



16 January 1998

**S T A T E M E N T**

**RELATING TO THE CRIMINAL ASPECTS OF THE INVESTIGATION  
INTO A COMPLAINT AGAINST OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL ULSTER  
CONSTABULARY BY [REDACTED] SOLICITOR ON BEHALF OF  
[REDACTED], PORTADOWN, CO ARMAGH BT62 1DF**

On 9 May 1997 this complaint was referred to the Independent Commission for Police Complaints under Article 7 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and the nature of the allegation fell within the category of mandatory supervision under Article 9(1)(a) of the Order. The Commission confirmed it would supervise the investigation of the complaint and approved the appointment of the Investigating Officer proposed by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

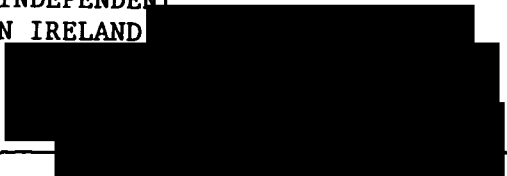
From the outset the police investigation was closely monitored by the Supervising Member who held regular consultations with the Investigating Officer. An attempt made at an early stage in the investigation to meet Diane Hamill proved unsuccessful. Of over eighty potential civilian witnesses invited to attend interview by the Investigating Officer in the Supervising Member's presence, only two persons co-operated. This alarming failure by potential witnesses, on both sides of the religious divide, to assist, has frustrated the investigation which has been required to rely heavily on witness statements obtained during the local Royal Ulster Constabulary enquiry arising from the murder of Robert Hamill.

Notwithstanding, the landrover crew subject of this complaint were questioned in detail, in the Supervisor's presence, about their specific conduct prior to and during the outbreak of disorder in Portadown during the early hours of 27 April 1997. Witness statements were also recorded from ambulance personnel and police reinforcements which arrived at the scene. In addition, associated documentation secured included copies of all relevant radio transmissions and police notebook entries as well as related medical and photographic evidence.

Following careful consideration of all interim papers submitted, and after further consultation with the Investigating Officer, the Supervising Member directed the submission of the investigation report which was received on 23 December 1997.

This report comprised a very substantial number of evidential documentary items including relevant extracts from the Royal Ulster Constabulary file related to the murder of Robert Hamill, together with all statements and associated evidence obtained during the complaint's enquiry.

**THIS INVESTIGATION INTO THE CRIMINAL ASPECTS OF THIS COMPLAINT  
HAS BEEN CONDUCTED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE INDEPENDENT  
COMMISSION FOR POLICE COMPLAINTS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**



**Commission Members**

