time.

A PSNI spokeswoman said: "The Chief Constable did not decline to meet Mr McKenna."

"He did, however, write to Mr McKenna's solicitor explaining that it would be of most benefit for the family to meet in the first instance with senior management from the Historical Enquires Team, the bespoke unit established to re-examine the unresolved cases from the period of the Troubles and which reports directly to the Chief Constable."

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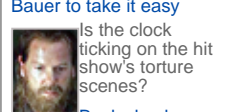
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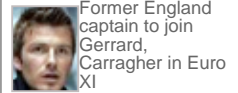
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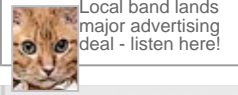
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