

TIMELINE OF ‘GOOD SAMARITANS’ BOMB

- July 3 - police in Derry received call from Gerry Laird who was tenant of 38 Kildrum Gardens that a 15-year-old boy, ‘B’, had absconded from a care home in Belfast and was staying with him.
- August 5 - Special Branch received ‘reliable’ intelligence that the IRA planned to plant a booby-trap bomb in a house in Derry, stage a ‘come on’ incident and kill police officers involved in follow-up searches
- 8.30pm August 25 - ‘A’ and ‘B’ were abducted by the IRA from 38 Kildrum Gardens
- 10pm August 25 - IRA attacks Rosemount RUC station and dumps getaway car at Kildrum gardens
- 10.20pm August 25 - Special Branch warns RUC commander not to carry out follow up search of getaway car at Kildrum Gardens
- 12.50am August 28 – ‘thieves’ rob local chip shop and drop paper with ‘A’s name and address. Police again told not to go to 38 Kildrum Gardens (which had been declared out of bounds) due to fears robbery was an IRA ‘come on’
- 11.50am August 21 – bomb explodes killing Sean Dalton, Sheila Lewis and fatally injuring Gerard Curran

Police later found the premises where ‘A’ and ‘B’ had been held captive however ombudsman investigators were unable to find files that the flat had been tested for forensic or fingerprint evidence.

“The loss or failure to retain these documents is a concern to this investigation,” the report said.