



News Release

Thursday 26 February 2015

DEATH OF LIAM GONZALEZ- BENNETT

The Public Prosecution Service has carried out a review of its decision not to prosecute two individuals who were reported to the PPS by police in relation to the death of Liam Gonzalez-Bennett.

This review, carried out in line with the Code for Prosecutors, has concluded that the original decision not to prosecute either or both of the persons reported should stand.

Announcing the decision, Marianne O’Kane, Regional Prosecutor of PPS Eastern Region said; “There has been a thorough review of all the available evidence and information in this case, arising from both the police investigation into the death of baby Liam and following the conclusion of the Inquest into the circumstances of his death.

“While it is clear that baby Liam’s death was as a result of non-accidental injury, the evidence available is not sufficient to establish the identity of the person or persons responsible for causing that injury..

“I assure the public that every care has been taken in this case. We have worked closely with police and the evidence has been exhaustively examined and reviewed by senior lawyers within the PPS.

“Those involved in this case have been informed of the outcome of the review and also of the fact that the case may be re-opened should any relevant new evidence or information become available in future.”

ENDS

Note to editors:

1. A reasonable prospect of conviction exists if, in relation to an identifiable individual there is credible evidence which can prove beyond reasonable doubt the commission of a criminal offence by the individual who is prosecuted.
2. PPS prosecutors must also keep every case under review, to take into account additional evidence not known at the time of the initial decision and other changes in circumstances which occur as the case develops. If appropriate, the PPS may change the charges or stop a case.
3. The PPS is the principal prosecuting authority in Northern Ireland. In addition to taking decisions as to prosecution in cases investigated by the police in Northern Ireland, it also considers cases investigated by other statutory authorities, such as HM Revenue and Customs.
4. The Public Prosecution Service is regionally based, with four regions in total, each coterminous with one or more divisions. Each region is headed by a Regional Prosecutor (Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions) who have overall responsibility for decision making on investigation files and for the conduct of prosecutions in that region. Additionally, there are also a number of Sections, each headed by an Assistant Director, which deal with specialised or complex areas of work, these include; Central Prosecutions, Fraud and Departmental, Policy and High Court and International.

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