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Mr [REDACTED]
Northern Ireland Office

Your Ref: 92/195/23

Our Ref:

15 January 1998

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Handwritten signature]

THE ROBERT HAMILL CASE

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 January 1998 in which you sought our comments in relation to your draft letter of reply to Miss Diane Hamill.

Firstly, can I say that the RUC's view remains unchanged, ie that it is not appropriate for the information to be released publicly.

With regard to the content of your letter the undermentioned changes are recommended.

Page 1, paragraph 4

1. Remove the first sentence - "The police accept that they got it wrong in the case of Robert's murder". This phrase used by the Secretary of State will be quoted totally out of context and be applied to all aspects of the incident and investigation.
2. Replace the words "not appropriate" (3rd line) with "unintentionally misleading".
3. Remove the words "surrounding their behaviour" (last line).

Page 2, paragraph 1

4. After, "surrounding the death", add the sentences, "There was no attempt by the police to be duplicitous in releasing the statements. The issues surrounding the alleged inactivity or otherwise of those in the police landrover are being investigated".

Agreed change - The police have advised me that ...



Page 2, paragraph 2

5. Part of paragraph 2 is included in paragraph 1 as outlined above, the remainder of the paragraph should be removed.

Page 2, paragraph 4

6. After "disciplinary offences" (line 4), add, "Cognizance is also taken of the NIO Guidance to the Chief Constable on Police Complaints and Discipline Procedures".
7. Remove the final sentence, "Although, therefore, your sizeable petition is something the police could not have failed to take notice of, it is not of itself conclusive".

Page 3, paragraph 1

8. Remove the words, "between the officers and the Police Authority".

Page 4, paragraph 5

9. Last line, change to read, "to the police or the ICPC".

I trust you find these comments helpful. If I can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to get in touch.

G W SILLERY
Chief Superintendent
Command Secretariat