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(3) within the context of the overall evidence currently available, to assess the evidence of Andrea McKee (statements to Police dated 20 6 00 and 251000) which, in these circumstances represented evidence from an accomplice, for the purpose of determining:

- (a) the extent to which her evidence is an important and necessary part of the evidence which will help to secure a reasonable prospect of conviction against Robert Atkinson and the other conspirators;
- (b) how her evidence can be relied upon and utilised by the prosecution in these circumstances.

DCS Stewart pointed out that this evidential assessment will assist him to consider the strength of the case against each of the suspects at this time and to make further decisions as to what way the investigation should now proceed from this point in order that a sustainable case can be presented in any subsequent court proceedings.

Mr Kitson pointed out that, at this stage, this case was still in the hands of the Police and he would therefore not be in a position to give any definitive directions in this case until the investigative file had been formally submitted to the DPP. He also pointed out that operational decisions were a matter for the Police at this stage of the investigation. Mr Kitson said that he would, where possible, provide guidance on any legal issues arising from the evidence which is presented in this case. The discussion proceeded on this basis.

To assist Mr Kitson's understanding and appreciation of the facts of this case as they currently stand and the issues emerging from it, there was a detailed discussion on the circumstances leading to the

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