

**News & Opinion** | 5

**Sport**

**Business & Recruitment**

**Going Out**

**Business Directory**

**Classified Ads**

**Family Notices**

**Property**

**Pix**



- Latest news
- Features
- Columnists
- Editorial
- Your letters
- Your texts
- Blog
- Podcasts

[Aisling Awards](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Search this site

Search the web

# News & Opinion

**Tell us your thoughts...**

Got something to say? [Click here to send us a comment](#)

**Editorial**

**Our Papers**

## PSNI gaffe is another embarrassing failure

### Andersonstown News Monday

A DEGREE in law enforcement wasn't needed to see that the PSNI made a complete hames of policing the flashpoint area of Fisherwick Place at the RIR 'homecoming' parade and British army victims' parade in Belfast city centre on November 2.

The PSNI now admit that the issue of the scaffolding which loyalists scaled to launch an attack on victims' families was raised by Sinn Féin at a meeting in advance of the parades. And the police now admit that the security measures put in place to deal with the threat posed by the scaffolding had been "inadequate".

Given the vast scale of the police operation on the day, it beggars belief that the relatively simple task of securing the scaffolding was beyond the capability of the PSNI. The judicious placing of one or two officers on the scaffolding would have eliminated the threat at a stroke, as well as giving the police a commanding overview of the security position as it developed on the day. Why that was not done is anybody's guess, and the failure to do it led to the only significant violence seen on the day, when loyalist thugs clambered unhindered up on to the scaffolding and threw missiles and vile insults at the victims' relatives.

Coming on the back of a number of deeply embarrassing incidents – the Falls Road hijacking non-response and the request by an officer for a local woman to check her street for a dead body – this admission that they failed to eliminate an identified threat comes as another blow to the PSNI at a time when they should be working hard to convince nationalists that they were right to sign up to the new policing structures.

It is to be hoped that lessons are being learned from each of these identified failures, and this community will be watching closely to ensure that this is indeed the case.

### Subscribe To Newsletter

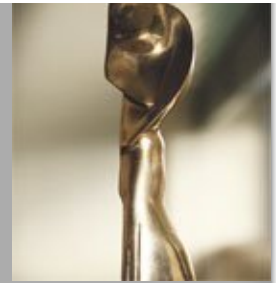
Send us your e-mail address and we'll keep you up to date with what's happening on BelfastMedia.com

### Aisling Awards

Vote now for the 2008  
Aisling Sports category



The shortlist for this year's Aisling Sports Award is out. Glengormley gold medalist, Michael McKillop; Pat McStravick and Sammy Dowds of Newhill Football Club; Olympic bronze medalist Paddy Barnes and St John's GAA club are this year's final four. [Click here](#) to vote for your favourite, or [here](#) to see the Aisling Awards website.



## Love and Marriage

### The Wedding Planner

Something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue... well, it may not be all that, but it is the premier guide to getting married this year. Click on the front page (right) to read more.

