[redacted]

FAO Dr [redacted]

From Diane Hamill

Dear Dr [redacted]

21st November 1997

I am writing to confirm our meeting on Monday 24th November 1997 at 2.00pm at Stormont. I had indicated to your secretary that my solicitor, Ms [redacted], is unable to attend. In her place I have asked [redacted], Legal Officer with the Committee on the Administration of Justice to accompany us. CAJ have been helping us with the case.

The others who will be accompanying me will be my sisters, Fiona Ryan, Riana Hamill and my mother [redacted]. It is possible that another sister will be there as well. We will be bringing our petition calling for the suspension of the officers who were at the scene. It has been signed by about 20,000 people.

I also thought it might be useful if I outlined some of the areas, which we wished to discuss with you.

1. Robert, as you will be aware, was beaten and fatally injured by a crowd in Portadown in April. After the incident the RUC issued a number of conflicting press statements. The first, issued on 27th April, said that there had been a clash between rival factions in Portadown and that the police had come under attack from a section of the crowd. By 30th April the story had changed somewhat. It was now claimed that the crew of a police land rover were alerted to a disturbance and immediately intervened to establish order and prevent assaults. The numbers involved, however, were such that these officers were unable to contain the situation and became themselves the subject of attack. It was only on 7th May, that the police confirmed that four people, two couples who had left a social event in St Patrick's Hall, were set upon by a large crowd in an unprovoked attack.

   We would be grateful if you could provide us with the following information. Why were the initial press statements released? Who authorised their release? Where did the information they contained come from? Have you ordered an investigation into this aspect of the case?

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2. We would be grateful if you could update us as to the progress made to date in the investigation of our complaint. It is still the case that the police officers involved have not been suspended. We would have thought that in a case as grave as this, suspension would have been a matter of course. Why have the officers not been suspended? 20,000 people, many from our area,