Victims' post: so why are we still waiting? - Local & National - News - Belfast Telegraph Hi: 6°C / Lw: 1°C Monday, December 10, 2007 Weather: BELFAST TELEGRAPH AD VERTISEMENT Belfast Telegraph - IPR Website of the Search Site Advanced Search Loadzajobs.co.uk Home > News > Local & National Don't miss . . . Propertynews.com Local & National Belfast Telegraph TV In Pictures: United in the States **Family Notices** Victims' post: so why are we still waiting? Paisley and Ads For Free McGuinness Belfast Telegraph **Email** • F+Most Home Emailed Article It's a gift News Print =+Most The 80 best buys Local & National for Xmas chosen Version Read by experts World news Search Ulster First Ministers holding back Politics data three months on Anvertisement Noble art Environment Monday, December 10, 2007 of boxing Education Examining our By Chris Thornton Letters fascination with the pugilistic First Ministers Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness are taking three months to answer eight Opinion questions about the delayed appointment of a Victims' Commissioner. Technology The Ministers' office has already missed three deadlines for responding to a Belfast Telegraph Freedom of Video: Crown bar Breaking News Information request about the year-long job hunt. is finally restored Northwest Edition Gary Grattan visits the high-They have indicated they may ultimately withhold the information, but need more time to consider whether it should be released because there are " still several factors which are under consideration". **Business** Victorian saloon **Business Telegraph** The Telegraph asked OFMDFM to spell out those factors last week, but by yesterday afternoon they had Sport New Year's Eve: Health Assembly member Dolores Kelly described the delay as "appalling" and said it raised implications for future appointments by the First Ministers. Rock Around the Clock David Holmes The £65,000-a-year Victims Commissioner's job has long been shrouded in controversy. and Ocean Columnists Colour Scene The woman who held the interim version of the job, Bertha McDougall, was picked by Mr Paisley and given Entertainment play free gig the job by direct rule ministers as a political favour to the DUP. Homefinder After her appointment was declared illegal by the High Court, the then Secretary of State Peter Hain In Pictures and Video: Weather advertised for a permanent replacement at the start of 2007. BT Woman of the Year Archive Applauding A shortlist from that round of applications was handed to Mr Paisley and Mr McGuinness shortly after they Ulster's most Calendar 2008 exceptional Telegraph Travel women But they made no move on the appointment for the next five months and denied disagreeing about a suitable candidate. **Shopping Directory**

Then they suddenly announced in October that there would be a new round of applications.

process. They were received by the First Ministers' office on September 26.

take longer and an answer would be provided by November 27.

But they are still considering whether the questions can be answered.

months after the questions were submitted.

conduct of public affairs"

They said candidates who had already been shortlisted would still be considered for the post, but one - former Alliance Assemblyman Seamus Close - withdrew in protest at the move.

The Telegraph submitted the eight Freedom of Information questions before the announcement of the new

They should have answered the questions by October 24, but by that date they declared that they were

performing a "public interest test" to determine if it would be in the public interest to answer the questions.

That brought the deadline back to November 13. Then they wrote to the Telegraph saying the test would

Officials in OFMDFM say the information could be legally withheld because it could prejudice the "effective

Last week they revised the date again, saying an answer would be provided on December 18, three

Mrs Kelly said: "It's appalling that questions clearly in the public interest take so long to answer.

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Sunday Life		
Ireland's Saturday Night	"They're not complicated. It's not like a lot of research is needed. They should have been able to answer them within the statutory time limit.	
Community Telegraph	"It does nothing to inspire confidence in this administration we're forced to endure.	
	"The media are quite right to ask questions. We have also tabled questions in the Assembly.	
	"Like the Belfast Telelgraph, the SDLP will continue to ask questions about these matters."	
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Catherine Townsend: Sleeping Around



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Cooper Brown: He's out there



I'm on heat thinking about Catherine Townsend

Video

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Paisley interview



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

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Copa America Final
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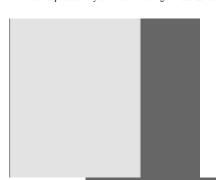


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