

up with a slight buzz in his ear. In my experience, the NIO were very scrupulous in their relations with us and in understanding the clear divide between the criminal prosecution process and the management of aspects of public concern in criminal cases (which fell to them because politicians and others would come to the Secretary of State and its advisors). I would have regarded that conversation as an excess of enthusiasm by a very junior official whom I do not know at all. Normally enquiries, if any, were by letter from the NIO but that would be rare.

17. After November 1997, my guess is that my involvement was confined to normal ongoing management contact. This included checking on how things were going and monitoring the staffing pressures and expenses, such as Counsel's fees. I was responsible for performance management, targets and annual reports, so I had to be 'on the ball' about those matters. However, I have no recollection whatsoever of the minutiae of individual cases, which were legion at that time. I cannot put a number on it, but there were a large number of very serious crimes at various stages of prosecution.
18. The document starting at page **18135** is a briefing note by Raymond Kitson regarding an application for screening by Reserve Constable Atkinson on the basis of Atkinson's great concern, as expressed to his supervisors, over his personal security. I have examined this as closely as I can in its unredacted form and can confirm what I have been able to deduce. My observation on it is that the document is addressed to me by name and I see that I have appended a handwritten addition, which I have dated 9/4/98 and initialled as WRJ. This is what I would normally do and was the practice in the DPP (as it then was) at that time. All applications for screening were treated very seriously and required the specific authorisation of the Senior Assistant Director before any application could be made to a court. This was intended to ensure a rigorous and consistent approach, essentially in the hands of one person, so that unmeritorious applications would not be made. My handwritten additions to page **18136**, in which I have used asterisks to highlight the points being made, records my agreement with Raymond Kitson as to the course to be followed.