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Local & National

Who are the four new commissioners?

Wednesday, January 30, 2008

The Victims' Commission will not be formally in post until legislation can be drafted and passed to create the new organisation. In the meantime, they will earn their £65,000 a year salaries by drawing up a programme for work that they can carry out when they receive their powers.

Here's who they are:

Patricia MacBride (37) is married with two children.

Her brother Antoin Mac Giolla Bride, was described by the First Ministers' office as "an IRA volunteer who was killed by the SAS whilst on active service in 1984".

Ms MacBride was a project manager for the Bloody Sunday Trust during the Bloody Sunday Inquiry hearings and was involved in the development of the Museum of Free Derry and National Civil Rights Archive. She was a victims' representative to the Civic Forum.

In 2005, she was appointed as a lay magistrate. She is founder and chief executive of a public relations company.

Michael nesbitt (50) is married, with two children.

A broadcast journalist, he presented UTV Live alongside his wife, Lynda Bryans. He also spent 10 years in BBC Northern Ireland and was also a managing director of Anderson-Kenny Public Relations.

As a journalist, he specialised in politics and reported on major atrocities including Enniskillen, the Shankill bomb and Omagh.

The First Ministers' Office said: "Michael has not lost any family member to a Troubles-related incident, but in 1973 the family's linen business was destroyed in a terrorist attack."

Brendan McAllister (51) is married with three adult children.

He is a professional mediator, who formerly worked in the Probation Service.

As Director of Mediation Northern Ireland, he has been involved in the search for a solution to Drumcree and other contentious issues.

He is a Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor for England and has led Mediation Northern Ireland's work there on Community Cohesion and gangs and gun violence.

He is a former member of the SDLP, leaving the party in 1982 to "become active in the peace movement" and is a member of the Corrymeela community. He is from Newry.

Bertha McDougall is 61, widowed, with three grown-up children. Her husband lindsay, a civil servant and part time RUC reservist was shot dead by the INLA in January 1981 while on duty in Belfast.

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