

# THE BILLY WRIGHT INQUIRY

Chairman: Lord MacLean

## LIST OF ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE INQUIRY

- 1. The Inquiry will consider all of the facts and circumstances relevant to the death of Billy Wright in The Maze Prison on 27th December 1997 with a view to determining whether any intentional act or failure to act, or any reckless or negligent act or omission by or within the Prison Authorities in Northern Ireland or by or within other State Agencies, facilitated, or amounted to an attempt to facilitate, the death of Billy Wright.**

**In determining whether any intentional act or omission facilitated the death, or attempted to do so, or whether any reckless or negligent act or omission facilitated it, the Inquiry will consider the political context in Northern Ireland at the relevant time and the significance, if any, of the death of Billy Wright in that context.**

- 2. In particular, the Inquiry will seek to establish the facts and circumstances surrounding –**
  - (i) the admission of Billy Wright to Maghaberry Prison prior to his conviction and sentence in March 1997;**
  - (ii) the decision to transfer Billy Wright from Maghaberry Prison to The Maze Prison on the 26th April 1997;**
  - (iii) the taking hostage of a prison officer at Maghaberry Prison on the 28th April 1997 by members of the INLA;**
  - (iv) the decisions to house members of the LVF and members of the INLA in close proximity in H Block 6 at The Maze Prison, and to continue to house them there until the 27th December 1997;**
  - (v) the decisions to transfer Christopher McWilliams and John Kenneway from Maghaberry Prison to The Maze Prison on 1st**

**May 1997 and the decision to house them in H Block 6 in close proximity to Billy Wright, and to continue to house them there;**

- (vi) control and security at The Maze Prison;**
- (vii) the intelligence information available to the Prison Authorities or other State Agencies relevant to the safety and security of Billy Wright, including the nature and extent of that intelligence information;**
- (viii) any warnings given or concerns expressed to the Prison authorities by Prison staff or others in respect of the security of H Block 6 or threats relevant to the death of Billy Wright;**
- (ix) the “standing down” of a prison officer from the observation tower overlooking A and B wings of H Block 6 on the morning of the 27th December 1997;**
- (x) the preparation and availability of Visitors Lists within The Maze Prison;**
- (xi) the malfunctioning of, and failure to replace or repair the PTZ camera overlooking A and B wings of H Block 6 in December 1997;**
- (xii) the unlawful possession of firearms by members of the INLA within The Maze Prison, and in Maghaberry Prison;**
- (xiii) accessibility of the roof of H Block 6 to prisoners and the breach, in December 1997, of the wire security fence between the exercise yard of A and B wings and H Block 6;**
- (xiv) the positioning in the forecourt to H Block 6 of vans and, in particular, the van designated to take Billy Wright to the visiting area on the morning of the 27th December 1997; and**
- (xv) the closing of the inner gates giving vehicular egress from the forecourt of H Block 6 on 27th December 1997.**

- 3. The Inquiry will also consider what effect, if any, each of the issues addressed in paragraph 2, independently or cumulatively, facilitated, or amounted to an attempt to facilitate, the death of Billy Wright.**