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Independent Commission for Police Complaints for Northern Ireland

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Chairman: Paul A. Donnelly, BA, MSc

Chief Executive: Brian G. McClelland, BA

THIS STATEMENT IS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 9, PARAGRAPH (8) OF THE POLICE (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1987, RELATING TO COMPLAINTS AGAINST OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY MADE BY LAWYERS ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE IN IRELAND ON BEHALF OF ROSEMARY NELSON, SOLICITOR AND MR COLIN DUFFY

It is a statutory requirement that, on completion of an investigation into complaints against members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, which has been supervised by a Member of the Independent Commission for Police Complaints for Northern Ireland, the Supervising Member provide a statement. This document should indicate that the investigation has been conducted satisfactorily, or, if there are grounds for withholding or qualifying this certification the legislation requires the Supervising Member to specify those aspects of the investigation which gave rise to concern.

The following statement will confirm that, by the conclusion of the investigation, it was satisfactory, but that there were aspects of the earlier stages that gave rise to serious concerns as to its proper conduct.

THE COMPLAINTS

On 10th April 1997, 18th July 1997 and 10th September 1997 the matters under investigation were variously referred to the Independent Commission for Police Complaints for Northern Ireland under Article 7 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Order 1987. The nature of the complaints fell within the category of discretionary supervision under the provisions of Article 9(3)(a) of the Order and in this context the Commission confirmed that it would supervise their investigation. The Member of the Commission supervising the investigation approved the appointment of an Investigating Officer of the rank of Superintendent, who had been nominated by the Royal Ulster Constabulary. In turn, a colleague, of the rank of Chief Inspector, who undertook the day to day conduct of the investigation, assisted the Investigating Officer.

The allegations made by the Lawyers Alliance for Justice in Ireland concerned death threats to Mrs Nelson.

In order to gain a more detailed understanding of the nature of these and the circumstances in which they were allegedly made, the Supervising Member directed that the Chief Inspector interview, in her presence, Mrs Nelson and Mr Duffy. These interviews took place on 16th September 1997 and 15th October 1997 and written

Commission Members

Brian Reid (Deputy Chairman), Suzanne Bryson, Robin Davidson,
Bob Moore, GERALYN McNALLY, David Shillington