

MISS [REDACTED]

I refer you to the ACC's letter at 187C.

On 19 January 1998 and 30 March 2000, the Commission issued criminal and discipline Statements respectively, indicating satisfaction with the conduct of the police investigation. This has been a lengthy and extensive enquiry which has attracted considerable public interest.

As you are aware the Director of Public Prosecutions directed 'no prosecution' against any police officer involved. The Assistant Chief Constable is now advising us that, in his opinion, no disciplinary action is warranted in respect of the allegation pertaining to Neglect of Duty on the part of police. However, in relation to alleged misleading press releases, the Assistant Chief Constable suggests that the Chief Information Officer of the Royal Ulster Constabulary be asked to brief his staff of the necessity to carefully consider the wording of press releases, particularly when there are a series of them, so that it does not appear that the police account is changing.

With regard to the alleged misleading press releases, I am of the view that there is no material evidence to suggest that any police officer deliberately strived to misinform. In consequence, the action suggested by the Assistance Chief Constable appears, in my opinion, to be fair and appropriate.

With regard to the alleged Neglect of Duty on the part of the landrover crew present at the time of the attack on Robert Hamill; minutes 89(4) and that at 139 reflect the views of myself and Mr [REDACTED] respectively. For the reasons outlined in these minutes, I consider Constable Neill, as the senior officer at the scene (and sole full-time member) failed to carry out his duties with due promptitude and diligence. Accordingly, I recommend that Constable Neill is charged with the disciplinary offence of Neglect of Duty. To this end, I have prepared a draft letter to the Assistant Chief Constable, filed at 190B for consideration.

If you agreed with the substance of my recommendation, I will refer the file for the attention of a second member.

G

GREG MULLAN

5 April 2000

191. Mr [REDACTED]

I refer you to enclosure @ 191A and suggest a reply is issued along the lines of draft 191B

G 11/4/00

Draft 191B approved

192. Min [REDACTED]
Write letter to Messrs [REDACTED] C's subs, and return file to me

G 12/4/00