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News & Opinion

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Jordan inquest still in question

Andersonstown News Monday

By Ciarán Barnes

A preliminary hearing into whether an inquest can proceed into the killing of unarmed IRA volunteer Pearse Jordan will be heard on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old Ballymurphy man died from a gunshot wound to the chest in November 1992.

The RUC rammed the car he had been driving along the Falls Road before opening fire.

Last December, a hearing into Mr Jordan's death was told that MI5 had taken over responsibility for assessing the threat risk to 14 police officers called to give evidence.

Coroner John Leckey was informed that the assessments would be ready within weeks. However, at another hearing into the killing in March they still had not been completed.

The delay caused a great deal of frustration, with the Coroner remarking that he had become "increasingly vexed" by the situation.

He then went on to complain about not having the "luxury of picking up the telephone" to quiz MI5 over its failure to provide the threat assessments.

Disclosure

The Jordan family is pushing for full disclosure of all intelligence material in relation to the killing.

Among the case documents listed as "missing" are a statement made by the police officer who shot Mr Jordan, police transmissions before the shooting and notes of a meeting between former Special Branch head Bill Lowry and the officers involved in the operation.

35 pages of the investigating officer's original 50-page report have also been withheld.

Documents the Jordan family has received from the PSNI are virtually unintelligible, with almost every name blacked out.

The missing documents and the possibility of ex-RUC officers being made to testify at an inquest will be raised at Tuesday's preliminary hearing.

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If the officers are not forced to co-operate it is highly unlikely that an inquest will proceed.

new 'Belfast Hub' during an official business breakfast in the west of the city last week. The website, will work as a new business and entertainment hub for the city, providing an exciting platform for both readers and advertisers.



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