

Yet another terrorist godfather has exited the stage for the last time, taking his many terrible secrets to the grave. Gerry Adams gave the graveside oration lauding Kevin McKenna as a *"decent man doing his best in very difficult times."* Was doing his best in difficult times the act of killing people, torturing people, disappearing people, hoping that a female victim was pregnant as in his words, *"we get two for the price of one."*

Kevin McKenna was a leading member of PIRA for many years. He was originally from Brantry, Co. Tyrone, but later lived in Smithborough, Co. Monaghan. In 1970 he was attached to the South Fermanagh PIRA and later took over the leadership of the IRA in the Fermanagh/Monaghan areas.

After spending a short spell in Portlaoise prison, he moved to the US and also spent a year in prison there before moving to Canada. He moved back to Monaghan in the mid 70s and was tasked to form a new ASU in the Eglish and Aughnacloy areas.

Following the arrest of PIRA's 'Chief of Staff' Ivor Bell in 1983, McKenna assumed that role and held the position until 1997, the longest to hold the leadership. It was known that throughout his tenure there was a clash of personalities between him and Martin McGuinness, who had sought to regain the leadership. It is estimated that during McKenna's term, 1,200 people lost their lives. These are the actions of someone who Adams would call a decent man.

If we want to discuss decency, may I suggest that Pam Morrison (nee Graham) was a decent woman doing her best in difficult times. She displayed her dignity and courage recently when speaking for the first time about the murders of her three brothers, and losing her sister who was knocked down at a check-point and later died, all of whom were upholding law and order. In extremely difficult times, she did not ever consider revenge for the deaths of four of her family. She never thought that it was appropriate to take someone else's life in revenge for what happened to her own family. When is this society going to stand up and say as one, it was always wrong to take someone's life in pursuance of a cause or perceived injustice. Mr Adams stated, *"There was no peaceful way to end the Union and to build a new united Ireland,"* Mr Adams and the Provisional movement have now made it clear that 30 years of terror was never about social injustice, that was always a 'smoke screen' in an attempt to gain world wide sympathy for their so-called cause.



**Pam Morrison points out the commemorative patches on a SEFF memorial quilt in respect of her three brothers and sister**

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**AfIV Office (C/O SEFF),  
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**Dear Member,**

The Victims Commissioner has recently released a document recommending a pension for those *"who are severely and permanently physically or psychologically injured as a consequence of a conflict-related incident should qualify."* This is in line with the definition of a victim, and it will reward those who injured themselves or were injured in a terrorist act, or are now suffering mentally due to their actions in the past. The terrorist who cause irreparable injury to Grant Weir, to Mervyn Lewers, to Billy O'Flaherty, and the many, many others, will now avail of this pension if the Commissioner has her way. This is ethically and morally wrong, and is yet another way to undermine the very fabric of our society.

Mrs Thompson in her press statement continually gives reference to a small number of badly injured victims—they are fully deserving of this pension. But she needs to engage with the many, many other victims who disagree with this pension being available to terrorists. Conversely she said she has never met the Weir family, I know this to be inherently untrue.

The reference continually is that there are only a small number of terrorists who have applied for the pension. We have absolutely no doubt these are test cases and their success would open the floodgates. As advocates, we will continue to challenge the abhorrence of this plan, and also confront the attempt to implement it.

Wendy Stewart has recently left the employment of SEFF and we thank her for her efforts on behalf of this organisation and those who she represented. We wish her well in her future employment.

The AfIV team will continue to support you in your quest for truth, justice and acknowledgement.

**Yours Faithfully**

**Ken Funston**

**Advocacy Support Manager**

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### Time for Truth Campaign



**Robert McClenaghan, convicted bomber, member of the Victims' Forum, committee member of Papertrail and leading activist for the Time for Truth Campaign**

Robert McClenaghan—convicted PIRA bomber—continues to appear in the press and media demanding the truth in relation to what happened in the past. We are aware he was convicted for the possession of explosives and was involved in bomb attacks in Belfast in the years 1974-76. He still attempts to justify his actions by saying, *"I believe the Orange state was never going to give up its power and privilege and the whole sectarianism they perpetrated for 50 years before they were brought down in 1972. So you had to destroy the Orange state in my opinion."*

In the years 1974-76 thirty three people died as a result of PIRA bombs in Belfast. These bombings include the attacks on the Mountainview Tavern and the Bayardo Bar on the Shankill Road in 1975, that took the lives of ten innocent people. On January 26th 1975, a young Army cadet, Edward Wilson aged 16, was killed by a booby-trap device when he was opening up the cadet hut on the Cavehill Road. There were other incidents that killed members of the Security Forces, Protestants and Catholics in no-warning devices laid by PIRA. Ten members of PIRA were killed by their own devices whilst they were assembling them or transporting them to their destination in those years. Many, many other bombs destroyed property, injured people and disrupted the lives of the community.

In the documentary *'When the War Ends'* made by a Dutch film crew, McClenaghan admits to learning how to use firearms and explosives. He said, *'we were taught how to use real weapons that can and did kill people. We placed bombs in Belfast city centre. Some of the bombs would be small and some would be very big. That just became part of your job, part of your day after a while.'* He admitted that for the incident he was arrested, they were in possession of firearms and an explosive device. His palm print was found on the getaway car and subsequently he was sentenced to 20 years, serving 12. Yet his statement reveals that he was regularly involved in these bomb attacks.

How many of these incidents was Robert McClenaghan involved in when he was an active bomber. The 'Time for Truth' is the truth according to 'Papertrail' and other associated groups, time for their version of the truth; not the whole story. Maybe Mr McClenaghan it is time for the whole truth, tell us all what you were involved in during those years you were in the PIRA.

### Nolan show interviews PSNI ACC Alan Todd

Vinny, filling in for Stephen Nolan recently interviewed PSNI ACC Alan Todd in relation to the Avoniel bonfire.

He asked—Have the PSNI been meeting with the UVF in recent weeks?  
ACC Alan Todd—We have been engaging with a wide spectrum of bodies across a wide range of sites but we don't engage with crime gangs and we don't engage with paramilitary bodies. We don't meet with the UVF or convicted representatives or anybody who is convicted of membership of it.

The picture below might tell us something different



**Ex-Chief Constable George Hamilton sharing a platform with Republican Sean 'Spike' Murray and Loyalist Winston 'Winkie' Irvine.**

### Litigation Culture fed by Intolerance and Greed

Lord Maginnis recently exposed the scandal of a senior British civil servant, Lee Hegarty, who received £10,000 'compensation' for what he "claimed that under human rights legislation it was unfair to him to have to work where he was offended by portraits." The portrait he was offended by was that of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. He had suggested and it was agreed to, that it should be replaced by a picture of the Queen meeting Martin McGuinness.

What is even more disturbing is that there was no record of this 'compensation' payment to Mr Hegarty. How many others have received similar payments of this type? Yet the absolute nonsense of this payment needs to be put in context. Can someone else now claim that they are offended by the picture of Mr McGuinness - a convicted Provisional IRA terrorist, and equally make a claim? I can only presume that Mr Hegarty is not offended by the salary he received from Her Majesty's Government last year - the Parades Commission website indicates Mr Hegarty's pay for 2017-18 was £65,000 to £70,000.

At a time when pay-outs of this nature are made, the NIO continue to prevaricate over payments to the victims of historical sexual abuse, payments that are not dissimilar to the level which Lee Hegarty received for being 'offended' by a picture. As an advocate for victims and survivors of terrorism, I know of many families who received paltry sums following the violent murder of their loved one(s) I know one lady whose both parents were murdered, and she received the princely sum of nothing - the Government deemed they were worthless. This Country really has lost its' moral compass.