

**Mrs Rosemary Nelson, solicitor**

In her statement she provided hearsay evidence regarding comments allegedly made to James Donnelly. These were subsequently reported to Mr Patrick Vernon, her assistant solicitor, who had attended Castlereagh to see Mr Donnelly on her behalf.

Mrs Nelson responded by sending two separate faxes to both the investigating officer Castlereagh Holding Centre and to Gough Holding centre for the attention of Complaints and Discipline branch at about 1545 on 30th June 1998. (She produced copies of these as exhibit RN/2, p.2 - 8).

Purely for information exhibit RN/1 (p.1) was a copy of a letter Mrs Nelson brought to the attention of the officers recording her statement but which she did NOT attribute to any member of the RUC.

**Mr Patrick Vernon, solicitor**

Although described by Mrs Nelson as an 'assistant solicitor', Mr Vernon has 14 years' post qualification experience compared to the 15 years of Mrs Nelson. In his statement he explained how he attended Castlereagh Holding Centre to give legal advice to Mr James Donnelly. He had never met him before and outlined Mr Donnelly's initial mistrust of him which included asking him to verify his identity before talking with him. The statement then goes on to cover his subsequent consultations.

The initial consultation was on the morning of 29th June 1998 (custody record shows 12.35 until 13.12). The second on the same day commenced at about 7.30pm to 8pm (custody record shows consultation 20.25 until 21.25). He stated that at the second consultation Mr Donnelly appeared nervous and agitated, unlike the first consultation when he had appeared confident. He asked him what was wrong and says that Mr Donnelly alleged that interviewing officers had indicated that if he continued to refuse to answer questions that his name may become known to the LVF. The officers had also said that Rosemary Nelson had not come herself because he (Donnelly) wasn't that important to her. Mr Donnelly was unable to specify which officers said the comments or made threats, except that it was a particular pair of interviewing officers.

Mr Vernon said he deliberately dragged the consultation out 'so as to leave as little interviewing time as possible because of the state he [Donnelly] was in'.

He went on to say that he did not make a complaint that day on behalf of Mr Donnelly and was not aware whether Mr Donnelly had made one himself.

He said that the following morning he discussed the case with Rosemary Nelson and that 'she immediately sent a fax complaining about the conduct of the case to Castlereagh'.