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RESPONSE TO POLICE OMBUDSMAN'S FINDINGS INTO CASTLEROCK AND GREYSTEEL ATROSITIES

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The report does put on record my efforts as a public representative to bring to justice the UFF killer gang before they carried out the second shooting at Greysteel.

'Obviously I would want to put on record that my contact with all three officers was a lot more frequent and detailed than their memories serve them. Also missing is any detail of what steps were taken to catch the killers earlier although I do accept that their 'den' was searched on many occasions but to suggest that it was because it was a 'drinking den' is far off the mark.'

'The police do accept that they interviewed a lorry driver who was seen near Castlerock on the day previous to the first shooting. This is the same person who named to me the driver of the van who was Torrens Knight. I accept that at the time of the police interview the driver did not name Knight. However my information was passed to the police in May 1993, five months before Greysteel.'

'Although the police may not have had the evidence to arrest the killers after Castlerock they certainly had their suspicions and this was understood in any conversations I had with any of the three officers.'

'The officers do accept that they set up checkpoints on both bridges into Coleraine in the period between the two killings and I welcomed this. It is now a matter of history that plans were changed from carrying out a second atrocity in North Antrim and the killer gang switched to Greysteel after the massacre at the chip shop on the Shankill Road.'

'In relation to Torrens Knight being an agent run by the police, it has always been my information that he was handled by the army and I don't differ on this point.'

'Relatives of the deceased did want to know if anything could have been done to prevent their killings. From my point of view I regret that the police did not have greater success and given the lack of documents available to the Police Ombudsman there is no indication of what they did to avert it. I regret that.'

ENDS

17.10.07

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