

5. I was briefed from time to time on the Robert Hamill case because as Chief Constable I would have had regular operational meetings with all my Assistant Chief Constables. In those meetings there were briefings about issues of high importance and the murder of Robert Hamill was just such an issue of high importance. As a general rule, each morning I received a report of incidents which had taken place during the previous 24 hours. I read the reports and, if I needed more detail than was in the duty officer's report, I would go to the source of the report whether that was ACC Crime or ACC South Region, for example. That would have included the Robert Hamill incident at the material time and certainly once Mr Hamill died.
6. I was aware that DCS McBurney was investigating the murder as well as the complaint, which was made by Diane Hamill. I have been asked if it was usual practice in such circumstances, for the same officer to investigate both the offence and a complaint against the police. All I can say is that wasn't necessarily unusual given the structure of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. There was an Assistant Chief Constable who was specifically in charge of the Complaints and Discipline Branch and in some instances, depending on the nature of the complaint and if it required a really experienced investigator and the decision was that the person investigating the crime was the person with all the knowledge, that would also facilitate a thorough investigation of the complaint in relation to any behaviour of a police officer, then I can see that that would have been a reason for appointing the same officer to both investigations.
7. In the immediate aftermath of the Robert Hamill incident, allegations were being made publicly through the media that the police had not behaved as they should at the scene and had not reacted quickly enough, that they ignored pleas for help. It was therefore important that the complaint investigation was supervised by the ICPC and I referred the matter to them.
8. On 18.12.97, I was briefed by the ACC Crime following the withdrawal of charges against five of the suspects and to respond to a letter I had received from the then Secretary of State. I responded by letter dated 23.12.97. There is now produced and shown to me marked "RF1" a copy of the briefing note and my response to the Secretary of State.