

7 March 1978

Sir Kenneth Newman  
Chief Constable  
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N.I.O.  
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DATE: 8/3/78

Lest there should be any element of misunderstanding between us following my telephone call to you this a.m. on the subject of the worries of the Senior Medical Officer at Armagh and of the Police Surgeons' Association, I am writing to summarise the position.

The Complaints Committee met Dr Alexander, Dr Elliott and Dr Irwin yesterday evening. Both Doctors Elliott and Irwin are worried about a re-surgence of a number of matters concerning the treatment of persons held in custody. They point to a - I report their views - a general worsening of attitudes after the Amnesty International team had completed their visit. They are uneasy that no result has emerged about specific cases reported to you last year. They have further specific cases which they allege cause grave concern. They do not wish such cases to disappear into the "long statutory labyrinth" which it is alleged was not designed to cover the current situation.

If no satisfaction is given them they propose to convey their misgivings to Amnesty International, but in the first instance they have asked the Police Authority to use their good offices to arrive at a solution.

That was why I was directed to enquire if you would meet the Complaints Committee and the Doctors (including Dr Alexander of Castlereagh Police Centre) on Thursday at 4.00p.m. this week. This you feel unable to do, but say you would meet the Doctors yourself separately, ie. without the Complaints Committee. There the matter rests and I shall report the situation to Mr Canavan when he can be got in touch with later this morning.

*W H Baird*

PS. I must note for the record that you would not agree to your Senior Deputy standing in your <sup>stead</sup>

W H BAIRD