PM challenged over Troubles' report - Local News - UTV Northern Ireland

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## LOCAL NEWS



Gordon Brown

Wednesday 28 January 2009 14:30

## PM challenged over Eames-Bradley report

Gordon Brown said no justification will ever be given for terrorism as he was challenged over proposals for a £12,000 payout to all victims of the Troubles.



• Prime Minister`s Questions: Challenged by DUP MP Nigel Dodds, Gordon Brown acknowledged that the proposal to include the families of dead paramilitaries in the payout was controversial.

The issues raised in the report were "very serious indeed" and he continued: "I understand why one of the recommendations has evoked such controversy in Northern Ireland."

The government will consider the report, by Lord Eames and Dennis Bradley, "with great care", he added.

Meanwhile, Northern Ireland Secretary Shaun Woodward said:

"The report by the Consultative Group on the Past puts complex issues firmly into the public arena and encourages all of us to seek ways to find a consensus on how to deal with the past.

"While we must never forget the past, we all want to find a way to help the people of Northern Ireland continue to build a better future for everyone."

Sir Hugh Orde said he would welcome a move to transfer work on historical murder cases away from his force to a new Review and Investigation Unit - as long as it provided the same service.

"My current pressures - bearing in mind my budget, bearing in mind the current dissident republican threat which is extremely high - that's what I have to focus on," he said.

"If someone can take the pressure off me and deliver an equal service, then I am all in support of it."

The question of payments was "very much a matter for the commission", he said, but he backed the right of officers to express concerns.

"I fully understand that some of my officers are deeply concerned and have a right to express that concern and I think the Commission would support that right," he said.

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