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Therefore, looking urgently at what other options are available. A possibility might be to invite an outsider, such as a Northern Ireland QC or a member of the Police Complaints Authority for England and Wales, to supervise the investigation (by appointing them to the Commission on a short term basis). We will submit further advice on this.

4. The complainants will become aware (probably in the week following 12 July) that a new investigating officer has been appointed; both the Chief Constable and ICPC will be writing to them. It is likely, therefore, that media interest in the case will follow. Although the police and the Commission would have to manage the specific questions, more general ones are likely to be aimed at Ministers. Contingent lines to take are attached.

Conclusion

5. Ministers are asked to note the current position.

Signed

SIMON ROGERS

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