

also liaised with Robert Hamill's family and with Robert Hamill's girlfriend in Lurgan, with whom he lived.

29th April 1997 Enquiries with Detective Constable McAteer at home of Robert Hamill. Spoke with his mother [REDACTED] and daughter.

1st May 1997 Spoke to Robert's sister Diane ref progress of investigation.

I fully acknowledge that I was surprised by the untimely death of Robert Hamill. I had, up to that point, personally believed that Robert Hamill would survive despite sustaining serious injuries as the information coming from the hospital was consistently that his condition was "serious but stable". Even in today's policing, initial police responses to serious assaults, where the victim has later died, are still the subject of comments and criticisms during murder reviews. In the case of Robert Hamill, my understanding was that even the doctors were surprised by his untimely death.

Investigation Progress

Initial police actions do have an impact on the subsequent murder investigation and in this respect this investigation was no different. If Robert Hamill had died at the time of the attack I am in no doubt that the initial response would have been significantly different, including early scene preservation, earlier response and formal appointment of a Senior Investigating Officer with increased manpower availability. However, although stating this fact I do strongly believe that the assault was treated by police as a very serious incident.

The seriousness with which I personally regarded this assault is reflected in my notebook entries from the 28th April 1997 to 8th May 1997 and the actions raised which are supported in the Police Press Statements of 30th April and 7th May 1997. The 7th May Press Statement from Detective Chief Inspector **P39** also acknowledges her approach and in which she outlines the fact that "a special team was set up to investigate this incident...".