

From: Lesley Foster  
Police Division  
22 September 1998

1. Mr Rogers (signed 22/9/98)
2. PS/ Mr Ingram (B&L)

**MINISTER'S CASE SPB 288/98: CAJ RE ROSEMARY NELSON**

**Issue:** The Committee on the Administration of Justice has written a further letter to the Minister concerning Rosemary Nelson.

**Recommendation:** That PS/Mr Ingram respond along the lines of the attached draft.

**Timescale:** As soon as possible. The advice has been delayed as we were awaiting a response from the police as to whether there is any specific threat against Ms Nelson.

2. **Background:** The Committee on Administration of Justice have sent a further letter concerning the security of Rosemary Nelson and the issue of alleged intimidation of lawyers in general. The letter questions the comment in the last response to them that the Government is not aware of evidence of a pattern of intimidation of lawyers, particularly in light of the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers. I do not think it is worthwhile getting into prolonged debate on this issue other than to reiterate that the Government and the Chief Constable will not tolerate harassment of intimidation of lawyers.

3. The letter expresses concern about the safety of Ms Nelson and attaches a copy of a threatening note which was posted to Ms Nelson. It also attaches a copy of a pamphlet which relates to Brendan McKenna and which refers to him having received "advice from Lurgan solicitor and former bomber Rosemary Nelson" and which gives her office