

19⁴² October 2015

Dear Secretary of State,

ASSESSMENT OF PARAMILITARY ACTIVITY

We write in response to your letter of the 2 October 2015.

We have completed our task as Independent Reviewers as set out in your letter.

We have reviewed the public assessment, and the classified National Security Assessment that informs it.

In discharge of our task we did the following:

- a) We met with those in MI5 and the PSNI respectively, who are responsible for each of the assessments [the authors]
- b) We probed and questioned the authors, not only for clarification, but also to allow us fully to complete our task.
- c) We considered the authors' responses and the further information that we were provided with and benefitted from our discussions with them.

Each of the assessments is the responsibility of the authors, who operate within the context of the statutory and regulatory framework referred to in the Annex to the public assessment.

We are satisfied that:

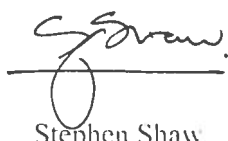
- i) MI5 and PSNI have engaged fully with us, consistent with their duties and constraints;
- ii) The assessments provided by MI5 and PSNI are the product of the methods and techniques described in the Annex to the public assessment;
- iii) The assessments are fair and balanced;
- iv) The assessments are evidence based, credible and supported by material collected and collated in accordance with the methodologies set out in the Annex to the public assessment.

In summary, we are satisfied that the assessments meet all the requirements placed upon us.

Yours sincerely,



Rosalie Flanagan



Stephen Shaw



Alex Carlile