

Alleged 'high-level' leaks to loyalists in the late 1980s

- 11.43 The FRU and Security Service reports from the period 1987–89 also suggest that a small number of senior police and Army officers may have been providing assistance to loyalist paramilitaries. **Reliable and repeated** reports covered comparatively senior officers in the RUC through to senior officers in the UDR, though such individuals were not always identifiable on the basis of the intelligence that had been received.
- 11.44 Several Security Service reports in the summer of 1988 suggested that an individual centrally involved in the loyalist arms procurement in the late 1980s received assistance from contacts in the RUC and the UDR. The loyalist concerned received a tip-off alerting him to the fact that RUC surveillance was in place against an arms movement operation. However, whilst the operation was certainly compromised, the intelligence appears to have been too generalised to enable the source of the leak to be identified, though the Service noted that they were "*confident*" that the leak had not come from the RUC SB. A later report in July 1988 was cited as providing "*a further indication of some RUC protection of his [the loyalist involved in arms procurement] activities*".²¹

²⁰ Security Service operational section internal memo

²¹ Security Service memo, July 1988