

admissible evidence to secure the conviction of officers for any criminal or disciplinary offences and also the contents of paragraphs 11.42 of the NIO Guidance to the Chief Constable on Police Complaints and Discipline Procedures. The issue of suspension is reviewed at significant stages in Complaints and Discipline investigations, including the stages when the recommendations of the investigating officer are made and the decisions of the DPP and ICPC are taken respectively regarding any criminal or disciplinary proceedings. To date no police officer has been suspended in connection with the ongoing investigation."

2.2 Please note Superintendent [REDACTED] further comments at paragraph 5 where he quotes an earlier reply to the Secretary of State from Command Secretariat.

3 Sick Leave etc

3.1 D/Inspector Irwin, Portadown (Appendix C) reports that members of the Landrover crew availed of sick leave as follows:

- (a) Constable A Neill - from 10.6.97 until 11.12.97 - returned to Section duty;
- (b) Reserve Constable P40 [REDACTED] - from 13.5.97 until 22.10.97 - returned to Section duty;
- (c) Reserve Constable D Cornett - remains on sick leave from 29.5.97; and
- (d) Reserve Constable R Atcheson - remains on sick leave from 10.9.97.

3.2 Apparently the periods of sick leave are related to the incident on 27.4.97. Constables Neill, P40 [REDACTED] and Cornett have each submitted criminal injury claims in relation to verbal and physical abuse at the time of the incident, plus distress caused by allegations made during the investigation.

4 Crowd

4.1 In relation to the movement of the crowd and why they were allowed to assemble at flash points, the situation is as follows:

- (a) Every Saturday night several buses convey people from Portadown to The Coach Inn, Banbridge and back again. One of the stops is at Bridge Street, Portadown. Many of these people then walk to their homes via Market Street/High Street in groups of varying sizes.
- (b) In addition a local chip shop known as "Boss Hogg's" in Market Street also attracts groups of people and individuals to the area.
- (c) At the material time there were different groups in the area making their way home or to "Boss Hogg's". It