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**ICPC****Independent Commission for Police Complaints for Northern Ireland**

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for info + PA  
 SR  
 4th May 1999

*Dear Aileen.*

Please find enclosed a copy of my commentary on Commander Mulvihill's review of the RUC investigation into complaints by, or on behalf of, Rosemary Nelson.

As you no doubt know, my colleague Geralyn McNally has been the subject of gossip, rumour and vilification on the part of those who should have known better, enthusiastically supported by elements of the media, ever since her Statement in this case was placed by others in the public domain. This has included challenges to the veracity of her conclusions as well as her motivation in coming to them. Others have gone beyond the sharing of defamatory sentiments and have threatened Ms McNally directly, necessitating the implementation of security measures on her behalf.

Commander Mulvihill's report has been harnessed as a means of repudiating the Commission's concerns in respect of the Nelson case, to the degree that these have been promoted as being little more than the unfortunate fall out from a personality clash between Ms McNally and the RUC investigating officer.

In preparing my commentary on Commander Mulvihill's report I have drawn on documentary material which was also available to him in the course of his review. As you can see, I arrive at very different conclusions than does Commander Mulvihill. My analysis substantially confirms many of the concerns raised by my colleague. It also lends credence to two major allegations in respect of the RUC's response to Mrs Nelson: that her complaints were not treated seriously and that her character was associated with those of her clients.

Beyond the immediate implications for this particular case, my commentary identifies what I consider to be major systemic shortcomings in aspects of the way in which complaints against police officers are investigated.

The/...