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## MEP queries rally with commission

(Suzanne McGonagle, [Irish News](#))

An MEP last night (Monday) said he would asking the Parades Commission if any of the conditions it had imposed on last weekend's 'March for Truth' rally in Belfast had been violated.

Jim Allister said he wanted to know if the carrying of replica weapons during the event had impinged any of the march conditions.

Around 2,000 people attended the rally at Belfast City Hall on Sunday which saw Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams call for investigation of collusion.

Marchers were dressed as British soldiers, police officers and armed paramilitaries.

Mr Allister said he would be contacting the Parades Commission and the chief constable to discuss the "display of replica weapons and IRA insignia" at the march.

"When dealing with Orange parades, the Parades Commission is robust in imposing and enforcing a plethora of conditions," he said.

"I want to know what conditions they imposed on this coat-trailing exercise and whether the carrying of replica weapons infringed same, and what action they propose.

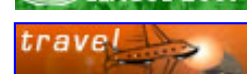
"I am asking the chief constable whether the carrying of replica weapons and IRA insignia is now lawful, acceptable to the police and compatible with public order obligations."

He added that he plans to contact first minister Ian Paisley about his concerns A spokesman for the Parades Commission last night confirmed it takes evidence on parades from a wide range of sources which are investigated when looking at similar parades in the future.

August 16, 2007

This article appeared first in the August 14, 2007 edition of the [Irish News](#).

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