

should add that my remit specifically excluded me from functioning as a complaints agency. My duty was invariably to pass them to the relevant police unit.

19. Ed Lynch had been trying to get me to act as a body to inquire into allegations of threats. I think he had great faith in me. He even came over to London on one occasion and was actively engaged in trying to persuade me to conduct inquiries into the threats made to Rosemary Nelson. I told him that this was not in my authority, and that it was necessary for someone in authority to want the inquiries to be conducted. I indicated that, as and when I was appropriately asked to do so, I would conduct an inquiry.
20. I was still in office when Rosemary Nelson died. As far as I can recall, I was not involved in any review of what happened, nor do I recall receiving any correspondence in relation to it. I attach at **RNI 102.035-036** a copy of a letter dated 19 April 1999 from Ed Lynch which I understand was copied to me. I do not recall receiving this letter or taking any action in relation to it.
21. I understand that in a report produced by the British Irish Rights Watch, it is stated that Ronnie Flanagan commented that "Lawyers want to have access because they are working for paramilitaries" and that comments made by Ronnie Flanagan regarding the corruption of solicitors, and comments that "there are those who are working for a paramilitary agenda and part of that agenda is to make sure that detainees do not speak" are attributed by him to me. Although I may have picked up the personal views of Ronnie Flanagan or others, I have no recollection of discussing with him or expressing a view on whether detainees were being used as a vehicle for threats to their solicitors, or whether defence solicitors had affiliations to paramilitaries. In any event, however, I would not have used the word "corruption". At most, when discussing such issues, I would have spoken of unprofessionalism. All my instincts about Ronnie Flanagan were that he was liberally motivated, was keen on the idea of the surveillance of Holding Centres by an independent body, and was very supportive of my position as Independent