

- On 26th January DCS Stewart stated that the proactive strategy will now take place in the second week of February and again raised retrieval as a problem.
- On 16th February DCS Stewart asked for a complete change of strategy. Wanted to arrest and charge Atkinson. He then raised concern on the deployment of technical equipment in Atkinsons house which can be summarised as follows;
 - He believes that he has been subject to surveillance
 - Remains home with some family members most of the day
 - Proficient in electronics and and computers and may discover device
 - Will be aware of techniques and frustrate deployment on the day

He wanted to go ahead with the arrests in 2nd week of March. Chris MAHAFFEY told him that he was not content with strategy being considered, would want the D of PP consulted re the charges and would want to consult with me. DCS Stewart stated that the RUC had insufficient technical equipment and further kit was to arrive on 25th February at which stage staff would have to be trained in its use.

- On 23rd February DCI **K** raised further concern on the arrest and proactive strategy against Atkinson. The reasons he gave were;
 - Atkinson seen as a local hero by one section of the community
 - 
 - A real risk of compromise with Atkinson finding the equipment. This would result in;
 - One section of the community being incensed that police are devoting such resources to this particular enquiry
 - The other section incensed as to why nothing was done before, and that these 2 factors could further place him and his team at risk to attack

There is a feeling in the local police that Atkinson is being persecuted and such deployment would have severe morale implications for the police

- On 28th February meeting with Ray KITSON of the D of PP when Kitson stated that McKee could not be used as a witness before she had been dealt with for her criminal responsibility. This was the first time that he had seen her main witness statement.
- Further meeting on 28th February when DCS Stewart stated that he now wanted to delay arrests and any deployments for a few months in order to 'cleanse' McKee and be in a position to charge everyone. Chris MAHAFFEY told him that he disagreed with strategy and it was agreed he would come to NCB and present his case to me.
- On 2nd March 2001 Ombudsman and I met with chief constable and outlined our fears regarding delays, proposed strategy and DCI **K**'s personal fears
- On 6th March met with DCS Stewart and DCI **K** at NCB when he presented his strategy. The legal and operational defects in the strategy were pointed out to DCS Stewart which he accepted and then again agreed to revert to the original directed strategy. Again concerns regarding the deployment against Atkinson were raised. Problems of retrieval were again mentioned. DCI **K** was asked about his personal concerns and whilst confirming them stated he was content if he was in the