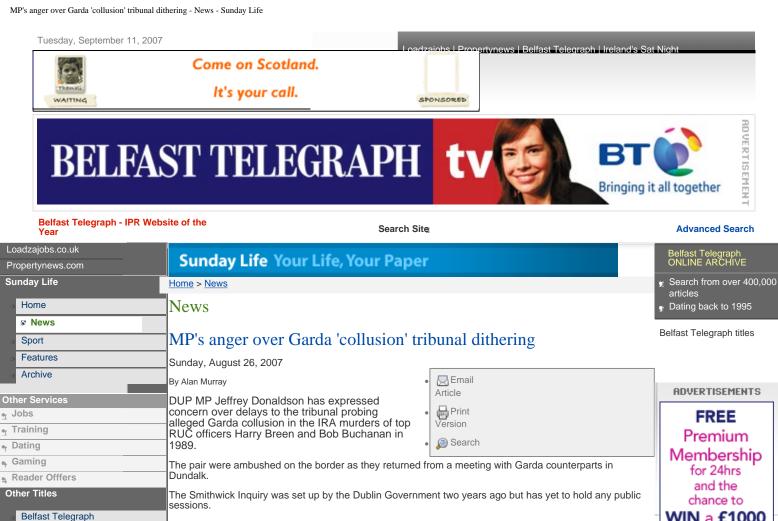
Ireland's Saturday Night



Mr Donaldson said it was essential the way was cleared for former Army agent 'Kevin Fulton' - who

penetrated the Provos in Newry - to give a full account to the tribunal. The Lagan Valley MP said: "I am very concerned about the delay which appears to have arisen because of

concerns on the part of Kevin Fulton that he may be compromised if he makes full disclosure of what he knows and the circumstances in which he came to know that detail as an Army agent. "Kevin Fulton's evidence is crucial to the success of the inquiry in obtaining first-hand accounts of potential

collusion between a member or members of the Garda and the IRA in the murder of these two officers. 'It is essential that British Government agencies clear the way for Fulton to give a full account to the inquiry otherwise many will question the sincerity of the Government's commitment to get at the truth in this

mportant case. Meanwhile, the tribunal has disowned reports that the inquiry was being delayed because of Fulton's refusal to give evidence. Stories emanating from Dublin suggested Fulton's attitude was the main reason the tribunal had failed to hold any evidence sessions to date.

The tribunal still hasn't replied to correspondence from Fulton seeking clarification on legal immunity provisions in the Republic for him.

Fulton has been warned that any evidence he gives in Dublin relating to IRA activity he had knowledge of in Northern Ireland could be used as evidence to prosecute him in British courts.

He has so far refused to agree to testify on his knowledge of the IRA's links to Garda in the Dundalk area until he receives assurances that he will not face prosecution in either the Republic or Northern Ireland.

The tribunal refused to comment on reports blaming Kevin Fulton for the delay, but it's reliably understood that an official working for the tribunal contacted Fulton's solicitor and denied it was pointing the finger of blame at Fulton.

A lawyer acting for Army agent Freddie Scappaticci has already asked the tribunal for paid legal services, while a senior Sinn Fein man alleged to be one of the gunmen in the Breen/Buchanan attack is also understood to have made contact seeking similar facilities.

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