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KELLY: FUND HET AND OMBUDSMAN PROPERLY

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SDLP Policing Board member Dolores Kelly said the British Government should fund the Historical Enquiries Team and the Police Ombudsman's office properly and transparently as it pledged to victims that it would do.

She said: “It is alarming to see that the HET is not getting the funding it needs in the way it needs it. HET inquiries should not be met out of the general policing budget and the Chief Constable should not have to choose between combating crime and investigating the past.

“HET should have got the £34 million it needed up front. The British government promised victims truth and justice and offered the HET as an alternative to public inquiries. It has now crippled the public inquiry system in the name of political expediency, and it cannot be allowed to strangle the HET on the same grounds.

“It is time for openness and honesty. The HET is traveling to England to interview members of the Stevens Inquiry team, yet it is my understanding that they have never been given the full Stevens report. They should get it now and they should get the money they need so that we can move forward on the basis of truth and justice about the past.”

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- » [Events](#)
-
- » [Key Speeches](#)
-
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