

on an investigation after 3 months. By that stage the Senior Investigating Officer would be fortunate to have one member of HOLMES staff available and even then it would invariably be on a part-time basis.

It is under these very limited resources and associated difficulties and under the added pressure of terrorist crime and activities that all Sub Divisional Criminal Investigation Department managers/personnel and I operated. In addition to these factors, and as in any other police service, there were financial budgets to be managed and personnel issues to be addressed. None of this information or observations is intended as a criticism of either the Royal Ulster Constabulary/Police Service of Northern Ireland or any individual. It is important, however, to be aware that the application of methods, circumstances, resources and standards that would be considered normal in relation to a murder elsewhere in the United Kingdom may well produce a distorted and grossly unfair conclusion if applied to Northern Ireland murder investigations at this time.

Drumcree

In addition to the above there was unprecedented serious public disorder and sectarianism in Portadown and 'J' Division, which was heightened by the Drumcree Parade. This parade occurred each July and had a serious and long lasting impact both within each community and with police liaison within these communities. The controversy over this parade still continues to this day. Due to the serious public disorder associated with the parade I was involved from an early stage in 1997 with the public order preparation and planning. This became a full commitment from late June/early July. In 1997 I was involved on the following dates in the preparation, planning, briefing, debriefing and subsequent "Drumcree related investigation", namely

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21st April, 2nd June, 10th June, 13th June, 17th June, 26th June, 27th June, 1st July, 2nd July, 3rd July, 4th July, 5th July, 6th July, 7th July, 8th July, 9th July.

The preparation and planning included meetings, discussion and the preparation of policies in relation to the arrest and charging policies, the formation of an Information Management Unit which would gather and direct intelligence in order to assist in