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14 May 2002

Sir Ronnie Flanagan OBE MA
Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary

Dear Sir Ronnie

**RE: POLICE MISCONDUCT INVESTIGATION RELATING TO THE
DEATH OF [REDACTED]**

I am currently investigating the Senior Investigating Officer (Maynard McBurney) and Investigating Officer (Detective Inspector Irwin) regarding aspects of the Hamill Murder Investigation which they conducted.

The main focus of my enquiry relates to the handling of two witnesses who provided alibi evidence in respect of a telephone call made from the home of ex-Reserve Constable Atkinson. The alibi details were provided by Atkinson when he was interviewed on 09 October 1997. The Director of Public Prosecutions later directed that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute Atkinson following a recommendation from Mr McBurney.

Those alibi witnesses were re-interviewed by Detective Inspector Irwin in June 2000 at which stage one of them changed her story dramatically. I am seeking to confirm the reasons why these witnesses were re-interviewed at that particular stage.

Mr McBurney has told me that he established that the two witnesses had gone through an acrimonious separation and that was his motivation. I have spoken to Mr [REDACTED], the Hamill's solicitor who informs me that you gave him a similar explanation in a meeting with him at Force Headquarters on 04 August 2000.