

6.9 Constable Cooke was interviewed under caution on 1st October 2001, (Appendix 26) (10506 – 10516) for a number of alleged disciplinary matters including failing to draw up a list of people positively identified at the scene and failing to attend the hospital to secure the victims' clothing. He denied this (10513).

6.10 My observation is that the appropriate officer to co-ordinate and debrief officers in order to identify suspects in the first instance was Inspector McCrum. It was his responsibility as the senior officer on duty to bring all strands together and hand over to the investigation team.

6.11 If Inspector McCrum is correct in that he ordered Constable Cooke to draw up a list of people at the scene and to collect the clothing from the victims there is no evidence to show that he ensured that those instructions had been carried out. One would have to question why an officer if so directed would fail to obey a lawful order thus leaving him open to discipline proceedings.

6.12 Debriefing of serious incidents is a long held police practice necessary to ensure further steps are correctly identified and carried out. The Intelligence, Information, Method, Administration and Communication (IIRMAC) deals with debriefings (Appendix 27) (10834), which states:

“Effective debriefing at the end of an operation is just as important as the briefing before it. It can be described as being in three different stages:

a) By supervisory officers at the scene of the incident whilst the details are still fresh in the mind.

b) Immediately after the event and before dispersal of personnel engaged in the operation.

c) A post incident enquiry may be held. Any necessary amendments, alterations or adjustments considered necessary for future events should be discussed.”

6.13 Paragraph 20.7 of the Police Manual on Public Order states the same in regard to debriefing.

Chapter 3 of Beat and Patrol Duties, (Appendix 28) (10836 – 10837), in force in April 1997 stated:

“De-briefing

“9...Prior to terminating duty constables will be debriefed by their supervising sergeants/inspectors. All incidents and occurrences, particularly those of an unusual nature, will be discussed and records will be completed”.

The public disorder incident should have been the subject of a detailed debrief.