

I can entirely understand and share your sympathy towards the family who have lost their relative in brutal and tragic circumstances. I have to say however, that I am concerned above the involvement of the Northern Ireland Office in matters which are still the subject of police investigation and consideration by the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland. As you know responsibility for the prosecution of offences in Northern Ireland rests with the Director of Public Prosecutions and with me as Attorney General for Northern Ireland. The Director is subject to my direction and I superintend him in the performance of his functions.

He goes on to say in the final paragraph;

I should be concerned if the investigation and prosecution of offences became politicised. My concern is with the administration of justice.

24. At document **39329A** the memo from Simon Rogers dated 9 January 1998 states that unfortunately the Chief Constable has said that the information was for the Secretary of State and not for public use and therefore he has gone back to the office of the Chief Constable with a draft letter for the Secretary of State to send to Diane Hamill. Because of what the Chief Constable had said in his letter Simon Rogers knew to get police agreement. The draft of a letter dated January 1998 [at page **39345**] from Mo to Sir Ronnie explains that it is an unusual case and that is why she would like to produce a response to the Hamill family.
25. Page **15370** appears to be a draft letter going from the Police Division to the Command Secretariat. It is not entirely clear who had made these amendments. It could easily have been the Command Secretariat because they were trying to agree a letter that Mo could send.
26. I think that the final response from the Secretary of State to the Hamill Family [**Pages 16487 -16490**], relying on the information provided by the Chief Constable is actually quite helpful. I have been asked to consider point 5, which the family had raised in their letter of 21 November relating to the links between some officers and some of the defendants and the response of the Chief Constable, "*This allegation has been included in the criminal investigation and*