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2.4.9 A BBC on-line news report published on the 04/7/1999 refers to an interview with the then Chief Constable Sir Ronnie Flanagan. He spoke about how the Drumcree Orange march and the associated protest have required a major security presence in Portadown for the past five years and added "It cost something in the order of £11m last year and when you add the associated costs, it cost something nearer to £14m." He stated "That's a desperate waste of public money. Money that could be put to better use and should be put to better use."

2.4.10 The overall impact on policing arising from Drumcree is difficult to quantify as disorder connected with it was widespread to many other parts of the province. However, from 1995, when the Drumcree dispute began, there are notable increases in serious crimes for offences of murder, attempted murder, bombings, intimidation, shootings, hijacking, arson and other serious crimes attributable to the security situation. For further details see Table 5 within Section 1.5 above and Table 3.1, contained within the Commentary on Northern Ireland Crime statistics 2001 refers to notifiable offences recorded by Police 1992 – 2001 (see **Appendix X**). Over this period there was a decreasing police crime detection rate. This may help give an idea as to the demands and impact that Drumcree and the resultant public disorder had on policing during the period prior to and after this attack.

2.4.11 The CAIN web services research information in **Appendix Z10** includes reference to a survey carried out on behalf of the RUC Police Authority. The survey carried out after Drumcree Two, in 1996, sought information as to public attitudes in Northern Ireland towards the police. It adds that on 05/12/1996 the Police Authority issued a press statement regarding the result and confirmed that the overall level of confidence in the police had fallen. There was a very noticeable difference in the opinions of Catholics and Protestants on this subject. Details on results provided included that only 50 per cent of Catholics questioned felt that the police treated everyone equally and fairly, whilst 81 per cent of Protestants questioned were satisfied that they did. When asked as to whether there was a need for reform or replacement of the RUC, 78 per cent of the Catholic respondents agreed that there was, while only 39 per cent of Protestants questioned believed that there was.

Conclusions - Contention (ii)

2.5.1 In the preparation of Mr Murray's report entitled 'The Murder of Robert Hamill' it is evident that he did not make reference to the Drumcree situation or what impact it may or may not have had in the police investigation. However, Mr Murray did adhere to the Terms of Reference he was given and does not appear to have been asked or required to comment on the influences of Drumcree or what the consequent community tensions and violence might have had on the police investigation.

2.5.2 I feel it would have been difficult for Mr Murray to contextualise the impact of Drumcree, having not served in the RUC or experienced at first hand the many challenges an investigating officer faced in 1997. These include inherent sectarian