

FBI probe is 'greatest witch hunt in history'

Trump's anger at 'special counsel'



INQUIRY

Special counsel Robert Mueller

BY CHRISTOPHER BUCKTIN
US Editor

DONALD Trump has branded the appointment of a special counsel to investigate Russian meddling in the 2016 election as "the single greatest witch hunt of a politician in American history".

Robert Mueller, a respected former FBI director, will have powers to prosecute as special counsel investigating possible links between Mr Trump's campaign and the Kremlin.

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein announced the appointment and said Mueller would be given "all appropriate resources" in the executive branch investigation.

The appointment came as it emerged that Trump campaign aides had 18 previously undisclosed discussions with Moscow officials in the seven months up to the election.

They included ex-national security adviser Michael Flynn, who was fired by the President after failing to disclose his contacts with Moscow.

It is illegal for a civilian to carry out diplomatic work on behalf of the US.

“There was no collusion between my campaign and any foreign entity”

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP
ON CLAIMS OF LINKS TO RUSSIA

The scandal surrounding Flynn's appointment deepened further when it was claimed he told Trump's transition team weeks before the inauguration that he was under investigation. Flynn had been secretly working as a paid lobbyist for Turkey during the campaign.

Despite the warning, Trump still made Flynn his national security adviser, giving him access to secrets held by US intelligence agencies.

Flynn's legal team has informed the Senate Intelligence Committee he will not honour its subpoena to produce private documents.

Trump reacted furiously to Robert Mueller's appointment, which he found about just two hours before it was announced publicly.

He said: "A thorough investigation will confirm what we already know - there was no collusion between my campaign and any foreign entity."

He tweeted: "This is the single greatest witch hunt of a politician in American history! With all of the illegal acts that took place in the Clinton campaign and the Obama Administration, there was never a special counsel appointed!"

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IN A FURY

Trump blasted appointment

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Following

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ANGER President Trump's tweets about appointment

This is the single greatest witch hunt of a politician in American history!

TV'S TOP DUO



HUNT

EXCLUSIVE

BY SHARON MCGOWAN
Showbiz reporter

ANT and Dec got in touch with their Irish roots as they drank pints and poitin with the locals in Leitrim.

The Britain's Got Talent hosts travelled around the county, stopping in Drumshanbo and Drumkeeran to film a new TV show.

The 41-year-old pair, two of the highest-paid TV entertainers in the UK, were in Ireland after tracking down Ant's ancestors.

A source told the Irish Mirror: "The series is set to air next year and researchers visited Leitrim in recent months but locals had no idea who would be coming to film."

Despite growing up in Newcastle, in the north of England, Ant and Dec - full names Anthony McPartlin and Declan Donnelly - both have Irish heritage.

The Saturday Night Takeaway presenters' families hail from Derry but moved to Newcastle around 50 years ago.

The source added: "They did DNA samples a few weeks ago and were able to trace Ant's roots back to Drumkeeran and to a former parish priest called Fr James McPartlan, who built the local church and died about 150 years ago."

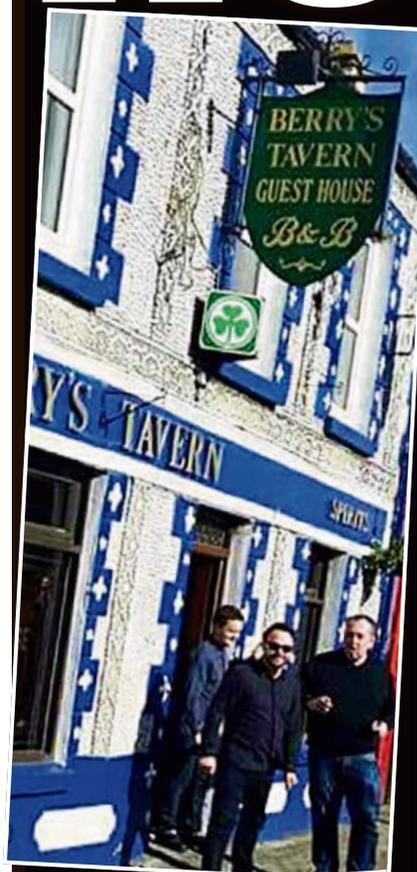
"It is believed there was even a reunion of McPartlins in one of the local pubs for filming, with Ant getting to meet some of his distant relatives."

"His surname is a common one in the area although it's spelt a few different ways."

"Ant and Dec got on with everyone like a house on fire."

They were happy to take selfies with everyone and even get behind the bar in a few pubs to pull some pints.

"One local was so pleased about the lads visiting their village they gave them a bottle of poitin as a gift which the crew later sampled." One



LAND IN LETTRIM FOR NEW SHOW



PS. It was all worthwhile for Ant when he found the McPartlan clan in the pub
Patrick, Thomas and Margaret McPartlan with Ant and Dec in Wynne's Bar



AND DEC



IRISH CHARM
Ant and Dec meet fans in Co Leitrim



Britain's Got Talent hosts are big hit as they search for their roots

pub Ant and Dec filmed in was Wynne's Bar in Drumkeeran, which is run by Dessie Wynne, his brother Barry and family.

The publican said everyone had been sworn to secrecy but they still had a great time with the comedy duo.

Dessie said: "They were very good craic - they're two very nice fellas, very ordinary. We had them in behind the counter and they pulled a few pints with us."

"You'd never expect to meet celebrities like Ant and Dec, especially not in somewhere like Drumkeeran. They were in with us for about 40 minutes

on Wednesday and came back again today [Thursday] to do a bit more filming around the village.

"We don't know what they were filming. It's all been kept fairly secret."

"They were very interested in the history of the area and wanted to see what an Irish pub was like in the evening time."

Ant and Dec also called into Berry's Tavern in Drumshanbo on Wednesday and owner Nessa Campbell admitted she was starstruck.

She added: "It was a great pleasure for me, the town of Drumshanbo and indeed all of Leitrim. As the news

filtered through the town a big crowd gathered on the High Street and there was great excitement.

"They were two perfect gentlemen and their crew were lovely too. It was an honour to have them and hopefully they'll be back for a pint again."

"They took time out of their very busy schedules to take photographs and write autographs for anyone that waited for them." The I'm A Celeb

“It was an honour. Hopefully they'll be back for a pint again

**NESSA CAMPBELL
DRUMSHANBO YESTERDAY**

hosts stayed in The Landmark Hotel in Carrick-on-Shannon and were spotted dining out in award-winning restaurant The Oarsman.

The gastropub shared a picture of the pair with one of their chefs on their Facebook page and wrote:

"We had the great pleasure of extending a warm Leitrim welcome and looking after two real giants and real gents of entertainment."

"Ant and Dec and crew came in only days after winning a BAFTA for

Saturday Night Takeaway. We got Masha our pastry chef to do up a dessert plate with a BAFTA award in chocolate and John Crowe, our resident guitarist, along with the team sang Congratulations to them. They loved it."

Fianna Fail councillor Sean McGowan said the visit was a big bonus for the county.

He added: "Hopefully there'll be a boost in tourism on the back of this - it'll be great for people everywhere to see what Leitrim has to offer."

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