

All four occupants of the police landrover reported sick following the incident. Two of the officers have since resumed duty. It is true to say that three of the four officers have submitted Criminal Injury Claims.

In relation to the allegation that a crowd was allowed to assemble at a sectarian flashpoint, the situation is as follows:- Each Saturday night buses transport people from Portadown to licensed premises in Banbridge and back again. It is usual for people to debus at Bridge Street, Portadown and then walk to their homes in groups of various sizes. Additionally, a local hot food bar attracts people to the area. At the time of the incident, people were in the area, either making their way home or attending the hot food bar.

The police officers in the landrover had taken up a position to monitor the crowd movements through the area. A short time prior to the incident in question they had dealt with a confrontational situation in Woodhouse Street/Market Street between two male Protestants and one male Catholic. As a result of this, some of the landrover crew were engaged in a discussion with 2 of these persons. It was during this period that the assault at Thomas Street/Market Street took place, on the opposite side of the road to the stationary police landrover.

3. **Charges**

No-one was charged immediately following the incident because of a lack of evidence. The subsequent withdrawal of charges was and is a matter for the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Director's decision followed consultations with witnesses.

4. **Lack of forensic/identification evidence**

Police were greatly out-numbered in what was a very fluid situation. One of the police officers identified a person 'kicking at' Mr Hamill, however, due to the circumstances at the time he was unable to effect an arrest. This suspect was subsequently positively identified, arrested and charged with murder.

5. **Relationship between some officers and some of the defendants**

This allegation has been included in the criminal investigation and will be considered by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

6. **Incidents outside Hamill Home and at Maze Court**

A complaint has been made in relation to the alleged incident outside the Hamill home. This complaint is currently being investigated under the supervision of the Independent Commission for Police Complaints.