

It was made absolutely clear to the interviewing officer that the Commission required that no statements be requested from police officers prior to their being interviewed. In defiance of this direction, statements were requested in advance on three occasions. The possible consequences of this are illustrated by one officer who came to interview and presented the interviewing officer with a hand written statement, saying "Here (name), this is the statement you asked for". During the subsequent interview the officer being questioned consistently replied to questions by saying "I refer you to my statement". When challenged by the Commission's representative as to why direct instructions were defied, the interviewing officer stated that he had taken this course of action "to hurry things along".

Throughout the investigation the supervising Commission member and senior staff of the commission consistently reminded the interviewing officer of their expectations and their displeasure at these not being fulfilled. In spite of seven separate meetings, numerous telephone contacts and informal conversations with the interviewing officer and his superior, who was formally the designated Investigation Officer, there was no improvement. At each stage much of the harm which was done to the investigation was of such a nature that it could not be undone.

Along with the supervising Commission member, I am concerned that this investigation has been irreparably undermined and that the facts of this case, whatever they might be, cannot now be established.

Yours sincerely,
Paul

Paul A Donnelly

Chairman.