

THE MURDER OF ROBERT HAMILL

Section 1 Introduction and Terms of Reference

1. On Monday 16th May 2005, I was appointed as the Independent Police Expert for the Robert Hamill Inquiry. My appointment as an expert was based on my role within Kent Police where I served from 4th March 1974 to 7th March 2004. I retired as a Detective Superintendent having spent a number of years as a Senior Investigating Officer for murder investigations and other serious crimes. Upon my retirement I was appointed as a Senior Investigating Officer trainer. In brief this involved the training of Senior Officers from across the United Kingdom in the investigation of murders from initial attendance through to final conclusion. Details of my experience are outlined in Appendix A.

1.1 Upon appointment as Police Expert my terms of reference were outlined as follows:-

1.2 To report on the adequacy of resources supplied to the Royal Ulster Constabulary in April 1997, specifically indicating:-

- What level of risk of violence the RUC should have been prepared for
- What provision was made
- In my expert opinion whether a reasonably diligent Police force could have met that risk of violence with those resources.

1.3 To give an opinion on whether the police investigation initially into the Grievous Bodily Harm offence (GBH), and then the murder were conducted with due diligence, specifically indicating:

- What steps were taken to investigate the GBH and murder of Robert Hamill and to bring the perpetrators to justice?
- In my expert opinion was a reasonably diligent Police force bound to take more or different steps from those taken, indicating what the relevant steps should have been and the reasons for my conclusions.

1.4 In considering 1.3 above to also consider

- Whether the investigation into the acts and omissions of Reserve Constable Atkinson was conducted with due diligence given that all the investigations relating to the death of Robert Hamill were intimately linked

1.5 My terms of reference were later extended to include

- To inquire into the death of Robert Hamill with a view to determining whether any wrongful act or omission by or within the Royal Ulster