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Taoiseach must guarantee Dáil debate on collusion – Ó Snodaigh

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Sinn Féin TD Aengus Ó Snodaigh has called on the Taoiseach to give a guarantee that a Dáil debate on collusion will take place before the end of the Government's term of office. Deputy Ó Snodaigh was speaking today after Patrick McEntee SC requested an extension of one month before he publishes his report into the Dublin/Monaghan bombings of 1974 sparking fears among the families of victims of collusion that a debate will not take place before the end of this Dáil.

Deputy Ó Snodaigh said, "There are widespread fears among relatives and friends of victims of collusion and among surviving victims and their families, that the extension requested by McEntee today will mean there will not be a debate in the Dáil this side of an election. I am calling on the Taoiseach to give a guarantee that this will not be the case. The Dáil debate on collusion must top the agenda after St. Patrick's Day, by which time the McEntee report should be published. If that means calling a special sitting on a Friday or during Easter week then so be it.

"The debate must be full and thorough and therefore must be free from any overly restrictive Government guillotine such as has been applied to previous debates. The government needs to set aside at least one full day for the debate preferably on a special sitting day to accommodate the families many of whom will wish to travel to Dublin to be in attendance.

"Sinn Féin met with many of these families at a special conference here in Dublin on Saturday. It is clear from that conference that hurt felt by those families is as strong today as ever and is driving and will continue to drive their campaign to find the truth surrounding the circumstances that took the lives of their loved ones." ENDS

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