

RNI DE-CLASSIFIED

151. I should comment that having considered the intelligence that we were not given as identified above, it is worth saying that it also reinforces the belief that this was a murder undertaken by the Loyalists. The "missing intelligence" does not, therefore, suggest a lost line of inquiry; the "missing intelligence" reinforces what Special Branch actually gave me. In some instances, the intelligence that I have now seen is even more forceful than some of the original material that I was given. Intelligence received, and the intelligence not received therefore points to one major line of enquiry. The intelligence is corroborated by the fact that components came from places such as Harland and Woolf and [REDACTED] and that a sectarian motivation existed.
152. I had investigated other loyalist murders, and M540 [REDACTED] was also well aware of the UVF capacity under Billy Wright's direction. This UVF capability became the LVF capability and I therefore had no need for Special Branch to tell me about the capability that the LVF suspects had to commit murders. I knew that they had the street craft and confidence to undertake a terrorist shooting, or alternatively to undertake the simple task of putting a container with a bomb under a car. There were bombmakers in Northern Ireland who would make devices for organisations, and that was true on both the Loyalist and Republican side. It did not follow at all that those who made a bomb were those who planted it; the planting of a bomb was something that the LVF suspects could easily have undertaken. I believe that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would themselves have confidence to plant a device under an unprotected car. Whilst I accept that when considering a list of the victims of the LVF murders, most were shot, I believed and believe that the challenge posed to them by the murder of Rosemary Nelson was not outwith their capabilities.
153. I have been asked the extent to which as SIO I would have challenged any intelligence provided by Special Branch and whether this led to any difficulties. As I have explained I asked questions, like any SIO; I would not have accepted a piece of intelligence without