

time. There was no particular reason why they would lie. Readers of the Lurgan Mail could come to their own conclusions and, as a reporter, it is not up to me to judge the veracity of what is told to me.

28. As I mention in my previous witness statement, other allegations that were made to me on the day of Rosemary Nelson's murder included one where a member of the security force personnel had driven down Lake Street cheering as if it was a cup final and clearly taunting those present. Another allegation was that one policeman had said "we got her". Certainly if these things were said and done then they would not be savoury. As I said, I was not there, I did not witness them, but I had to take the comments that were made to me about these incidents for what they were and report them.
29. Another main allegation which came out shortly after the murder was that the security forces had in some way been involved, or colluded, in the incident in some way. People reported to me that there had been a large security force presence in the area the night before and that the security forces had facilitated a safe route in to the area to facilitate the planting of the bomb itself. However, I certainly did not notice anything unusual and I was not in the area on the weekend of 13 and 14 March 1999 and so do not recall anything unusual personally. I cannot recall there having been a particularly heavy military presence in the area on my return. However, there would not have been any reason for me to have been in the Kilwilke/Castor Bay Road area at the weekend. It would be unusual now to see helicopters flying around, but in those days it was quite a regular occurrence.
30. There was some surprise within the community at the sophistication of the bomb. Such technology was not associated with Loyalists generally, as it was not thought to be within their capability. Their approach had traditionally been 'up close and personal', such that their favoured modus operandi was often to kill people with a shot to the head. It was therefore unusual that someone would be murdered by Loyalists from a bomb placed under their car. I would say that it was not in the vocabulary of the Loyalists' form of terrorism.