

Adams calls for inquiry into security company

John Mooney

GERRY ADAMS, the Sinn Fein leader, has asked the Department of Justice to investigate Strand Security, a Dublin company allegedly controlled by John Noonan, a former member of the IRA.

In a letter to Alan Shatter, the minister for justice, Adams said Noonan was suspected by gardai of involvement in a gun attack which left a young Dublin father in a permanent vegetative state.

Robert Delaney, 29, was shot in the face as he looked out of an upstairs window of his home in Tallaght after a gunman called to his front door in October 2008. Terry Delaney, the victim's father, has claimed Noonan organised the attack.

The Sinn Fein leader also wrote to Geraldine Larkin, the chief executive of the Private Security Authority, suggesting

Noonan should be investigated.

In the letter, sent to Shatter and Larkin on June 30, Adams said: "I am writing to you about the issuing of a private security licence to Strand Security. I am advised by Terry Delaney that John Noonan is suspected by An Garda Síochána of involvement in an attack on his son Robert.

"In light of this serious allegation I would ask that you contact An Garda Síochána to satisfy yourself about Noonan's suitability as a holder of a licence. . . In my view, John Noonan's licence should be revoked."

In fact, Noonan lost his licence last year but he could reapply. Adams said he decided to make the representation following a meeting with Terry Delaney and a trade union official. His decision to urge the authorities to investigate a former IRA member is unprecedented.

Noonan was the adjutant officer of the Provisional IRA's Dublin brigade in the 1990s. He was jailed for firearms offences in the 1970s and served a prison sentence. He contested the European elections for Sinn Fein in 1984, describing himself as an unemployed lorry driver.

Noonan is being pursued by the Criminal Assets Bureau for €20m. The bureau launched an investigation after he was linked to Martin Hyland, a drug dealer who was shot dead in Dublin in 2006.

Strand provides security guards for film sets. The company's website says it provided services to the makers of Veronica Guerin, a film about the murdered journalist.

Robert Delaney's father welcomed the move. "Adams's decision to urge the authorities to take firm action sends out a clear message to the republican movement," he said.

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