

Nelson than there may have been towards other defence solicitors. I think that she did become a target of police complaints. I have no view as to why Rosemary Nelson may have become such a particular target. Perhaps it was because Holding Centres are such a male enclave. I do not recall an occasion on which I visited a Holding Centre and met with a woman solicitor who was advising detainees. Indeed, although there were occasions on which women had been detained at the Holding Centres and a woman police officer would be detailed as a custody officer, they would not necessarily be interrogated by a female officer. I do wonder whether this is just another example of how society is gender-orientated in the administration of justice.

Contact with Ed Lynch

17. I received a letter from Ed Lynch dated 13 March 1997, raising concerns regarding Rosemary Nelson's security and asking that I turn the information over to the Attorney General's office for investigation. I attach at exhibit **RNI 105.102-103** a copy of the letter. I do not specifically recall receiving this letter, and I am not certain whether this was the first time I became aware of hostility towards Rosemary Nelson. (albeit that I would have already been aware of a general police antipathy towards solicitors in Holding Centres). It is fair to say that when I took up my role as Independent Commissioner, I was very conscious of the huge activity coming out of the US, and the fact that US-based committees on Human Rights were hugely active.
18. Although I do not recall doing so, it appears that I asked my Secretary (██████████) to forward the letter from Ed Lynch to ██████████ (Legal Secretary to the Law Officers). I attach at **RNI 108.109** a copy of ██████████'s letter. Once Ed Lynch's letter had been passed on, I had done what had been asked of me and I would not have had anything more to do with this matter. I do not recall any other threats being mentioned to me by Ed Lynch. Had they been, I would have passed these on in the same way. I