

4. In terms of retention of files by the DPP, generally summary prosecution files would be kept for five years. However, if it was a scheduled indictable only file, for example a murder, it would be kept indefinitely.
5. In the incident involving Robert Hamill there was a number of suspects involved, but in such a case there would be one file and not a file on each suspect.
6. I would expect the file to be divided up into four parts. The first part is essentially a police report which gives a summary of the facts and allegations. It will give details of the suspects and it will give recommendations as to prosecution and other general comments. Part two of the file is usually composed of the witness statements that the police have gathered. Part three relates to exhibits such as interview transcripts; and part four relates to miscellaneous documents such as custody records and other miscellaneous forms.
7. It was the function of the DPP to consider the police file and in particular to determine whether there was sufficient evidence to give a reasonable prospect of conviction of any person reported upon in the file. In 1997 the DPP dealt with indictable only offences as well as a small range of either way offences and a number of summary only offences. There is an appendix to the RUC code which sets out the files that the Director requires to be submitted to him and it includes everything which must be prosecuted on indictment.
8. If, on consideration of the file, the caseworker believed that other information was necessary he would ask the police to make further enquiries or obtain further evidence. Such a request would be made by way of an Interim Direction. This is not a formal court document but a private communication between the Director and the police. If the Interim Direction stated that the DPP's office would like to interview witnesses we would obviously not expect any documents from the police but if we