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## Local & National

### Victims commissioners face first challenge

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Friday, February 01, 2008

By Noel McAdam

Less than a week after their appointment, the four Victims Commissioners are facing a legal challenge - from victims of IRA violence.

Michelle Williamson, whose parents were killed in the Shankill 'fish shop' bombing, is expected to head the legal action being initiated in the High Court.

She was not immediately available for comment today but Willie Frazer, of the unionist victims group Families Acting for Innocent Relatives, said today: "We have instructed a legal team. We are aiming for next week."

He said a number of victims groups across the province were supporting the move which arises from the controversial description of one of the new commissioner's brother as an IRA "volunteer" killed "on active service".

Mr Frazer said the use of the terms had thrown the entire credibility of the Commissioners, and whether they could represent the majority unionist community, into question.

A statement released by the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister on behalf of the commissioners own self-penned biographies described Patricia MacBrides' brother as an "IRA volunteer killed on active service".

The Commission said it would be disappointed if a legal challenge delays victims and survivors receiving the support which the newly appointed commissioners designate believe they can offer.

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