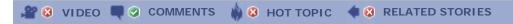




FRIDAY 01/12/2006 17:25:03

Court call over McDougall

The High Court in Belfast has been told that the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, Peter Hain, should sack the interim Victims Commissioner Bertha McDougall.



The call was made by a lawyer during a hearing at the court in Belfast this morning.

Mr Justice Girvan has already strongly criticised Mr Hain and Northern Ireland Office officials over the appointment of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) widow.

The judge has now asked Mr Hain to file an affidavit by Monday stating whether or not Mrs McDougall`s one-year contract, which is due to end next week, has been extended until January.

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