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## Donaldson inquest adjourned for a year

By Seamus McKinney and Rebecca Black

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AN inquest into the murder of former senior Sinn Fein official Denis Donaldson has been adjourned for a year after gardai said they were pursuing a new line of inquiry.

Superintendent Eugene McGovern told the inquest in Letterkenny yesterday that they were probing a new line of inquiry, which was at an early stage and he requested an adjournment of one year.

A solicitor for the Donaldson family said they did not object to the adjournment but if the case had not moved on by that stage they would seek a date for completion.

Mr Donaldson (56) was shot dead at a house in west Donegal in April 2006 just months after he admitted he had been a paid British agent.

One of the party's highest ranking officials, Mr Donaldson had been Sinn Fein head of administration before his arrest in 2002 in connection with an alleged spy ring at Stormont.

In December 2005 he was

acquitted of the charges and was expelled from Sinn Fein the same month when he

admitted he had been in the pay of the British intelligence services for 20 years.


After leaving the party Mr Donaldson moved to a house near Glenties in Co Donegal and it was there that he was shot dead in April 2006.

No-one has ever been charged with his murder.

The inquest first opened in November 2007.

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