PPS RESPONSE TO DEVLIN FAMILY CONCERNS

The Public Prosecution Service welcomes the verdict of the jury which convicted Gary Taylor and Nigel Brown for the murder of Thomas Devlin and the serious assault on Jonathan McKee. It is mindful that this case is not over and it is limited in what it can say other than expressing its sincere hope that the verdict will begin to bring some degree of comfort to both families.

This was a difficult circumstantial case which has been brought to conviction. In accordance with the Code for Prosecutors, the original decision for no prosecution for murder, which had been informed by the advice of independent Senior Counsel, was reviewed. At the request of the Devlin family the Director asked for a further review of this decision and, as part of this review, the advice of independent Senior Counsel in England was sought. Having regard to the advice which was received, the Director concluded that the Test for Prosecution was met. Prosecution has taken place and these convictions have been obtained.

The quality of the decisions which the PPS takes has been publicly validated by the Criminal Justice Inspector in its recent inspection of the Service and is supported by statistical evidence. The review of the original decision was taken in accordance with standing arrangements which have proved to be effective. The Attorney General who was kept informed was not involved in this process.
Very careful consideration will be given to the Devlin family’s current concerns and the Acting Director is happy to meet with the family.