

OMBUDSMAN



MOVING ON Ms McCabe
Head of jail watchdog to leave job

By LESLEY-ANNE MCKEOWN

THE search for Northern Ireland's new Prisoner Ombudsman was officially launched yesterday.

Pauline McCabe, who led a number of high-profile death-in-custody inquiries that highlighted serious flaws within the system, is to step down in three months.

She said: "It has been a privilege to do this job and to be part of influencing the much-needed reforms in the prison service."

"However, there are still a number of important reports on deaths in custody pending and my final annual report in May will provide a much fuller account of my time in office."

Ms McCabe, a business consultant and former Northern Ireland Policing Board member, was in the post for five years.

An advertisement for the £58,400-a-year job said the Ombudsman must work a four-day week.



GREAT SHAKES
Mark O'Hare and Giovanni Trapattoni

Best match-up ever

GEORGE Best lookalike Mark O'Hare celebrates Ireland's 2-0 victory against Poland with manager Giovanni Trapattoni.

The hotel worker enjoyed a night out with the team and George's son Calum after they watched the game in the FAI box on Wednesday.

Mark, from

Newcastle, Co Down, was a guest of FAI boss John Delaney.

He told the Mirror: "It was a pretty amazing night getting to watch the game in the box with Bertie Ahern and Paul McGrath."

"John Delaney really looked after us as he's a big fan of the whole George Best lookalike thing."



BY GEORGE Calum, Mark and John

FACEBOOK FIGHT CLUB WARNING

Fears knife kids will be killed

BY VICTORIA McMAHON
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WEAPON-wielding schoolchildren could be killed in fight clubs organised on social networking sites, police warned yesterday.

Crowds of up to 100 youngsters, some with hammers and knives, are gathering in North Belfast for bust-ups arranged on Facebook and Twitter.

Police chiefs say the weekend street clashes need to be stamped out before someone is killed or seriously injured.

Neighbourhood officers have seen a number of brawls in the Brougham Street and Waterworks areas.

Sgt Brian Caskey said: "Those who might consider carrying such a weapon should be aware police will carry out searches and you stand a strong chance of

getting caught. Carrying a weapon can have disastrous results not only for the victim but for the offender who will have to deal with the burden of a criminal conviction for the rest of their lives."

Community representatives have been working hard to end the street clashes.

Gerry O'Reilly, from the Community Bridges Project, Duncairn Gardens, said: "There are concerns these young people are not aware of the weapons which may be at the scene of the proposed fight and they are also unaware of the geography of the area which may include an interface."

Harry Smith, of the Community Bridges Project, Tiger's Bay, added: "Parents need to take responsibility regarding the whereabouts of their children and in supervising access to social networking sites."

"There are fears that should this behaviour continue, a young person may lose their life."



APPEAL
Sgt Caskey



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