

reasons something was going to be done about the Councillors' security, then there would have to be further discussions at a higher political level. Either Ministers would resolve to give the Councillors protection under the KPPS scheme despite the police threat risk assessment, in which case the integrity of the scheme in my view would be called into question, or they would decide to give the Councillors some protection outside the scheme.

20. As anticipated the issue of the personal security of Councillors MacCionnaith and Duffy did remain in issue. I was involved in some of the discussions to reach a solution. Essentially, we were not going to compromise the operational independence of the police so that they might change their threat risk assessment of Councillors MacCionnaith and Duffy to suit a political outcome. In fairness, I cannot recall any colleague advocating this course of action and I am certain the police would not have acceded to such a request had it been made. Therefore, if giving the Councillors some personal protection was necessary to achieve some progress in the parades dispute at Drumcree, it had to be outside the KPPS scheme and under Ministerial discretion. I was not averse to Councillors MacCionnaith and Duffy getting protection. However, it was clear that if we moved away from the strict criteria for entry to the KPPS scheme, then the integrity of the scheme would be called into question. We would have to look at every other case where an individual had been assessed at a Level 4. It was a strongly held view that we couldn't bend the rules on this. We had to find another mechanism to provide Councillors MacCionnaith and Duffy with some personal security. This view was shared by my colleagues with responsibility for the KPPS Scheme.
21. Ultimately it was decided that we should ask the Ministers to exceptionally agree a limited package of security for the Councillors outside the KPPS scheme. Stephen Leach, the Associate Director of Policing and Security, discussed the matter with Ken Lindsay and asked him to draft an appropriate submission to Ministers on his behalf. Ken Lindsay