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Pressure mounts on Orde to publish Steven Reports

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Sinn Féin Policing Spokesperson, South Belfast MLA Alex Maskey has said that there is nothing standing in the way of the publication of the Stevens Reports into collusion.

Mr Maskey will publicly challenge Hugh Orde to publish the Steven Report at today's meeting of the Policing Board. He will put it directly to Mr Orde that the excuse of possible prosecutions has been removed and that it is now in the public interest for the Chief Constable to allow the publication of the Stevens Report

Speaking ahead of the public session of the Policing Board Mr Maskey said:

"It my clear understanding that there is nothing now standing in the way of the publication of Stevens.

"The decision now is solely down to the chief constable.

"In April 2002 Stevens said he could not publish his findings because it might undermine prosecutions but since then the PPS has said it will not prosecute any of the 24 members of RUC Special Branch and Force Research (FRU) at the centre of the Steven's Findings.

"Former British Secretary of State Peter Hain has said that the demand for the publication of Stevens is a matter for the Chief Constable.

"Given the amount of money and huge investigation involved, the huge level of public interest - we now need to see this report published.

"Hugh Orde is now in a position to publish this report, a report that financed by the tax payer that is one of the largest and most expensive police investigations in history that dealt with some of the most controversial murders of the conflict." ENDS

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