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4. A threat risk assessment was carried out on both Councillors by the K in line with the Scheme's entry criteria, but police did not believe a significant threat existed to either man sufficient to allow them entry to the Scheme. In November Ministers subsequently agreed that protection up to £█ should exceptionally be provided outside the Scheme for both men.

5. On 15 December at Mr Leach's request I visited MacCionnaith at the Drumcree Community Centre off Garvaghy Road. Duffy had been expected to attend but did not do so. At that meeting I advised MacCionnaith that protective measures had been agreed for both Councillors and that an assessment of their respective homes by the RUC would be required to assess what measures were needed. MacCionnaith was not at all happy with the idea of police officers in his home but eventually agreed to the assessments. I spoke to Duffy later in the day and he also agreed to the RUC assessment.

6. I subsequently visited both men on 22 December with RUC colleagues and a survey was carried out on their homes. I advised both men that I would be in touch after Christmas to discuss next steps. They were content. Recommendations have been received from police in respect of both houses and we are now in the process of costing the measures prior to beginning work. I spoke to MacCionnaith this morning and brought him up-to-date with progress. He appeared entirely content and I have agreed to see him next week to talk through the recommendations and how we propose to implement them. I have made similar arrangements with Duffy.

7. MacCionnaith has not raised the issue of protection for other Coalition members at any visit or during any conversation I have had with him. Since he appears content with the progress on his own personal security measures I suspect if protection is an issue he wishes to raise with the PM it will concern Coalition members.

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