

- 13.22 The security failure in relation to the Palace Barracks theft was to have a number of serious consequences. The weapons stolen by C/Sgt A/23 were used in a number of murders and attempted murders, including the murder of Patrick Finucane. It was a failure that was not effectively addressed and several further similar thefts took place. In January 1989, for example, four weapons were stolen from Malone Barracks in Windsor Park, Belfast. This theft included two SA80 self-loading rifles, which were particularly dangerous weapons to fall into the hands of terrorists.¹⁴
- 13.23 There is, however, insufficient evidence before me to show that units within the UDR deliberately facilitated the 'theft' of weapons that then fell into the hands of loyalist terrorists. Further, my consideration in this Review of the theft of weapons from the security forces has been limited to the theft of the weapon that came to be used, some 18 months later, to murder Patrick Finucane; I have not reviewed in detail other such incidents and their surrounding circumstances. Nevertheless, it does appear to have been [extraordinarily easy](#) for loyalist terrorists to acquire weapons from UDR sources.