



Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AB

03 April 2023

Open Letter

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Inquest into the Death of Corporal James Elliott

We, the undersigned, wish to draw to your attention the case of Corporal James Elliott, Ulster Defence Regiment, who was abducted and murdered by PIRA in April 1972.

We are heartened that the Attorney General for Northern Ireland has recently directed that an inquest be held into the Corporal's brutal death. This will provide the Elliott family with some closure and an acknowledgement of his dedicated service whilst in uniform, but more importantly the truth about the circumstances of his death.

No one has ever been convicted of his murder.

However, there is a looming problem that could derail this long-awaited inquest. The Government's Legacy Bill that is currently going through parliament could conceivably result in this process grinding to a halt.

If this were to happen, it would be a shocking and deeply disappointing development. It would be an intolerable denial of due process and a grave insult to the memory of a brave soldier and his loved ones.

We would appeal to you personally, Prime Minister, and your Government, to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that this inquest takes place, and that justice prevails – even in Northern Ireland.

You will be aware that we oppose the Legacy Bill because it will be a legislative barrier to any future terrorist-related cases from taking place. Many innocent victims of terrorism and veterans who worked to prevent anarchy in Northern Ireland view this Bill as a gross betrayal. We would point out that while your government has notionally brought the Legacy Bill forward to protect soldiers from inquests, this is an example of where the Bill will deny the family of a murdered soldier, who died in the service of this country, their right to an inquest.



In the case of Corporal Elliott, you have the opportunity to show some compassion and understanding. We earnestly hope you avail of this opportunity.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Rt. Hon. Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP, Leader, DUP

Doug Beattie MC MLA, Leader, UUP

Jim Allister KC MLA, Leader, TUV

Ian Paisley MP, DUP

Tom Elliott MLA, UUP

Axel Schmidt, Advocacy Service Manager, UHRW

To reply and for further information please contact:

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