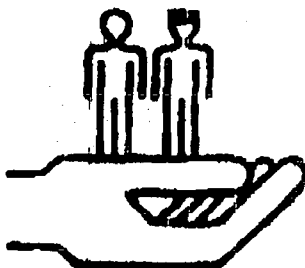


Independent Commission for  
Police Complaints for  
Northern Ireland



Chairman



Date

June 1997

New Ref.

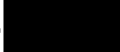
Our Ref.

C1039/97/4



Director  
British Irish Rights Watch  
First Floor  
20 - 21 Took's Court  
Curettor Street  
London  
EC4A 1LB

Dear Ms



Thank you for your letter of 19 June 1997 the content of which I have noted.

You raise a number of important issues in your correspondence and I am pleased to avail of this opportunity to provide, as best I can, the clarification sought.

Firstly, I should point out that Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney, Superintendent Anderson and Chief Inspector Bradley are based at Cough Barracks, Armagh and not Portadown RUC Station. The decision to approve Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney as Investigating Officer, rather than an officer from outside the RUC, was made by myself after careful consideration. The Detective Chief Superintendent has been involved in previous supervised investigations and has the confidence of the Commission to conduct a thorough and meaningful inquiry under my direct supervision.

With regard to Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney's letter dated 22 May 1997, I regret any upset caused to Ms Hamill by the reference to criminal proceedings. As you quite properly point out in your communication Ms Hamill was invited to contact police if the venue of her proposed interview was not suitable. Had the complainant asked for alternative arrangements to have been made she would have been facilitated. I also note that you indicate that Ms Hamill was confused by the letter from the Investigating Officer: she had of course, the benefit of the assistance of a solicitor who would have been able to explain matters and could have sought further clarification if necessary.

The/...

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