



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2018/68/35
Creation Dates:	29 June 1988
Extent and medium:	3 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

E.R.**NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE 11.00 am On 29 JUNE 1988****POLICE AUTHORITY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND****STALKER/SAMPSON**

The Police Authority for Northern Ireland has now completed its consideration of a Report by Sir Philip Myers, HM Inspector of Constabulary, relating to certain observations made by Mr Colin Sampson, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, about the role played by three RUC Chief Officers in connection with his and Mr Stalker's Enquiry, namely the Chief Constable, the Deputy Chief Constable and Assistant Chief Constable Forbes. These observations were examined by the Authority to determine whether disciplinary proceedings needed to be taken in respect of these officers.

It is important that these matters are kept in perspective. Mr Sampson in his Report has stated clearly that "an objective assessment of the evidence adduced during the course of [his and Mr Stalker's] enquiry does not reveal conduct amounting to criminal behaviour so far as these three officers are concerned". In the course of its examination Mr Sampson repeated this assurance directly to the Authority. The Authority also noted Mr Sampson's conclusion that "I have to say that I have found no evidence that there were instructions to any police officers in Northern Ireland to use other than legitimate methods to bring offenders to justice".

Mr Sampson's observations concerned events subsequent to the three shootings in Co Armagh in late 1982 involving the RUC. Mr Sampson commented that the conduct of the three Chief Officers justified criticism and referred to short-comings in both operational and administrative matters. The criticisms revolved around operational planning, operational procedures, the conduct of an investigation into certain matters arising out of two of the shootings and an alleged lack of assistance to the Stalker/Sampson enquiry team. The officers concerned strongly denied that these criticisms were valid.

The criticisms relating to short-comings in both operational and administrative matters have been the subject of a special inspection by Mr Charles McLachlan, one of HM Inspectors of Constabulary. Such inspection reports are not normally made available to the Authority but the Authority has been assured by the Secretary of State that Mr McLachlan's Report has been accepted by the Chief Constable of the RUC and that his recommendations have already been implemented in large measure.

E.R.

The Authority studied the remaining observations in great detail and in the course of this study had discussions with Sir Philip Myers, Mr Charles Kelly, Chief Constable of Staffordshire, and Mr Sampson. These discussions were intended to clarify a number of points in Mr Sampson's Report, and to ascertain whether the disciplinary investigations Mr Kelly was conducting in relation to offences up to Chief Superintendent level had any implications for the Chief Officers concerned.

In the course of these discussions Mr Sampson advised the Authority that, in his view and having regard to all the circumstances, disciplinary proceedings would not be justified against any of the Chief Officers. Mr Kelly, who has now completed his investigation, has assured the Authority that his disciplinary investigations did not bring to light any matter which might suggest the commission of a disciplinary offence by any of the Chief Officers.

Regarding his criticisms of a lack of assistance by Chief Officers to the enquiry team, Mr Sampson has stated that there were leaks to the media during the course of Mr Stalker's enquiry and that this would have influenced the readiness of RUC Officers to co-operate with the enquiry team.

On the basis of its examination of the matter and in the light of the advice received, the Authority concluded by a majority of one that it was not necessary to appoint an investigating officer to enquire further into Mr Sampson's observations and resolved that no disciplinary proceedings needed to be taken in any of the three cases. It should be stressed that the point at issue for the Authority was not that of culpability but of possible further investigation.

6093

NO 8

15
7
B

DRAFT

The Government are disappointed at the decision of the Police Authority for Northern Ireland announced today. They have consistently expressed their deep concern about what is now referred to as the Stalker/Sampson affair. This concern is confirmed by today's statement by the Police Authority and in particular by its conclusion "by a majority of one that it was not necessary to appoint an investigating officer to enquire further into Mr. Sampson's observations".

The Government have instructed that their concern on this matter be conveyed to the British Authorities.

29 June 1988.