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Mark Durkan MP MLA

24th January 2007

DURKAN CHALLENGES BLAIR DURING QUESTION TIME OVER COLLUSION REPORT

SDLP Leader Mark Durkan MP MLA challenged the British Prime Minister Tony Blair at Prime Ministers Questions today over the Police Ombudsman's report into collusion between loyalist paramilitaries and state forces in North Belfast. The full text of Mr Durkan's question is as follows:

"The Police Ombudsman's report shows that a serial killer was protected by Special Branch and paid by the state for years. Anywhere else that would be a national scandal. Does the Prime Minister accept that collusion was a fact not a fiction? Is it not a disgrace that three former heads of Special Branch failed to cooperate with the Police Ombudsman's investigation, Chris Albiston, Ray White, and Freddy Hall, but two of them now attack her report and her office? Can Ronnie Flanagan, who presided over a culture of 'anything goes but nobody knows', be credible as the Chief Inspector of Constabularies, and will the Prime Minister now rethink plans to install MI5 as continuity Special Branch in the north beyond the reach of key powers of the Police Ombudsman. "

ENDS

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