

It is my view that a breakdown of communication, coupled with a series of unrelated administrative and organisational problems, combined to create an 'air of concern' which was wholly at odds with, and disproportionate to, the actual situation. Whilst acknowledging that the various complaint investigations might not have been conducted in a truly outstanding fashion they were adequate, but adversely complicated by the various issues outlined.

Perusal of the style of interviews, document accumulation, witness statements and format of report with recommendations leaves me with the impression that, essentially, sound enquiries were undertaken in the earlier investigations. It is clear that any additional evidence produced by my investigative team largely came about as a result of certain witnesses being prepared to come forward either because an outside police force had been called in or because of the involvement of other people (i.e. Lawyers Alliance for Justice in Ireland). Even with their encouragement and that of Mrs Nelson, not all potential witnesses co-operated. Of those who still refused to assist some had made the most serious of the allegations. Their continued non-contribution made the original R.U.C. investigations, and my subsequent investigations, that much more difficult.

I am confident that the facts of the case(s) have not only now been established, so far as it was ever going to be possible to do so, but were established during the original enquiry(ies).

Recommendations:

1. That audio as well as video recording equipment should be installed to all interviewing facilities where prisoners suspected of involvement in terrorist offences are detained. (*This recommendation has already been implemented*)
2. That a protocol should be established between each ICPC Supervising Member and R.U.C. Investigating Officer catering for such issues as:
 - a) the broad direction and scope of the investigation,
 - b) the frequency of meetings,
 - c) the preparation of elaborate interviewing strategies, and
 - d) ensuring that each is satisfied that the other is functioning within their agreed area of responsibility.
3. R.U.C. officers need to be reminded, perhaps through the medium of their established in-Force Training Programme, of the duties and responsibilities of ICPC Supervising Members, in the case of supervised complaints, and of their absolute right to be present at interviews.