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British State are protagonists in the conflict

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Sinn Féin spokesperson on victims issues Francie Molloy MLA commenting on the meeting between the consultation group set up to examine ways of dealing with the past and the British Secretary of State Shaun Woodward has voiced concern and said that there is a conflict of interests in the British government as a protagonist in the conflict and its role in this process.

Mr Molloy said:

"Sinn Féin have serious reservations about the group set up to examine ways of dealing with the past. The group was appointed by the British government and will report back to the British government which will have the final say on any recommendations.

"Given that the British State are protagonists in this conflict and not innocent onlookers this represents a clear conflict of interests.

"However, despite these concerns Sinn Féin have meet with Robin Eames and Denis Bradley to outline our views and we would encourage others to do likewise. The issue of truth recovery, of victims and the need for a healing process are crucial matters which need to be resolved in the time ahead.

"Sinn Féin are absolutely committed to the development of a process which can deliver closure for the families of those killed during the conflict. This process must be victim centred and must deal comprehensively with the issue. The key to dealing with this issue is ensuring that there is no hierarchy of victims." ENDS

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