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KELLY WELCOMES ORDE INPUT ON STEVENS PUBLICATION

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SDLP Policing Board member Dolores Kelly welcomed a commitment by Chief Constable Sir Hugh Orde to make representations on the publication of the Stevens Inquiry Report in a response to a question from her.

Speaking from a meeting of the Board, she said: “Today we got an opportunity to discuss publication of the report of the Stevens Inquiry, now that the PPS has signaled that there are no further prosecutions in the pipeline.

“There seems to be some confusion in certain quarters about the status of this report. It comes in three parts and Stevens III is already in the public domain. We in the SDLP have called for Stevens I and Stevens II to be published as well and we have pointed consistently to where the responsibility lies – with the British government.

“In his previous job Hugh Orde had a direct input into the Stevens Inquiry. Following our discussion at the Board he has now undertaken to take up with Lord Stevens the issue of publication, possibly with some redaction. This is useful and welcome, but of course the fact remains that it is the British government which has to make the actual decision on publication. And what the British government needs to do first is to give the Historical Enquiries Team a full, unedited copy of the report to assist in its investigations.

“There has been too much foot-dragging and prevarication in the whole process of seeking the truth about the past, and time and again it proves to be the British government which is putting obstacles in the way of the truth. This process must stop. Seeking the truth is not some sort of alternative or hindrance to moving on, it is an absolutely essential component of a shared future. We need no more lectures from the British government, we need some honest action and transparency.”

ENDS

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