

10. There has now been produced and shown to me a copy of my report dated 9 May 1997 containing page numbers **9559-9569**. As part of the external examination I noticed that there was a scar close to the hairline which is set out at page 2 of my report. The clinical summary referred to a closed head injury but not to any external injury. I shaved the part of the head where the healing laceration was located and checked to see if it was reflected in the scalp but there was no bruising. A photograph of it was taken and is now produced and shown to me containing page number **1052**.

11. As part of the normal procedure for the external examination I turn the body over to check for injuries to the back. In this case no injuries on the back are recorded or photographed as there were no injuries. There may have been a healed laceration but no external injuries were visible at autopsy. There were no visible injuries to the back of the scalp when it was reflected. I did not fully shave the head but the scalp at the back was shaved as we were looking for evidence of whether he had fallen at the back and struck his head.

12. The lack of bruising may be a result of a healed injury or it may be because there was little actual bruising at the time of the injury. There was no internal bruising in relation to the bruise to Mr Hamill's upper eyelid. There was a hairline fracture on the front of the scalp. Overall, the external injuries were significantly less than we would expect to see in someone who had been the victim of a violent assault, even taking account of the time for healing prior to death. However, what has to be considered is that the external injuries may not necessarily reflect the possibility of more serious damage internally and particularly to the brain.

13. I think the significant injury in this case was the presence of diffuse axonal injury in the brain. That type of injury is not one that is necessarily associated with very severe external injuries because it is caused by the brain being shaken about inside the cranial cavity. It is possible to have a severe brain injury with very little external injury. Conversely, you can have quite severe external injury, but have very little damage to the brain inside. It depends on a number of