

In his statement he explains that he was arrested at his home address in March 1997 for alleged terrorist matters, taken to Gough barracks and held for four days.

On arrival he requested a solicitor. He could not specify one but was asked if Mrs Nelson would do and he agreed.

He says that he was interviewed four or five times each day by two pairs of officers and provides descriptions of them. He says that it was only the first pair he described who made derogatory comments regarding Mrs Nelson, i.e.

1. 'stocky, overweight, aged late 40's with short black hair with a side parting. He was wearing a tweed check suit and was smart'.
2. '6'1" tall, late 40's, fair hair, short combed back. He was wearing a smart grey check suit'.

Mr Simmons alleges that the first of these officers made the following comments during interviews:

'He asked me whether I had seen her (Rosemary Nelson) and that I was a game bastard'

'He said that Rosemary had a face on her like a man's ball bag'.

'He also said she was a terrorist'.

'It should have been Rosemary in here instead of youse'.

'commented on her (Rosemary Nelson's) involvement with terrorists'.

He stated that the other officer 'the tall one with combed back short fair hair was laughing and agreeing with him (the stocky officer)'.

These comments were apparently made 'at some time on the second day'.

He said that during a consultation with Mrs Nelson whilst in detention he told her that the officers had been running her down about terrorism, but did not mention the personal comments because it was embarrassing. He did, however, mention these to Patrick Vernon (another solicitor from her office) about three weeks later.

He did not make a complaint on his release stating that he 'felt safer talking to someone from Rosemary's office rather than someone from Gough Barracks'.

He made his initial statement (referred to above and contained in Chief Inspector **P146** report) in response to a written request from Rosemary Nelson's office.

Mr Simmons was interviewed on sixteen (16) occasions by the following pairings of officers:

DC Walker and **P121** - once (on first day 11.2.97)

DC **P149** and DC **P117** - eight times (3 on 12th, 3 on 13th, 2 on 14th)

DC **P164** and DC Campbell - seven times (3 on 12th, 3 on 13th, once on 14th).