



**SUBJECT: WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAMME -**  
**ANDREA McKEE (NÉE [REDACTED])**

Head of Branch C1

Forwarded with reference to the attached reports, I know you are aware of the background of this case however would make the following points:

- 1 This witness does satisfy the criteria for inclusion in the Witness Protection Programme. She is giving important evidence in the prosecution of a number of people charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice in connection with the murder of Robert Hamill in Portadown on 27.4.97.
- 2 She was visited in January 2004 by the SIO, representatives from the DPP and prosecuting counsel and is determined to give evidence. Proceedings are at the preliminary investigation stage and have been adjourned until 13.2.04.
- 3 The witness lives with her 3 year old child and her partner, who is an Iranian National, in Wrexham. The accommodation is a privately rented 2 bedroom flat.
- 4 She is hoping to take up a nursing career. Her partner is in the final year of an Engineering Degree at the local university. He hopes to complete a Masters Degree at the same university.
- 5 They live in the same street as her mother, who acts as childminder. Her sister also lives locally and the family appear to be close.
- 6 Just before Christmas 2003 the witness received a letter, posted to her home address, purporting to be from the LVF warning her not to give evidence or turn up for any subsequent trial.
- 7 Investigations have revealed that the letter was processed through Royal Mail Postal Sorting Office in Mallusk. Forensic examination of the letter is ongoing.
- 8 A request has been forwarded to C3 Branch for details of any intelligence held in respect of a threat to this individual.
- 9 At my request D/Sergeant Munn, accompanied by a member of the investigation team, visited the witness and her partner in their home last week. They explained the Witness Protection Programme and included the clear advice that in all cases police try to remove the witness and their family from the area where they are under threat.
- 10 In this case it would mean moving the family a safe distance from Wrexham. This, however, would severely affect their domestic and educational arrangements.
- 11 It is clearly possible for the family to move to another privately rented flat in the general area. Advice has been given to use, for example, her maiden name (from the telephone book the name [REDACTED] is commonplace in Wrexham).