

ROBERT HAMILL, DECEASED

6th January 2000

One of the witnesses referred to by a code letter (Mr Jamison) telephoned me today. He was very non-committal about his specific reasons for not wanting to give evidence. He just kept repeating that he did not want to be involved in any way. Also, he intimated that not all the statement he had made originally was correct. He said that words had been put into his mouth by the police. I said that if that was so I was able to arrange for him to make a new statement but he merely repeated that he did not want to be involved. He said that if he did make a new statement it would merely take the form that he could remember nothing about the incident. I pressed him on a number of times to be more precise about his reasons for not wanting to give evidence and I made the point that very few people wanted to be involved in court proceedings. In the end he said that he would have fears for his own safety. Also, he believed that if the statement he made originally was read out with him being referred to by a code letter eg Mr X, people would be able to identify him. He said he is about to return to Scotland and will not be back in Northern Ireland until next Christmas.