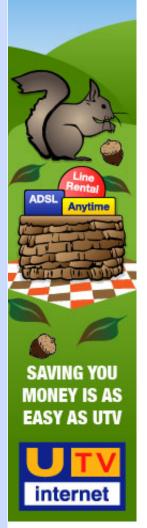


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Troubles enquiry team

Wednesday 19 November 2008 07:41

Historical Enquiries Team secure funding

The government has announced the specialist police team investigating unsolved murders committed during Northern Ireland`s violent past will have enough money to keep going.

Last Friday it was revealed that the 180-strong squad of detectives in the Historical Enquiries Team faced a £1.5m funding shortfall until its new budget came into effect next April.

It said its work would have to be scaled back significantly after a promise of extra funding was withdrawn - and warned some of the team would have to be dispersed.

The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) said at the time that extra funds for the team had to be judged "against the overall challenging financial position".

But an NIO spokesman said on Tuesday night the team would have the necessary funds to complete this year's work.

A spokesman said: "The position always was that there was no question of money being cut. We have always said we will try to find a way to resolve this situation.

The Historical Enquiries Team are now assured that there will be adequate resources to enable them to complete their programme of work this year."

The team was set up three years ago and given a budget of £34m over six years to examine more than 3,200 unsolved murders.

The material for this story has been provided by PA

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