

16. I cannot recall what my view was in terms of difficulties in getting witnesses to cooperate. I would certainly have respected Detective Inspector Irwin's view. He was someone with whom I have had dealings over many years. He was a very conscientious, very hardworking, capable police officer. I would have certainly valued his view and relied upon it.

17. I have been shown a document addressed to me from the RUC on the 26 November 1997 containing page **28396**. It is a six page fax, including the cover sheet from Detective Sergeant Bradley which states "*Statement and 2 pages of interview after caution.*" There are actually five pages of handwritten notes. They do not appear to be an interview after caution but look rather like Ronnie McCarey's scribbled notes, although I am not a handwriting expert. I cannot now recall why I would have received this document, given that the report was submitted to the DPP initially in August 1997. I do not recall a consultation that may have given rise to this fax.

18. The first Direction which I issued is dated 14 October 1997 and is now produced and shown to me containing the number **18092**. I advised that a Final Direction would await receipt of the matters referred to in the interim direction of 12 August 1997, i.e. forensics, and consultations to be held between Senior Counsel and witnesses Tracey Clarke, Timothy Jameson, Colin Prunty and Jonathan Wright.

19. I have been referred to a note of consultation signed by me and dated 24 October 1997 containing the page numbers **17591 to 17592**. This note refers to consultations with Jonathan Wright, Tracey Clarke and Timothy Jameson. I cannot recall those consultations but accept that is my note and that it records me being present. I can only speculate that the consultations were arranged with Senior Counsel because the decision to prosecute hung on the credibility of the witnesses, which we needed to test.