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PSNI asked for answers

By Claire Simpson

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THE SDLP has criticised the PSNI's handling of the Robert McCartney murder case, claiming it has some "hard questions to answer".

Mr McCartney, a 33-year-old father-of-two was beaten and stabbed to death outside a bar near Belfast city centre on January 30 2005.

Three men went on trial in connection with the killing, including Terence Davison (51), who was charged with murder.

However, last month Mr Justice Gillen acquitted all three accused saying the prosecution failed to meet standards needed for a criminal conviction.

Speaking after a meeting with police earlier this week, SDLP representative Margaret Walsh said she was concerned that few of the people in the pub at the time of the killing had been questioned.

“No-one in the leadership of the police has given an answer to a straightforward question,” she said.

“Given that 60 or 70 people were in Magennis’s Bar and that very few have cooperated with the police, why have the police not arrested any of those people for withholding information?

“If people who were in the bar have material information and have downright failed to cooperate, why have they not been

questioned?”


SDLP west Belfast assembly member Alex Attwood said the McCartney case left police with “some hard questions to answer”.

“I have raised these questions over the last three months with the chief constable, the head of crime ops and with the Belfast police chief and no-one has given me any explanation,” he said.

A police spokesman said no-one was available for comment last night.

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