

Normalising policing

I HAD to check that I was not reading a humorous article by Newton Emerson when I read the announcement of the 'Paramilitary Monitoring Panel' (September 26).

The Security Services and the PSNI will apparently lead this monitoring. Presumably this will be done in black and white to the tune of the *Twilight Zone*.

As a reasonably well informed independent elected representative, it is pretty clear to me that most loyalist paramilitary groups not already directly controlled by the security services could be shut down in a fortnight if they were given the same attention as dissident republicans.

As for the 'dissidents', I don't know a single republican that does not believe they are mostly run by the security services.

The IRA may no longer be recruiting but if only the so-called security services stopped recruiting and allowed policing to normalise, we would all be a lot better off.

Might I conclude by suggesting that I am not alone with in my belief that Matt Baggott dragged the PSNI backwards 20 years into the murky past of the RUC.

It is to be hoped Chief Constable George Hamilton will return to the reform agenda and shed connections to securocratcy and paramilitarism.

Meanwhile we will all watch the black and white re-runs and pretend the Monitoring Panel is engaged in some useful activity

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