

3.5.2. Allegation

It is alleged that attempts were made to pervert the course of justice through the use of threatening and abusive language regarding James Donnelly and Mrs Rosemary Nelson during interviews conducted on the 29th and 30th June 1998.

a) Mr Donnelly alleges that during a series of interviews at Castlereagh police Office between 29th and 30th June 1998 a number of comments were made by two interviewing detectives that amounted to threats to jeopardise his life and those of his family.

He also alleges that these same officers made derogatory comments about his solicitor, Mrs Rosemary Nelson, which if believed may have threatened her life.

b) Mrs Nelson alleges (this was based on information from Mr Patrick Vernon, her assistant solicitor, who attended Castlereagh on her behalf) that derogatory remarks were made regarding her to Mr Donnelly, which if believed may have threatened her life.

3.5.3. Interview(s) attempts at with complainant(s)

The complaints were initially notified to police by faxes from Mrs Nelson's office at around 15.45. These were brought to the attention of the custody officer, Sgt [REDACTED] at 16.40 on 30.6.98 by Constable [REDACTED] - 'statements' pages 27 - 31, Occurrence Book (exhibit G.E.2), pages 13 - 22, Custody record ('Other Documents' pages 3 - 14). At 1657 Sgt [REDACTED] spoke to Mr Donnelly, informed him of the faxes from Mrs Nelson and asked him whether he wished to make a complaint at that time. Mr Donnelly declined to do so stating that he would speak with his solicitor first.

On 6.7.98 Superintendent Macauley at New Complaints G department Lisnasharragh initiated form 17/2

On 20 August 1998 I wrote to Mr Donnelly and Mrs Nelson advising them of my appointment as the investigating officer. I requested appointments with them on Tuesday 1st September 1998 at the ICPC offices to discuss their complaints and to take formal written statements from each of them (see 'Other Documents' pages 145 - 148).

Both attended and witness statements were recorded from each of them separately. Mrs Nelson was not present when Mr Donnelly actually made his statement. Mr Donnelly's interview was supervised by Ms Geralyn McNally (ICPC).

3.5.4 Medical evidence

Not applicable