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KELLY COMMENTS ON OMAGH INVESTIGATION REPORT

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Commenting on the publication by the Policing Board of an independent review report on the Omagh bomb investigation SDLP Board member Dolores Kelly MLA stated:

“The findings of this independent report make clear that there remains a crucial need for people with information about the Omagh atrocity to bring it to the PSNI as soon as possible. Without new evidence the PSNI will be unable to bring forward and secure any new prosecutions. That does not serve the needs of justice or the demands of the people of Omagh for truth.

The Policing Board will closely scrutinise the findings and recommendations of this report. We have agreed to undertake a number of actions starting with meeting the Chief Constable to discuss and review the report. The function of the Policing Board is to hold the police to account. We must ensure that public confidence in the police service remains and that policing in the North maintains the highest international standards.

Other areas of the criminal justice system also have recommendations to implement and lessons to learn as a result of this report. The Public Prosecution Service in particular must learn lessons from their actions around the suspension of officers. The Board and the Ombudsman have now put in place agreed measures to ensure that situations like this do not arise in the future.

We cannot allow a situation to develop again where people guilty of the most appalling crimes can be allowed to slip through the net. I would again call for anyone who may have information which may help the police in their inquiries into the Omagh bomb to get in contact with the PSNI as soon as possible.”

ENDS

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