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Anger at Hugh Orde's attempt to derail shoot-to-kill inquests

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Sinn Féin Upper Bann MLA John O'Dowd has said that the families of a number of men killed in shoot-to-kill incidents in the 1980's and 1990's are angry at the attempts by the PSNI Chief Constable Hugh Orde to derail the inquest.

The preliminary inquests into RUC killing of Pearse Jordan in November 1992, and the shoot-to-kill incidents of November and December 1982 that claimed the lives of Sean Burns, Gervaise McKerr and Eugene Toman, and Roddy Carroll, Seamus Grew, and Michael Tighe have now been postponed until at least December while legal arguments are considered.

Mr O'Dowd said:

"Hugh Orde has today attempted to derail the search for truth behind these controversial deaths. Not only is he challenging the right of the inquest to go ahead and the coroner but he is also trying to block disclosure of the Stalker and Sampson Investigations into these shoot-to-kill incidents.

"There is a total contradiction in Hugh Orde's complaint about the cost of inquiries and investigations into the past and his eagerness to use expensive and time consuming legal tactics to cover-up the truth about these killings. He should know that the truth and full disclosure would cost nothing.

"These people deserve due process. Yet Hugh Orde has failed to demonstrate the commitment to accountability that is required.

"I know that the families of these men are very angry about the Chief Constables intervention today. Sinn Féin will continue to support them in their demand for truth." ENDS

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