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Claudy report delayed by new information



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The publication of a Police Ombudsman's report into the Claudy bomb in 1972 has been delayed after the discovery of significant new information, it has been claimed.

It is now thought the report into the bombing, in which nine people were killed, will now be published in the New Year. The probe into the controversial bombing was launched after the police found documents recording a conversation between William Whitelaw, the secretary of state at the time of the blast, and the then Catholic primate, Cardinal William Conway in which the two men discussed a priest alleged to have been involved in the attack.

Speculation that a county Derry priest, Fr James Chesney, was involved in the attack began with a letter, claiming to be from a Catholic priest. The letter, purportedly from an unidentified priest known only as 'Fr Liam' has never been authenticated.

A spokesperson for the office of the Police Ombudsman said the investigation into the new information would take some time. "We have been working on the report intensively, but recently significant new information has come forward which we need to assess and this will take some time. It won't be doable in the current Ombudsman's tenure, but we are committed to completing the investigation and making the findings of that investigation known to the public. We hope to complete the report in the New Year," the spokesperson said.

Last Updated: 05 November 2007 6:36 PM

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