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Local & National

O'Loan hails her successor 'man of integrity' as she steps down

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Tuesday, November 06, 2007

By Deric Henderson

A former Canadian Mountie who oversaw the new policing arrangements in Northern Ireland today replaces Nuala O'Loan as police Ombudsman.

He is a former assistant commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr Hutchinson said he was in an ideal position to deal with the issues he will face in his new role.

He added: "By providing a system which is independent, impartial and effective, both the public and the police alike can have confidence that complaints will be dealt with properly and where lessons can be learned and things improved, this will happen.

"In doing this, I hope we can contribute to helping ensure every resident in Northern Ireland receives their entitlement to the best possible policing service."

The Ombudsman's office receives an estimated 3,000 complaints a year.

Mrs O'Loan said: "He is a man with a strong reputation for integrity. I have no doubt that he and the staff I leave behind will not shirk from the challenge of continuing to provide a police complaints system which is independent, impartial, evidence-based and accountable."

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