



WEDNESDAY
 17/10/2007
 18:04:40

Watchdog defends decision to readvertise post

Scrutiny Committee

The public appointments watchdog has defended the decision to readvertise the post of Victims' Commissioner.

Commissioner.

Commissioner for Public Appointments Felicity Huston told the First and Deputy First Ministers' Stormont scrutiny committee that the practice happened frequently across government and refused to criticise the ministers.

Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness announced last week that they would conduct another trawl for candidates but hoped to fill the position fairly quickly.

Ms Huston said: "At any one time you can have two to three competitions which have been reopened."

The decision attracted stinging criticism from former Alliance MLA Seamus Close, 60, who had been shortlisted but said he would not be reapplying.

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