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Patrick Finucane - Written Ministerial Statement

THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2010

Patrick Finucane - Written Ministerial Statement

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Owen Paterson): The House will be aware that one of my predecessors as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Right Honourable Member for Torfaen (Paul Murphy), announced in the House on 23rd September 2004 that he would take steps to establish a public inquiry into the death of Patrick Finucane in 1989. To date no such inquiry has been established.

I believe it is right that I should determine the way forward in this case and that consequently I should set out a clear decision making process both to the House and to the Finucane family. I met the family on the 8th November to listen to their views and I have written to them formally inviting their representations as to whether it is in the public interest that I should establish a public inquiry into the death of Patrick Finucane. I will consider those representations carefully and in detail, along with any other relevant representations that I receive over the next two months, before deciding this question.

In addition to considering representations on the case, I shall also need to take into account a broad range of other factors in determining what the public interest requires. The other factors that I will consider when deciding the public interest will include:

- “ The commitment given to this House in 2004.
- “ The conclusions of reviews and investigations into the case and the extent to which the case has caused, and is capable of causing, public concern.
- “ The experience of the other inquiries established after the Weston Park commitments
- “ The delay that has occurred since the 2004 announcement and the potential length of any inquiry.
- “ Political developments that have taken place in Northern Ireland since 2004, and
- “ The potential cost of any inquiry and the current pressures on the UK Government’s finances.

It is my intention to consider the public interest carefully and in detail at the end of the two month period for representations and then to take a decision after such consideration as to whether or not to hold a public inquiry into the death of Patrick Finucane.

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Written Ministerial Statement - Two Year Extension to Non Jury Trial System

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Owen Paterson - Oral Statement on the Murder of Police Constable Ronan Kerr

MONDAY 4 APRIL 2011