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Statement By KRW LAW On PONI Operation Newham Press Release

We act on behalf of some of the families affected by the PONI investigation into collusion between the security forces and the Mid-Ulster UVF in the 1970s.

Today's news that the PPS will proceed with a prosecution against a former RUC officer for offences comes very late in the day.

Some of the affected families cautiously welcome this news but are suspicious over its timing. Equally they are suspicious that the decision amounts to some contrived latter day consolation for failing to direct prosecutions against other ex-security force personnel some of whom arguably have more to answer for.

An overriding worry is the deferral of PONI's thematic Operation Newham report. Families of victims and survivors have waited a lifetime for these important findings and now their hopes of getting the report any time soon lie in ruins.

It's really depressing that the Newham Report is now put on the long finger because of a gross delay in a decision to prosecute one ex RUC officer after all this time.

What ought to be a day of positive news is tempered by the realisation that other officers could have been prosecuted and weren't, plus there's a real sense that this single ex-officer is being scapegoated for other failings.

We are liaising with PONI and the PPS on the issues arising from today's news. Really, it's too little too late.