

10/02/2009

referred to in a BBC News online report dated 22/7/1999. Commending the RUC, the HMIC Inspector Dan Crompton is quoted as saying the province's police force could not be examined on the same basis as those in England, Scotland and Wales and that 'the working environment for officers and organisational culture are "significantly different" from those in other parts of the UK.'

**Contention (ii) - Mr Murray reveals no appreciation of the influence of the Drumcree situation and the consequent community tensions and violence which dominated this society in those years.**

2.1.1 In 1997 the very mention of the Drumcree parade meant trouble in the eyes of right thinking people in Northern Ireland. After two previous years of stand off, serious public disorder and a sense of real injustice, there existed growing resentment and tension between the two main communities in Northern Ireland.

2.1.2 It has been tradition for the Drumcree Orange parade to take place during the first Sunday in July and for various lodges to march from Drumcree Orange hall into Portadown. On the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1995 the RUC prevented an Orange Order march from proceeding to Portadown on its way back from an annual church service at Drumcree. As a result Orangemen who had assembled at Drumcree refused to move away and a two day stand-off began before mediation helped broker a compromise whereby 1000 or more Orangemen were allowed on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 1995 to march without any music along the Garvaghy Road, Portadown, occupied mainly by Catholic residents. Later Sir Hugh Annesley in the 1995 Chief Constable's Report referred to the 'disgraceful scenes at Drumcree in Portadown and the Ormeau Bridge in Belfast' and that these were a stark reminder that 'major inter-community tensions remained'. This first major police event at Drumcree is often referred to as Drumcree One.

2.1.3 On 6 July 1996 Sir Hugh Annesley, the then RUC Chief Constable, decided again to re-route the Orange Order parade from the Garvaghy Road in Portadown. This decision was made in the light of circumstances the previous year and the likelihood of serious public disorder, as laid out in Article 4 of the 1987 Public Order (NI) Order. After five days, on Thursday, 11 July, the Chief Constable reversed his original decision to re-route the parade and over 1000 Portadown Orangemen were allowed to march down the Garvaghy Road. During the stand off period supporters at Drumcree had grown to almost 10,000 and serious public order and crime had erupted throughout many parts of Northern Ireland. This included people being intimidated out of their homes and Loyalist road blocks set up, preventing people from going to/from their place of work or home indeed going about their normal life.

2.1.4 Supporters of the parade believe police should have facilitated the parade and protected the protestors whereas protestors against the parade believe police should have banned the parade and protected residents on the Garvaghy Road. No matter the decision, it evidently led to police being construed as favouring either the Protestant or Catholic side of the community and a no win situation for the police. Sir