

6. After the May 1997 elections McKenna and Duffy raised the issue of their security with the RUC. Their letter was never acknowledged.
7. In the Summer of 1998 when Jonathan Powel (Blair's Chief of Staff) began the process of the proximity talks, the issue of security was one of the first ones which the Coalition raised with him. They also raised the issue with the Secretary of State and the Irish Government. All promised to investigate the issue. This eventually resulted in the local RUC Superintendent (Culley?) phoning to say that the RUC was able to offer crime prevention advice. Nothing further happened.
8. The GRRC has raised the issue of security for its members at each of the meetings that the Coalition has held with representatives of the Northern Ireland Office. The Coalition feels that its legitimate concerns about the safety of its Committee members have never been taken seriously. Joanne Tennison has been forced to leave her job at Denny's (a local factory) because of intimidation. Several members of the Coalition Committee have received threats.
9. From the point of view of the Coalition members the security issue is of crucial importance. All have families who feel vulnerable. Portadown is known for the strength of extremist Loyalist groups. If the proximity talks are to progress, then there is a real fear that some of the Loyalist groups, especially the LVF, may fracture. There are real fears that a militant splinter group might decide to 'take someone out'.
10. Tony McKusker provided an assessment from the NIO's point of view. He described that there were two issues relating to security. First, there is the assessment of threat. This takes a long time to work through. Second, if there is a confirmation that there is a threat, then a decision has to be taken as to how to deal with this. Is it simply a matter of protecting the home, or do wider issues need to be taken into account.
11. The Northern Ireland Office operates a programme whereby public figures can apply for security assistance. The case of McKenna and Duffy had been considered through this programme. A decision had now been taken that they qualified. They were now eligible to claim work up to the amount of £ [REDACTED] each. To operate this scheme the RUC had to be involved in a assessment of the property.
12. (Tony McKusker mentioned to SEP privately that the RUC assessment was that neither McKenna nor Duffy was sufficiently in danger to warrant inclusion in the scheme. Both Mowlam and Ingram wanted to back the RUC, until a personal intervention by Tony himself persuaded the Secretary of State that they should be included as an indication of good faith.)
13. The involvement of the RUC in undertaking the security assessment is extremely problematic. The Sinn Fein councillor, Liam Maskey, had taken