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Local & National

Omagh blame game widens

Former chief superintendent points finger at ex-colleagues

Friday, January 25, 2008

The row over the failed omagh bomb investigation intensified last night when a one-time senior detective said some of his former colleagues must take the blame.

As the pressure grows on former chief constable Sir Ronnie Flanagan after his public apology to the families of victims of the 1998 atrocity, Brian McVicker, who first exposed the police investigation fiasco, said other retired officers should be held to account.

The ex-chief superintendent said: "They are just as much to blame as he is and they've escaped all the abuse and criticism Sir Ronnie is having to take. That is unfair."

Mr McVicker was called in by Sir Ronnie in March 2000 to carry out a full review of the first RUC investigation of the August 1998 atrocity by the Real IRA which claimed the lives of 29 people.

It was a devastating report which revealed serious shortcomings and a failure by officers to follow up inquiries with people he believed to be key witnesses.

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