Viewpoint: Police must be free to fight crime - Opinion - News - Belfast Telegraph Thursday, January 10, 2008 Weather: BELFAST TELEGRAPH ADVERTISEMENT Belfast Telegraph - IPR Website of the Search Site **Advanced Search** Loadzajobs.co.uk Home > News > Opinion Don't Miss . . . Propertynews.com Opinion Belfast Telegraph TV Double whammy **Family Notices** albums become Ads For Free a thing of the -Most past? Belfast Telegraph Article Emailed Print +Most Home Stormont heroes Version Read Meet the people behind a political Search Local & National miracle Viewpoint: Police must World news 10,000 ANVERTISEMENT be free to fight crime **Politics** Quotes of 2007 Thursday, January 10, 2008 Environment From Printed errors to radio and TV bloomers If there was ever any doubt that the PSNI is under strain because of investigations into the distant Education past, the Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde has removed it. In his evidence to a Stormont committee, he warned that a " tipping point" could be reached when he had to concentrate Letters Opinion resources on tackling contemporary crime. The Great Pretenders Technology His description of how much effort is being devoted to crimes dating back many years was frightening, to anyone concerned about the low clear-up rates for current offences. More and more police officers are Gary Grattan with Queen **Breaking News** being taken away from day-to-day problems, he said, to service public inquiries and, now, 44 - 46 additional tribute band inquests, as a result of a Strasbourg ruling. Northwest Edition Flash Harry **Business** When a Chief Constable feels it necessary to tell politicians and public that his "real experts" in criminal investigation and intelligence are now spending 99% of their time servicing inquiries going back five to 20 years, everyone must sit up and take notice. What do we want from our police service if a tipping point is Mark Steel Business Telegraph All my son reached - more resources devoted to digging up the past or preventing the spread of crime today? Sport wantéd was a bacon sandwich Health Sir Hugh has spelled out his dilemma, in charge of a slimmed-down force, but it is up to the politicians to listen, learn and start to address the problems he has outlined. When and if policing and justice powers are **Features** transferred to the Assembly, MLAs will have a say in allocating resources, and they now know there is a heavy price to be paid, by the police, for re-examining terrorist incidents. Columnists Entertainment Under direct rule, it has been easy for politicians to sit back and demand that inquiries should be held into every controversial killing, or allegation of collusion, but it is time for a strong dose of realism to be applied. The wishes of the victims of terrorism deserve every consideration, but many of them would accept that **ADVERTISEMENTS** Homefinder these have to be weighed against the police time and expertise used in investigations that may not deliver Weather Archive Now that the public meetings of the Eames-Bradley Group are focusing attention on ways of dealing with Calendar 2008 the past, preparatory to recommendations being made this summer, every possible avenue must be explored. There is no avoiding pain, for one category of victims or another, but new means of exorcising the past - not more inquiries - must be found. Telegraph Travel **Shopping Directory** Bringing this vital project to a successful conclusion may take years to achieve, but it could benefit most from active leadership by the First and Deputy First Ministers. They have proved they can work together on Inside Belfast routine issues, and now they should be tackling the really difficult ones, like dealing with the past - and o Jobs letting the police get on with solving everyday crime. Training n Dating 4 Casino

**ADVERTISEMENTS** 

8 Bingo

Services

RSS

Other Titles

Media Kit

• Reader Offers

o Diners' Club

More articles in Opinion

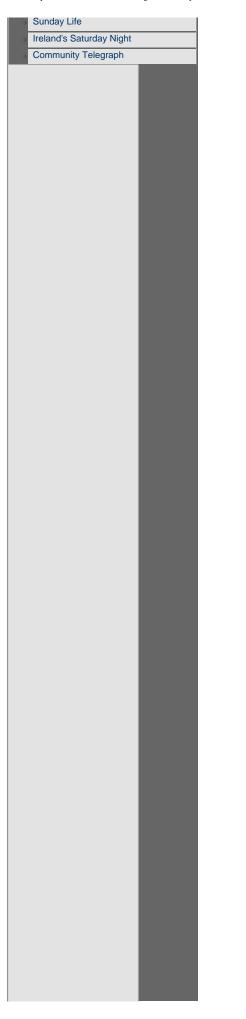
Viewpoint: See our TV stars shine

Why Hillary wants to wear the trousers

Claudia Winkleman: 'Angel' Britney's life descends into hell ... Help!

Residents fear a foul odour from poultry litter proposal

Why we've got the pill to thank for our showbands



### Best of 2007 . . .

# Records



Music stars reveal their pick of this year's tunes

# Gigs



The pick of this year's finest concerts and concerts and performances



Our experts reveal their pick of the year's movies

#### Books



Authors reveal their pick of this year's finest writing

2007 In Pictures Jan & Feb March April May June July August September October November December

# Video

# A taste of tinseltown



Mischa the belle of Belfast city for movie premiere

# What's the big Ikea?



The iconic Swedish superstore opens

#### BT Woman of the Year



Applauding Ulster's most exceptional

# Omagh blaze tragedy



Special report on Northern Ireland's worst house fire

### Belfast Telegraph **Property Awards**



Celebrating excellence at the inaugural awards gala

### Best view in town



Special multimedia report on Belfast Wheel





# Ulster's boy wonder



### In Pictures . . .

News
Ulster Fry event
The Twelfth
Bull Run
Award-winners
Flooded Ulster
Sunny Northern Ireland
Devolution Day
Assembly Elections
Maze tumbles
Blair quits
Last watchtower
Carrick-a-rede

**Events** Derry Xmas Boss is back Xmas: what a turn on Property Awards 50 Cent Enrique Iglesias Halloween Fantasy Fest Rolling Stones Oxegen 07 Beach Party 07 Balmoral Show Razorlight St Patrick's Day Mardis Gras Justin Timberlake Brit Awards 07

Sport
Spain 1 Norn Iron 0
Win over Denmark
Windsor win
Golf: Rory McIlroy
British Open
Copa America Final
N Ireland v Sweden
Six Nations
World in Sport

• © Independent News & Media (NI) Sitemap| Contact Us| Terms & Conditions | Privacy Policy | Group Websites