

11 January 2000

Coroner for Greater Belfast talks with Hamill family solicitor and discloses contents of statements by witnesses A and B in great detail. [Whether he disclosed their identities and/or gave the solicitor copies of the statements is not known.] The Coroner had himself interviewed the witnesses and believed that they were extremely afraid. He was unsure how to proceed, as an inquest without these witness statements would not fully represent the circumstances of Robert Hamill's death.

8 February 2000

Coroner writes to Hamill family solicitor to say that he will proceed to hold an inquest without the evidence from witnesses A and B since their personal safety must outweigh the desirability of the inquest receiving their evidence.

5 May 2000

ICPC recommend RUC to charge Constable Neill with neglect of duty, and to suspend him meanwhile.

7 June 2000

Coroner, having received representations from Hamill family solicitors, announces that he will not convene an inquest because of his concerns for the safety of certain witnesses whose lives would be placed in danger if their evidence were to be given at, or placed in documentary form before, an inquest. Without those witnesses' evidence, however, an inquest would give a 'seriously incomplete' account of the circumstances of Robert Hamill's death.

8 June 2000

Diane Hamill, speaking on RTE1, says 'I'm aware of the content of some of the statements of the witnesses. I've been made aware of the history of some of the witnesses as well'.