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Durkan rejects criticism of Saville Inquiry

(Seamus McKinney, [Irish News](#))

Criticism of the Saville Inquiry into Bloody Sunday by former senior civil servant Maurice Hayes has been rejected by SDLP leader Mark Durkan.

Dr Hayes, a senator in the Republic, said he believed the inquiry would not uncover the truth behind the Bloody Sunday killings.

The former Northern Ireland ombudsman said on Monday in Derry that the money spent on the inquiry would have been better spent on other projects for victims and survivors.

But rejecting his criticism Foyle MP Mr Durkan said it was inevitable that any inquiry designed to "dispose" of the 1972 Widgery Tribunal into Bloody Sunday would be more complex and expensive.

"Widgery was used by successive British administrations and by too many politicians in Northern Ireland to justify the actions of the British army on that day and to blacken the good name of innocent people in Derry," he said.

"Other victims were at least given the verbal promises of sympathy and solidarity and the promise of no stone being unturned in the pursuit of justice.

"The victims of Bloody Sunday never got that."

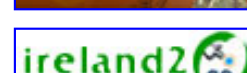
Mr Durkan said that had there not been a second inquiry, Widgery would still stand as the official truth of what happened.

"It is also important to remember that some of the biggest critics of the cost of Saville have been the very people who have supported the very same costly challenges to the inquiry which have both added to its cost and impeded its progress," he said.

June 7, 2007

This article appeared first in the June 6, 2007 edition of the [Irish News](#).

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