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## Scott Report on appointment of Victims Commissioner

Published: 25 July, 2007

Sinn Féin Upper Bann MLA John O'Dowd has said that the report into the NIO's appointment of the Victims Commissioner highlights serious shortcomings and flaws in the processes and said that there must be a new transparency in all public appointments.

Mr O'Dowd said:

"This report highlights serious shortcomings and flaws in the processes in the appointment of the Victims Commissioner by the former British Secretary of State.

"The serious abuses of procedure which this case exposed raised very significant issues for Peter Hain and his department. This case has exposed the fact that the appointment of Bertha McDougal was not just political but could never command the sort of cross community support required.

"This appointment raises the wider fundamental question of public appointments and the need for a new transparency in all public appointments.

"Sinn Féin believe that all public appointments should be made on merit and that it is a mistake to make partisan appointments that cannot command cross community support. Sinn Féin also believe that we need to tackle the democratic deficit that has accumulated as a result of the culture of quangoism that is so widespread here.

"We need a new culture of accountability and transparency in all decision making including public appointments." ENDS

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