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KELLY: POLICE COMPENSATION HAS WIDER IMPLICATIONS

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SDLP Policing Board member Dolores Kelly said the High Court ruling on compensation for trauma for police officers has wider implications for the whole process of dealing with the past.

She said:

“This is not a surprising development. For many years there have been a number of management failures around a number of issues affecting the police. This is clearly a major issue for the Policing Board. My priority is to make sure that any such past or present failures are rectified and seen to be rectified.

“This case may not be the end of the matter. A number of current and former officers are suing for hearing loss due to the discharge of weapons over the decades. The potential cost could exceed £100 million. The Exchequer is also trying to claw back money from policing. These compensation claims must not be paid out of the core policing budget at the cost of reduced policing.

“There may also be wider implications for other people who were caught up in the troubles as a result of their job or profession. The guiding principle must be that every group should be dealt with in a context which includes all victims and all aspects of dealing with the past.”

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