

The flow of information from members of the security forces to loyalists

45. I also considered the scale and nature of the assistance being provided to the UDA by members of the security forces during the late 1980s. It is clear that there were extensive 'leaks' of security force information to the UDA and other loyalist paramilitary groups.
46. Many stalwart individuals served in the security forces during this time and my conclusion should not be taken to impugn the reputation of the majority of RUC and Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) officers, who served with distinction during what was an extraordinarily violent period. Nevertheless, it is clear that some individuals within those organisations provided assistance to loyalist paramilitaries in instances where they shared a common desire to see republican paramilitaries killed. Such leaks were not institutional nor systemic, though they could certainly be described as widespread.
47. Briefing provided to Government Ministers during this period tended to suggest that such leaks related only to a small number of 'rogue' individuals who provided loyalists with 'low-level' montage photographs held by the security forces. However, those briefings were inconsistent with the evidence that a very large volume of information was being passed by some members of the security forces to loyalist paramilitaries, including reported leaks of highly sensitive information.