

was the same opinion that the Deputy Chief Constable had received and it was agreed that no action would be taken against Constable Neill.

12. On 2 November 2000 I had an initial meeting with DCS McBurney and DCI K to discuss the investigation into Reserve Constable Atkinson. I then received a report from DCI K, page **2860**, which outlined progress in the investigation up to that date.
13. On 23 November 2000, page **28068** I met DCS McBurney and DCI K at Gough Barracks and was briefed by DCS McBurney on his proposals for the arrest of Michael McKee and searches at key houses to recover any potential evidence. I returned and discussed the case with Mr. Wood and we formed a view that this wasn't the way forward but that we should take more positive action and arrest all of the parties concerned. We also discussed the insertion of covert surveillance equipment at one of the addresses.
14. On 5 December 2000, page **28071** I again met with DCS McBurney and DCI K and put forward the revised strategy. No obstacles were raised to these proposals but the use of covert intrusive surveillance had obviously not been considered by either person as part of a strategy.
15. On 12 December 2000 at the request of DCI K I attended Gough Barracks for a meeting to discuss the investigation into the alleged conspiracy involving Reserve Constable Atkinson. During that meeting K expressed concerns about the handling of the two witnesses Timothy Jameson and Andrea McKee. I recorded in my action log page **28075**:

*"Gough Barracks, spoke to DCI K, read through the statements of Constable G and Timothy Jameson. There was considerable disparity between the two accounts. DCI K researched the HOLMES database and all other available material at this time, nothing can be found to explain how Timothy Jameson has progressed from the status of being a suspect to that of a vital Crown witness. I directed DCI K he should make no further inquiries in relation to this matter. Any related actions drawn up should be held as pending. I would*