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Ex-prisoner presses SF on 'cooperation'

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

A former IRA prisoner has called on the leadership of the republican movement to state if information about the Troubles should be passed to the police Historic Enquiries Team (HET).

Derry man Brian McFadden (54) called on Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness and the leadership of the IRA to clarify the issue.

A son of veteran Derry republican Barney McFadden, Mr McFadden jnr and three of his brothers are former republican prisoners.

Barney McFadden, who died in December 2001, served as a Sinn Féin councillor on Derry City Council for 12 years.

Last year Mr McFadden jnr accused Sinn Féin leaders of moving away from their roots, claiming a growing number of former prisoners were unhappy with the direction being taken. In particular, he expressed fear that the party was preparing to join the Policing Board.

As Sinn Féin unveiled its three nominations to the board, Mr McFadden again raised the issue in an open question to Mr McGuinness.

"As an ex-IRA volunteer, I would like to ask Martin McGuinness – British MP, future second minister for the occupied six counties and ex-IRA volunteer – and P O'Neill IRA, are they asking all ex-IRA volunteers to give their full cooperation to the RUC/PSNI?

"Should we provide the historical crime unit with information about others and their own past activities that this unit would deem to have been illegal?"

Mr McFadden said if this was the case, Mr McGuinness and the IRA leadership should "lead the way" by cooperating with police and providing information about past activities.

"A prompt and public response would be appreciated to avoid confusion about what is expected of all ex-volunteers and ex-PoWs," he said.

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Asked about cooperating with the HET, a spokesman for Sinn Féin said only that the party's position on policing was "very, very clear" and had been highlighted on numerous occasions by leading party figures.

"Brian McFadden does not take his direction from Sinn Féin any more. Let him go to those who are giving him his advice. He does not support us or listen to us; why would he take direction from us?," he said.

A spokeswoman for the HET said it would welcome "any development which would help bring greater resolution to the families of those who died during the Troubles".

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