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### News

## McCord letter not passed to Flanagan

Sunday, February 04, 2007

By Alan Murray

Former RUC Chief Constable Sir Ronnie Flanagan may not have seen a letter on the Raymond McCord jnr murder sent to Sir John Stevens alleging police informer Mark Haddock was involved.

McCord's father, Raymond McCord snr, claimed Sir Ronnie must have known about his concerns that an RUC informer was involved in his son's murder and other killings after he contacted the Stevens inquiry team in 2000 - almost three years after the brutal slaying.

Mr McCord has suggested that it is inconceivable that Sir Ronnie - now head of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary - would not have seen his letter.

But Sunday Life understands that the PSNI has now established that the letter was NOT passed to Sir Ronnie's private office.

Instead, it - and a covering letter from the Stevens team - was forwarded to the RUC's command secretariat.

It's believed it was then copied to the office of the Assistant Chief Constable responsible for crime operations and passed to the senior detective responsible for the McCord murder investigation.

One former assistant chief constable independently confirmed the procedure to Sunday Life yesterday.

He said: "Most communications of a serious nature were processed in that way.

"They went to the command secretariat first, were examined and then forwarded to the relevant department head's office.

"If it was something relating to a crime, my staff officer would have reviewed the content and passed it to the investigating officer responsible for the case. That's what the staff officer was there for."

He added: "I would have had many meetings to attend and I wouldn't have read correspondence unless my staff officer felt I must deal with it.

"It would have been left to his judgment what I needed to see."

Sir Ronnie has denied the McCord letter was passed to him.

In a statement yesterday, the PSNI would only say: "A letter was sent from the Stevens Team to the RUC in September 2000 about a complaint it had from Mr Raymond McCord."

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