

Propaganda referring to Patrick Finucane prior to his murder

- 15.30 The above analysis provides the background to the formulation and implementation of the Security Service's propaganda initiatives. This project is of particular relevance to my Review because I have established that in the late 1980s, prior to his murder, the initiatives encompassed the dissemination of information referring to Patrick Finucane within the loyalist community.
- 15.31 I should note that Patrick Finucane was not the focus of the propaganda initiatives in the late 1980s. The thrust of the propaganda rumours and innuendo was aimed at the republican movement and specific PIRA players, including individuals who would have been represented by Patrick Finucane. However, as a result of his work in defending these individuals, it is clear that Mr Finucane came to be included within the scope of the propaganda.
- 15.32 The information relating to Patrick Finucane that was being circulated effectively involved fanning the rumours and speculation linking him to the IRA. The effect of the propaganda would certainly have been, in my view, to associate Patrick Finucane with the activities of his clients.
- 15.33 I have found no evidence that the Security Service circulated Patrick Finucane's personal details, nor that they proposed that any individual or group attack him. In line with the broader objectives of the initiatives, the propaganda against Patrick Finucane appears to have been designed to **discredit** and 'unnerve' him rather than to incite loyalists or anyone else to target him. However, even if the propaganda was not intended to incite loyalists in that respect, I must consider the question as to whether it could have legitimised him as a target for loyalist paramilitaries.