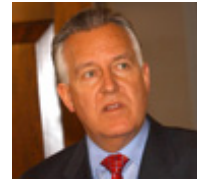


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## MEDIA CENTRE

Monday 15 January 2007

**Refusal to quash Interim Victims Commissioner appointment welcomed by Hain**

Secretary of State Peter Hain MP has welcomed the decision by the High Court to refuse an application to quash the appointment of Interim Victims Commissioner Bertha McDougall and has confirmed that he will appeal the earlier court ruling that her appointment was unlawful.

Peter Hain said: "Today's court ruling recognises the important work which Bertha McDougall is doing on behalf of all victims. She is due to present her report to me soon and I welcome the fact that she can complete her work."

"I appointed Mrs McDougall as Interim Victims Commissioner for one year to produce a report so that when a permanent Victims Commissioner is in place, the preparatory work for that office will already have been done."

"Today's ruling recognises the importance of the work being undertaken by Mrs McDougall and I make no apology of getting this process started because for too long the needs of victims have not been comprehensively addressed."

"Whilst I welcome the Court's refusal to quash Mrs McDougall's appointment, I am disappointed by the finding that the appointment was unlawful and I will be appealing that in the strongest possible terms."

## News Releases

Monday 15 January 2007

**New fraud offences become law – Hanson**

Monday 15 January 2007

**Refusal to quash Interim Victims Commissioner appointment welcomed by Hain**

Monday 15 January 2007

**Hate crime is totally unacceptable in modern society – Hanson**

Sunday 14 January 2007

**Secretary of State warmly welcomes calling of Ard Fheis**

Thursday 11 January 2007

**Secretary of State for Northern Ireland appoints District Electoral Areas Commissioner**

Wednesday 10 January 2007

**Secretary of State welcomes election of new Archbishop**

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