

had lied on a peripheral issue, her entire credibility was in question and she could not be put forward as a witness of truth.

- 18. I had the distinct impression that the police were keen to prosecute this matter particularly as it was a high profile case having arisen from the murder of Robert Hamill. I think they were very conscious of the fact that there had been such media attention to this case and they were anxious to be seen to be doing something. The DPP, however, accepted Gerald Simpson's advice and on 21 March 2004, I attended court to withdraw the prosecution.

- 19. I do not think that prosecuting the McKees at the same time as the Atkinsons and Kenneth Hanvey would have been feasible because Andrea McKee's evidence was required for the latter prosecution. She had to have been dealt with before she could be used as a witness. I do not think it was unusual that the committal hearing for the Atkinsons and Kenneth Hanvey was listed over a year after the McKees were dealt with because cases of that type would often take quite a while to come to court. However, without seeing a chronology I do not feel able to comment on the delay.

- 20. I do not know if any statement was taken from Andrea's partner about his child's illness. I have a vague recollection of him not willing to be involved in any way but I cannot say with any certainty whether anyone spoke to him.

Christine A Smith

SIGNED:

CHRISTINE SMITH

22nd June 2009

DATED: