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## Haddock case is referred to original judge

By Barry McCaffrey

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THE Court of Appeal has refused to rule on an application by Special Branch informer Mark Haddock to prevent The Irish News barristers from being allowed to question him about his career as a UVF killer during a forthcoming court case.

Haddock, who was last year revealed to have been involved in up to 16 murders while working as a Special Branch agent for a 13-year period, had applied to the Court of Appeal to prevent lawyers acting for the paper from questioning him about his role as a UVF killer during a court hearing next month.

In October Haddock failed in a bid to prevent The Irish News and other media outlets from photographing him when he is released from prison in January.

That court also ruled that legal representatives for The Irish News should be allowed to cross-examine Haddock about his previous paramilitary career and his extensive involvement in crime, which involved drug dealing, extortion and intimidation.

Yesterday, Haddock's barrister, Frank O'Donoghue QC, argued that his client, who is serving a 10-year jail term for grievous bodily harm, should not be questioned about alleged criminal activities for which he had never been convicted.


Mr O'Donoghue argued that Haddock should not be questioned over his activities as a Special Branch informer during the time when it is claimed that he carried out the alleged crimes.

He also objected to his client being questioned about whether he knew the identity of the gunmen who shot him six times outside an Orange hall in Newtownabbey in May 2006 during a meeting with the UVF to discuss a deal to guarantee his silence in exchange for not being killed by former colleagues.

However, Court of Appeal judge Lord Justice Higgins said it was a matter for the original trial judge Mr Justice Deeney, adding that the matter should be decided as a preliminary issue when the injunction application goes before the High Court again in mid-January.

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