

Police Ombudsman - Misconduct Investigation

Officers Concerned

Detective Chief Superintendent Maynard McBurney (retired)

Detective Inspector Michael Irwin.

Detective Constable Edward Honeyford.

Detective Constable John McAteer (retired)

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The background to this misconduct investigation emanates from the RUC investigation into the murder of Robert Hamill, who following an attack in Portadown Town Centre on 27th April 1997, died of his injuries on the 8th May 1997.
- 1.2 At that time Detective Chief Superintendent Maynard McBurney, was the Head of CID for South Region and took over the role of Senior Investigating Officer, following Robert Hamill's death.
- 1.3 The murder of Robert Hamill continues to attract widespread publicity and media interest. Criticism has been levelled at both the initial police response to the attack and subsequent failings in the follow-up investigation. It is now one of six cases being considered by Judge Cory.
- 1.4 On 6th May 1997, two days before Robert Hamill died of his injuries, Mrs. [REDACTED] (deceased), Solicitor acting on behalf of the Hamill family, lodged an official complaint with the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The basis of the complaint was that a police landrover patrol "**witnessed the assault and did not intervene as promptly as possible**" The resulting RUC investigation into the complaint was supervised by the Independent Commission for Police Complaints (ICPC). It is confirmed that Mr. [REDACTED] (deceased) was the appointed Supervising Member.