

13. I have been referred to a note of a conversation I had with Lawrence Marshall on 17 November 1997, which is produced and shown to me containing the number **18040**. The note records:

“A small spot of blood (identified as Bridgett’s blood) was found on Hamill’s trouser leg 1 or 2 inches above the bottom of the hem. It was a round spot no bigger than a one pence coin. There was one other spot of blood near to this spot but it was not tested. The blood on the left trouser leg did not come from Bridgett and was smeared and thus different from Bridgett’s spot. The fact that the blood was not in an elongated shape means that there is nothing to indicate what direction the blood came from...”

I do not now recall this conversation and the note means nothing to me. I can say that the correct procedure following such a conversation would have been for me to speak to the senior investigating officer and ask him to request a further statement dealing with the additional information. Whether I did that in this case, I cannot be sure. I may simply have asked Mr Marshall to do a statement while I was on the telephone.

14. The Robert Hamill file would have been allocated exclusively to me. There was a culture within the office of discussing matters with colleagues and Mr Kitson was always willing to discuss an issue if the need arose. In my view, there was no delay between the murder investigation and the file being submitted to the DPP.
15. There is now produced and shown to me a file note containing page **18096**. I see that I spoke to Detective Inspector Irwin on 10 October 1997 and that he informed me of potential difficulties with the eye witnesses. He said that since Drumcree 1997 the attitude of Protestants in Portadown had hardened against the police with the result that witnesses A & B, Tracey Clarke and Timothy Jameson, may not give evidence. Furthermore, he said that Colin Prunty could only be contacted via [REDACTED], solicitor, who had failed to respond to correspondence.