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A who's who of lawyers and witnesses

By Seamus McKinney

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IN JUST over four years, the Saville Inquiry received statements from around 2,500 people relating to Bloody Sunday and the political turmoil of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Its arrival in Derry for oral hearings in March 2000 brought some of the biggest names in the legal world to the streets of the city.

The list of senior barristers and solicitors included Lord Anthony Gifford and Michael Mansfield, who represented members of both the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four.

Other leading lawyers included former British director of public prosecutions Sir Allen Greene QC, former newspaper columnist turned barrister Sir Louis Blom-Cooper QC and leading international civil rights' lawyer Edwin Glasgow QC.

At a cost of £181 million, the inquiry is already one of the most expensive ever to be held and has been widely criticised for the drain on the public purse.

While the cost has been used as a criticism of nationalists who pursued the tribunal, the greater part of the total has been paid to lawyers representing the British military and establishment.


Numerous legal reviews of Lord Saville's decisions have also pushed costs ever higher.

Among the 922 witnesses called to give evidence during the life of the inquiry were 505 civilians, nine experts and forensic scientists, 49 journalists, photographers and camera operators and 245 military witnesses.

Almost 40 politicians and civil servants, including intelligence officers, were called as well as seven priests, 33 former RUC members and 34 former paramilitaries, including Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness.

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