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Ludlow relatives' concern at probe 'stalling tactics'

[\(Irish News\)](#)

Relatives of Seamus Ludlow have yet to learn the results of a re-examination of files on his murder ordered by Garda Commissioner Noel Conroy almost 12 months ago.

Mr Conroy appointed Superintendent Seamus Kane in March 2006 to review the files compiled by gardai into the killing of the Dundalk forestry worker in 1976.

Mr Ludlow was shot three times by a loyalist gang after being abducted as he walked home from a pub to his Thistle Cross home.

His body was later found dumped in an isolated laneway.

Mr Ludlow's nephew Jimmy Sharkey last night said the family had met Mr Kane twice.

He said the British army and the north's Historical Enquiries Team were involved in the probe.

However, Mr Sharkey said he feared that the new investigations were a "stalling tactic" and would not result in a full public inquiry into the murder of his uncle.

Mr Ludlow's relatives have always maintained that his killers were protected by British security forces.

Mr Kane will report his findings to the assistant commissioner of the National Support Services, Martin Callinan.

The Garda commissioner ordered the review after Oireachtas Justice, Equality, Defence and Women's Rights sub-committee accused the force of treating the Ludlow family "in an appalling manner" during the initial 1976 investigation.

Following the killing gardai claimed that the victim had been shot by the IRA because he was an informer.

Three years later they also failed to act on RUC information

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about four suspects.

The four were identified by Mr Justice Henry Barron, following his inquiry, as James Fitzsimmons, Richard Long, Samuel Carroll and Paul Hosking, two of whom were members of the UDR.

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