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Ombudsman 'needs access' to MI5

(William Scholes, [Irish News](#))

Calls are increasing for the Police Ombudsman to be given the power to investigate MI5 after the SDLP claimed that the intelligence agency had paid the loyalist killer Torrens Knight.

East Derry assembly member John Dallat said the ombudsman's office had already interviewed police officers in connection with the background to at least 17 murders in the area.

He said the murders being investigated included the Greysteel and Castlerock killings in Co Derry.

"I know that retired police officers at a senior level have been interviewed and have cooperated with the ombudsman's investigators," he said.

"I believe from my own knowledge that the killer Torrens Knight was an agent run by MI5 and not the RUC as claimed by others.

"Indeed, the PSNI took the unusual step last year of publishing a statement denying that he was paid by police.

"If this is true then he must have been paid by MI5.

"This is why it is essential that the ombudsman must have access to all MI5 files to find out the horrible truth that led up to the IRA ceasefire."

Knight was one of the UDA gunmen who murdered eight Protestants and Catholics in the Rising Sun bar in Greysteel on October 30 1993.

Mr Dallat said "someone needs to establish why Knight was spotted on several occasions in army barracks in Derry and Ballykelly".

"It is my belief that he was an MI5 agent and that needs to come out before final closure is possible," he said.

A special team has been set up to re-investigate murders that

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Nuala O'Loan said had been committed by UVF men who were police informers.

The Historical Enquiries Team of the PSNI has established the special team, which will re-examine the deaths of 10 people named in the ombudsman's report and other complex cases.

"We are reinvestigating the cases – the actual murder incidents," team chief Dave Commander said.

"Our aim is to try and uncover evidential opportunities to get those responsible for these murders before a court."

Any evidence of collusion involving police officers will be given to the Police Ombudsman, he said.

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