

Statement from solicitor Kevin Winter in relation to killing of Joe McCann

We have lodged a request with the Attorney General asking that he exercise his powers of referral (under Sec 14 of the Coroners Act NI 1959) to the coroner for a new inquest.

We expect to hear from the Attorney General next month .

We have written to both the PPS and the PSNI putting them on notice that in our view there is sufficient basis to commence a renewed criminal investigation against the military personnel involved in killing Joe McCann

In particular we asked for more detail on the previous direction issued by the then DPP not to prosecute any soldiers.

The issue touches upon a much wider concern, namely the British government's policy of grossly undervaluing settlements of a number of civil cases without admissions of liability where next of kin sued the army for unlawful killing.

The McCann case represents a test case on this important issue, which could affect many other disputed army killings throughout the conflict.