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# IRISH DAILY MIRROR COMMENT

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## Pointing out the truth on gun crimes

**YESTERDAY** saw the first gun killing of 2007 and a real fear that violent crime if left unchecked will make the next 12 months as bloody as last year's toll of death.

Minister McDowell helps no one by pointing the finger of blame elsewhere. Last night he said the latest murder was committed by someone who "may have had a drug-trafficking background". A few weeks ago he was blaming middle-class partygoers who snort cocaine, keeping the drug barons in business.

But the rest of us are firmly pointing the finger at Minister McDowell himself. Instead of wringing his hands and whingeing about all the nasty people who are making his job so difficult, he should be sorting out this mess.

When he took on the justice portfolio, did he honestly believe all he had to do was commiserate with us on the horrible state of our country?

When he convinced people to vote for him, did he admit to himself that he was conning them?

We pay him a decent salary and provide perks including a ministerial car and armed protection. The least he can do is make the streets safe for the rest of us.

*As one of the country's top lawyers, and leader of a minority party that got into government, he is not short of brains. So why doesn't he use them to do his job?*

## Time to send hunts packing

**THE** incident involving a pack of hounds ramaging through a national school playground after a stag beggars belief.

Parents have every reason to be outraged that their children were put in very real danger.

Only for the vigilance of staff and parents this fiasco could have resulted in serious injury or even the loss of life.