



Law Society of Ireland

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From the office of the President

Private and confidential

The Rt. Hon. David Cameron, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 222
By fax. 00 44 207 925 0918

20th December, 2012

Our ref: JmcC/PD

Re: The murder of Pat Finucane, solicitor

Dear Prime Minister,

I write to add the voice of the Law Society of Ireland to those of the Finucane family, the Irish Government and many others in demanding a public inquiry into the murder of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane.

The brutal slaying of Pat Finucane in front of his wife and children, in the words of Sir Desmond de Silva, QC, in his report published last week, dates from "...an extremely dark and violent time in which a lawyer could so callously and tragically be murdered as a result of discharging his professional legal duties".

As he finds elsewhere in his report "...a series of positive actions by employees of the State actively furthered and facilitated this murder and that, in the aftermath...there was a relentless attempt to defeat the ends of justice".

Of course, these findings are not new. The earlier reports of both retired Metropolitan Police Chief John Stevens and former Justice Peter Cory of the Supreme Court of Canada had made it perfectly clear that there was an utterly shocking level of State collusion in the murder and that, equally unacceptably, agents of the State also sought to frustrate the investigations of this heinous crime.

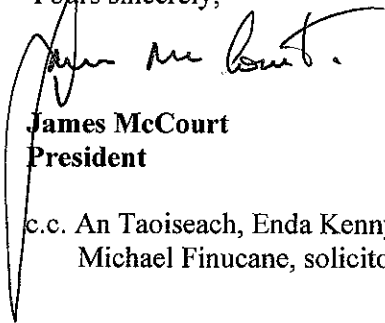
I readily acknowledge your utter condemnation of what occurred and your apology for it to the Finucane family in your speech in the House of Commons last week. Nevertheless, in the view of the Law Society of Ireland, the investigation to date simply is not enough. A public inquiry is still required as was recommended by the Weston Park Agreement in 2001 and recommended also by Judge Cory.

This is by no means the first time that the Law Society of Ireland has demanded that a public inquiry be carried out in order to reveal everything that happened in this appalling case. As long ago as April 1999 the Society made just such a public call – basing its demand then on the recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur who specifically identified the need for the holding of an independent judicial inquiry to investigate all outstanding questions that remain in the case of Pat Finucane.

On behalf of the solicitors' profession in this jurisdiction I respectfully but insistently repeat that demand now. The full extent of the State's collusion in this murder can only be exposed by such an inquiry.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James McCourt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

James McCourt
President

c.c. An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, TD
Michael Finucane, solicitor