

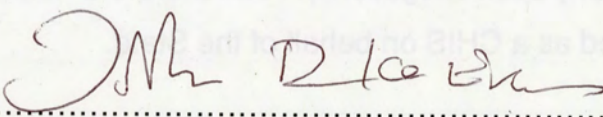
THE HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

THIRD WITNESS STATEMENT OF JONATHAN DUKE-EVANS

1. The MOD is aware that allegations have been made to the effect that William McGrath was a Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS) for the Army. The MOD's position in respect of this is consonant with the government wide principle of NCND (namely to neither confirm nor deny such allegations). I can therefore neither confirm nor deny that any individual acted as a CHIS on behalf of the State.
2. Nonetheless, the MOD would like in this connection to draw the attention of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry to certain considerations which may be considered relevant.
3. Firstly, the MOD carried out what was described as a research project into the Loyalist organisation known as TARA, which included attempts to gather information on Mr McGrath. This confirms that the Department held limited information on and had limited knowledge of him and of TARA more widely at that point.
4. Secondly, in light of the allegations which have been made about the MOD's relationship with Mr McGrath, I can confirm that I have been unable to locate any relevant documents, other than those which have been provided to the HIAI for its consideration. In this context it is apposite to note that the MOD have, and had at the relevant time, very robust policies on the creation and retention of records in respect of those individuals who assisted the security forces as a CHIS. These records have been searched and any relevant material has been disclosed to the HIAI.
5. Thirdly, although the MOD cannot now locate the background file that was held on Mr McGrath (indeed it was noted as being missing by the time of Mr Rucker preparing his report in 1989), it is clear that this file was available at an earlier stage to a number of individuals. None of the subsequent actions or contemporaneously made records of those who saw that background file indicated that anything contained therein suggested any relationship of the kind alleged between Mr McGrath and the MOD.

6. To conclude, I confirm that I have been unable to find any evidence in MOD records that the MOD used any relationship with Mr McGrath in order to elicit any information from him.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

SIGNED.....


DATED.....
1 July 2016