

CONFIDENTIAL - POLICY

DRAFT

FROM: S J LEACH
Associate Director, Policing and Security
October 1998

See copy distribution list

PS/Secretary of State (B&L)

PROTECTION AT THE HOMES OF COUNCILLORS BREANDÁN MacCIONNAITH
AND JOE DUFFY

SUMMARY

Issue: Both Councillors have been assessed for entry to the Key Persons Protection Scheme. They do not currently meet the level of threat criteria under the Scheme to justify their entry. Both still perceive their personal security as an issue around the sensitive discussions over Drumcree. The issue is whether Ministers are willing to agree expenditure on limited physical security measures at the homes of both Councillors outside the scope of the Key Persons Protection Scheme.

Recommendation: Both Councillors have concerns about the possibility of attack by rogue Loyalists and there is clearly an expectation that Government will do something for them. Ministers are therefore recommended to exceptionally approve a limited package of security measures outside the Key Persons Protection Scheme to assuage both MacCionnaith and Duffy's concerns and to avoid their personal security becoming an issue in the Drumcree talks process.

Timescale: If Ministers are content to endorse the recommendation above, implementation would quickly follow.