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## RUC chief constable to appear at Rosemary Nelson inquiry

Sir Ronnie Flanagan: to be questioned for three days about the RUC's murder investigation

photograph: The Irish Times

Editor

Sir Ronnie Flanagan is to appear before the Rosemary Nelson inquiry in Belfast next week.

one of the murder of the Lurgan solicitor by loyalists, and later the newly formed Police Service of Northern

British police watchdog, is scheduled to answer questions for three days, beginning on Monday, about the RUC

murder has been hearing evidence for 97 days, with some anonymous witnesses giving testimony behind

same building as the Robert Hamill inquiry, which began taking evidence in public last week.

heard from a series of medical professionals that Hamill, a 25-year-old father of three, died from serious brain aneurysm in Portadown, Co Armagh, in April 1997.

with four RUC officers, in the vicinity at the time of the attack on Hamill, failed in any way to prevent it.

that another police officer acted to protect a suspect in the murder by advising on the destruction of evidence during progress in the investigation.

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...th's state pathologist this week that Hamill could have been fatally injured by relatively few severe blows to

...g which the fatal injuries were inflicted is key to the question of failure on the part of the RUC officers present

...for the inquiry: "The more blows the more likely there will be an axonal injury but even a relatively small

...of sufficient force, could have caused severe traumatic diffuse axonal injury," he said.

...s suffering from this type of injury normally had many more external injuries than Hamill had.

...to have relatively few external injuries and severe internal ones.

...g a number of police officers, put it to Prof Crane that there was no evidence Hamill had sustained any more

...head. "Yes, I think that's right," he replied.

...in injury could have been inflicted in a period of seconds.

...d.

...ron later told the inquiry that medical opinion was divided on the question of how much force was required to

...that killed Hamill.

...let you know this is controversial, and not everyone accepts these theories," he said.

...ome of the dead man's family revisited the scene of the murder in Portadown on Thursday evening. A police

...one had been stationed on the night of the killing, in order to give a view similar to that which police would

...illing.

...esday.



...s in the print edition of the Irish Times

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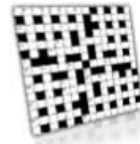
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