

CC

have signed a petition calling for the officers to be suspended. This shows how local people feel about this case. Is it true that the officers are on sick leave? Is it also true that they have put in claims as a result of what happened? Apart from the failure of the officers concerned to save Robert, we are also concerned that they apparently allowed a crowd of up to thirty people to assemble at what is known as a sectarian flashpoint, and failed to warn Robert and his friends of the presence of this crowd. Has an explanation been given for this failure?

CC/
AG

3. The trauma for our family has of course been compounded by the decision to withdraw charges against five of the six men charged with the murder of Robert. We understand that these men and a number of others were questioned in the days following the attack on Robert but not charged. They were then charged shortly after Robert died. We would welcome an explanation as to why, in these circumstances, charges were not brought until after Robert's death.

CC

4. We believe that one of the problems faced by the DPP in pressing charges against the accused was the lack of forensic evidence. This problem was obviously caused by the failure of the police to immediately arrest individuals at the scene. Why was this not done? We also understand that at least one of the accused was identified by an officer as kicking Robert. If this is the case, was he arrested at the scene, or that night, and if not, why not?

CC

5. There have been press reports that have claimed there were links between some officers and some of the defendants. Have these alleged links been investigated?

CC

6. Unfortunately since the incident we have had further reason to be unhappy with the police. Not long after Robert's death a man stood in the street shouting abuse at our house, in which he mentioned Robert. We called the police and, when they arrived, they drove slowly past the house and did nothing. I eventually went out and stood in front of the police vehicle to make it stop. I then pointed the man out to them. They then deliberately drove the long way around to the man but, unsurprisingly, by the time they got there, he was gone. Also, on Wednesday at the Maze court when charges were dropped against two of the men charged with Robert's murder, I was present with a number of members of my family. When the two men were eventually brought in, more police officers came into the court and stood in front of us, as if we were troublemakers. Why was this done?

SofS

7. What steps have you taken since our last meeting to address our concerns and in particular find out what happened on that night in April?

I look forward to discussing these matters with you on Monday.