

station so that made it more convenient for her to meet us there. I am unable to comment as to whether there may have been other reasons for the consultation taking place at the police station.

7. The committal hearing fixed for 27 October 2003 was adjourned on the morning of the hearing following an application by the Defence that the matter should have been listed before the Resident Magistrate, not the Deputy. The Defence felt that it wasn't appropriate that a Deputy be assigned to deal with this particular case. The Deputy Magistrate agreed reluctantly and the committal was adjourned to 22 December 2003. That date was fixed before we left court. I recall that we fixed it taking account of Andrea McKee's availability.
8. On 22 December 2003, I attended court to conduct the committal hearing but was advised on my arrival that Andrea would not be attending. I believe she had informed a police officer the night before who had in turn advised Ivor Morrison of the position. He had been unable to get in touch with me that night and told me at court in the morning. Detective Constable J            was at court and I think Detective Constable Patricia Murphy was also there. Detective Constable Murphy was making arrangements for Andrea to travel and I think she was the one who spoke to Andrea. The Prosecution made an application to adjourn the proceedings due to Andrea's non attendance, which was ultimately granted.
9. Andrea had said that she was unable to travel to court that day because her son was ill, with swollen testicles and suspected mumps, and she didn't feel that she could leave him. I advised the Defence in the same terms and they agreed that if that was the case then it was right to adjourn the matter. The Defence team was, however, sceptical about the reason for non-attendance and agreed to the adjournment on condition that some documentary proof of the child's illness was provided on the next occasion.