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Brougham snarled: "Get them to drop the charges you mother***** Do you hear me? Do you hear me?"
Court papers issued by the Van Colle family, and obtained by *The Times*, state: "Although DC Ridley was fully aware of the attempted bribery and intimidation of the witnesses, he took no steps to prevent any repetition by Brougham or to protect the witnesses, including Giles, from the clear and unequivocal threats of violence and intimidation."
"No steps were taken to revoke Brougham's bail or even

Ruling that assists negligence claims

THE police had immunity from being sued for negligence until a landmark ruling in 1998 that cleared the way for compensation claims if officers failed in their duty to protect members of the public (Frances Gibb writes).
A case was brought before the European Court of Human Rights by the family of Ali Osman, who was shot and killed by a teacher who had threatened to "do a Hungerford" — in reference to Michael Ryan's rampage in 1987 in which 16 people, including the gunman, died.

Mulkiye Osman and her son, Ahmet Osman, of London, claimed that the police's immunity from negligence actions breached the right to life and right to a fair trial. They had to take the case to Strasbourg because the Human Rights Act had not yet been brought into British law. The European court awarded £10,000 each to the mother and son over Mr Osman's killing by Paul Paget-Lewis, a teacher who was obsessed with his son Ahmet.
The police had been told in 1987 that Paget-Lewis had threatened the boy, then 14, and caused incidents at the family home. He was convicted of manslaughter after killing Mr Osman and injuring Ahmet.
A British court had ruled that public policy required immunity for the police. The Court of Appeal barred the Osmans' case from going ahead, but the European Court of Human Rights said the immunity breached the human rights convention. That convention was enshrined in British law in the Human Rights Act 1998.

It might prove possible, for example, for the relatives of Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells to sue Humberside Police for failing to pass on intelligence about Ian Huntley's sex offences, which would have prevented his obtaining a job as a school caretaker in Soham.
Giles Van Colle was killed by Brougham in November 2000 as he left one of his practices on Mill Hill Broadway, North London. He was shot in the neck from close range as he sat in his car.