

circulated by Jonathan Powell. The note takers who attended the meeting would have read the briefing prepared by Susan Scholefield which raised security for the coalition members as an issue. They would, therefore, have been alive to this and made sure that a detailed note of it was taken if it was raised. The fact, therefore, that security is not mentioned in the summary circulated by Jonathan Powell indicates to me that the issue was not raised at all at the meeting.

43. Ms Nelson was murdered on 15 March 1999. It was a terrible day and a personal tragedy for the family. It was a further indication of just how far we still had to go. There were still some very dangerous people out there. I knew her death was an event that would have huge repercussions because of the nature of it, and the issues surrounding her. Ms Nelson was a name known to all of us. She was, by then, a well known solicitor.
44. I recall I was holding the fort in Belfast when Ms Nelson was murdered. Others were away with St Patrick's Day events. Mo Mowlam was in Washington. I would have seen and noted Stephen Leach's memo dated 16 March 1999 on the subject ([REDACTED] RNI 107.021-030). The memo was also sent to Mo Mowlam, who was very engaged in this matter. As long as the matter was being properly attended to, I was satisfied. On the fourth page of the chronology attached to Stephen Leach's memo, it stated that on 6 August 1998 the pamphlet which referred to Ms Nelson as a former bomber (this was the pamphlet entitled "The Man Without A Future") was passed to the police to carry out a threat assessment of Ms Nelson. I understand that the Police Division had also purported to send (but possibly failed to do so) the handwritten threatening note addressed to Ms Nelson. I wasn't aware of this at the time. I don't remember precisely when I found out about it, but I was extremely unhappy that the NIO might have failed to pass something on to the police which was relevant to the RUC threat assessment of her.
45. Miss [REDACTED] from SPOD wrote to me on 16 March 1998 updating me on the murder (RNI 107.035-036). She stated that the Red Hand Defenders had admitted