

matter was properly being dealt with and investigated, without giving information about the investigation itself.

12. I can recall having answered questions about the Robert Hamill case at Police Authority meetings, questions that were raised by Mrs. [REDACTED] who is now the Ombudsman and was at that time a member of the Police Authority. She asked on at least three meetings questions regarding the Hamill investigation. I can recall reassuring her that the matter was the subject of investigation, which Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney, if my memory serves me right, was the investigating officer and the matter was being thoroughly investigated by us and viewed very seriously, that it was being supervised by the ICPC and that we would be reporting to the DPP in due course. In so far as going into detail about the case that would not have been proper. I do not have a note of those questions and answers it is purely from memory however there may be a record of the minutes of the Police Authority which details the questions and answers.
13. Where an Investigating Officer having carried out preliminary enquiries realised that there was an officer or officers who were suspect and had a case to answer he would refer the matter to the ACC C&D for consideration of suspending the officer. I would have thought the IO would have submitted a preliminary report outlining the case but there would be occasions where as a matter of urgency this would have been done over the telephone and later substantiated by report. Suspending someone was both a drastic step for the individual and from an organisational point of view it was right and proper that suspension action be used in appropriate cases.
14. It would be a matter of judgement on the part of the investigator whether by suspending the individual officer it would have impaired the investigation and it would be for the investigator to decide the best possible approach to conclude aspects of the inquiry before taking the step of suspension.
15. If an officer had been suspended it would have been reported by the ACC C&D at our weekly meeting as part of his departmental report. The information would have detailed who was suspended and for what reason.