

20. By a letter dated 6 October 1999 at page 00367, I requested from DI Irwin a meeting with Tracey Clarke and Timothy Jameson. I am sure that I intended to meet with them separately and without any police presence. My recollection is that there was a suggestion these witnesses would be reluctant to travel to Belfast for a face-to-face meeting with me, but that telephone contact could be engineered. I think I discussed this with DI Irwin either in person or by telephone. I can confirm that at no point did I meet with Tracey Clarke or Timothy Jameson in person.
21. I spoke with Tracey Clarke over the telephone on 9 November 1999. An attendance note recording this conversation appears at page 00270. It may be that DI Irwin told me that Tracey Clarke would be telephoning me on that particular morning because there is no indication on the file that she had made previous unsuccessful attempts to reach me, but I cannot recall. I did not know from where she was phoning, but I did not get the impression that she had any police officers with her.
22. Having spoken to her, my assessment was that Tracey Clarke was frightened for her personal safety and tearful, but genuine. She did not express any reservations about the accuracy of her witness statement. It seemed to me that were it not for the fears for her personal safety, she would have been prepared to give evidence at an inquest. In fact, speaking to her really strengthened my view as to how compelling her evidence was. I was also satisfied that she did indeed have fears for her personal safety the extent advised by Mr [REDACTED]
23. I have been asked if there was any way that Tracey Clarke could have given evidence limited to what she had seen on the night of 26/27 April, editing parts subsequent to the assault involving police officers. In Northern Ireland a fresh statement is not prepared for an inquest. The statements taken by the police are transcribed into a special deposition form; there may be some editing, but the changes would be merely of a formal nature and not of substance. There are hence dangers to the substance of a statement being edited; if I were to say at the inquest that a statement had been edited, then counsel would immediately ask to access the parts that had been edited out. I would not have excluded