# DURKAN – NEED FOR BLOODY SUNDAY INQUIRY CLEAR

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Responding to comments made by Maurice Hayes regarding the Saville Inquiry into Bloody Sunday SDLP Leader Mark Durkan MP MLA stated:

"The truth of the matter is that the original Widgery Inquiry into Bloody Sunday was nothing more than lies on stilts. It is inevitable that any Inquiry to dispose of it would be more complex and costly than anyone would have wanted, especially the families.

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. 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. Indeed had there not been a second inquiry some people would still be quoting Widgery as the truth of what happened on that day.

The fact that a second Inquiry into the events of Bloody Sunday was required was because the first was such a whitewash. 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. People need to reflect on that fact before attacking the need for and the motives behind the Saville Inquiry.

It is also clear that in a wider sense the needs of victims and survivors of all the troubles need to be addressed in full. That was one of the central promises of the Good Friday Agreement. That is one of the biggest challenges that fall to the new devolved institutions, and one that we must all work together to deliver on."

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