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Sinn Féin to attend Policing and Collusion Conferences

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Tomorrow a Sinn Féin delegation including Policing spokesperson Gerry Kelly and Raymond McCartney will attend the conference on Policing in the Waterfront Hall organised by the Policing Board. The delegation will also attend the Hilton Hotel conference on collusion which has been timed to coincide with this.

Speaking today in advance of the meetings Gerry Kelly said:

"Tomorrow we will attend the conference entitled 'Policing the future' in the Waterfront Hall. Sinn Féin's focus in this as in all of our engagements in any policing structures or events is to ensure that we have a policing service which carries out its duties and responsibilities in a fair and impartial way and which is democratically accountable to the public.

"Policing with the community needs to be the core function of any civic policing service and especially in relation to protecting the most vulnerable sections of society. It must be free from partisan political control.

"The importance of this is best illustrated by the event taking place in the Hilton beforehand. The conference is being organised by groups working with those families bereaved through collusion and will bring together families, campaigners and the media. Our job is to ensure that the type of policing of which collusion was an integral part never happens again or of it does that it is promptly exposed and expediently dealt with. Tomorrows engagements are part of delivering that agenda." ENDS

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