

**CONFIDENTIAL****TAB F****BRIAN NELSON**

- \* Nelson was arrested and charged with serious crimes and was sentenced accordingly.
- \* Nelson has served his sentence and has been released on parole.

**Request for Independent Inquiry**

- \* Matter was fully investigated at the time - not convinced a further investigation would add anything.

**Background Note**

1. The decision to arrest Nelson (in 1990) was taken by Mr John Stevens (the Deputy Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire) and his enquiry team. Mr Stevens was conducting a rigorous investigation into allegations of collusion between loyalist paramilitaries and members of the security forces, at the request of the RUC Chief Constable. Nelson was charged and convicted of a number of very serious crimes (including five counts of conspiracy to murder). It would have been quite wrong to have turned a blind eye to illegality, whatever the cost to the intelligence system. There can be no blanket immunity from prosecution for informants who commit crimes.

2. The trial judge in the Nelson case recognised that there is a difficult dividing line between lawful participation within a terrorist organisation as a security force informer, and active engagement in terrorism. In the judge's view, Nelson crossed over that line.