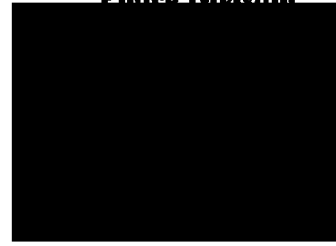


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THE ROBERT HAMILL CASE

The Chief Constable very helpfully wrote to the Secretary of State on 23 December about this case. His response has been passed to me and I have been asked to prepare a letter from the Secretary of State to the Hamill family.

Against a background where the Secretary of State wants to be as open as possible, I have prepared a draft building on those aspects of the Chief Constable's letter which seem to me to be uncontentious, and which are not the subject of investigation. I have also borne in mind that whatever is said is likely to be made public.

I have to submit the draft to the Secretary of State in the next couple of days and I should be grateful, therefore, for your comments as soon as possible please.

