

JOINT STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN, ICPC AND CHIEF CONSTABLE, RUC
IN RELATION TO INVESTIGATIONS OF COMPLAINTS BY, OR ON BEHALF
OF, MRS ROSEMARY NELSON

The first, and most important, point that we must make is that the investigation into complaints of threats to the life of Mrs Rosemary Nelson allegedly made by police officers while interviewing her clients in detention, has been completed to the satisfaction of the ICPC. The relevant files are now with the Director of Public Prosecutions for his consideration.

The statement issued by the ICPC at the conclusion of the investigation drew attention to concerns about its conduct, prior to the Chief Constable's appointment of Commander Mulvihill of the Metropolitan Police to take it over in July 1998. The ICPC would have been failing in its duty to Mrs Nelson, the wider community and the police force had it not highlighted its concerns. We always knew that the concerns raised would remain a matter of record, no matter how satisfactory the final outcome would prove to be. In this context, and given the seriousness of the matters raised, Commander Mulvihill was requested by the Chief Constable to undertake a parallel review of the RUC's investigative procedures in this case.

There have been public demands for his report in this regard to be published. However, legal difficulties prevent full publication. In this context, the Chairman and the Chief Constable, who have worked in an agreed way throughout this matter, decided to ask Commander Mulvihill to prepare for public scrutiny what he considered to be an accurate account of his report in the light of the concerns raised. His statement is attached hereto.

The Supervising Member of the Commission for this enquiry has supervised and directed over 100 cases and this is the first occasion in which she, or any other Member of the Commission, has had to issue a statement with such a degree of negative qualification. The RUC officer most closely associated with the conduct of this investigation is an officer who has satisfactorily conducted numerous complaints investigations under the supervision of the Commission. Commander Mulvihill is an officer of considerable experience and standing and his investigation of the complaints in this case met with the full satisfaction of the Commission.

Commander Mulvihill's recommendations represent a positive outcome to a set of difficult circumstances. We are committed to moving forward together to ensure that these recommendations are urgently and rigorously addressed. We will continue with our joint efforts to ensure that we have a police complaints system that enjoys the confidence of the public and the police officers that serve them.