

on 19 December. At 12.15 pm on 31 December ADI H [REDACTED] faxed to me documents (pages 34057 and 34052) which showed that the Wrexham police had made arrangements to visit Pendine Park that night with the intention of taking a statement of evidence covering the visit which was believed to have made on 19 December. The documents do not reveal any concern that it might not be possible to obtain such a statement. I note that DC [REDACTED] of Wrexham police visited Pendine Park on 31 December and recorded a statement (page 59854) from a Dr [REDACTED] who could find no record of Andrea and her son having attended there on 19 December. I note that this statement was faxed to my office by DC [REDACTED] at 6.50 pm, at the earliest, on 31 December. It is unlikely that I received it before 2 January 2004.

13. The case was mentioned at Craigavon Magistrates' Court on 2 January 2004. No medical evidence was presented and the case was further adjourned for the matter of Andrea's non-attendance to be dealt with on a future date. While I cannot now recall exactly how I analysed the position on that morning, I would have chosen not to have put the medical evidence so far gathered before the magistrate as the basis for Andrea's non-attendance on 22 December for any or all of the following reasons,
  - a. The risk that, because the evidence did not support the specifics of the information the prosecution had given the court on 22 December, i.e. mumps, swollen testicles, high temperature and danger of fitting, the magistrate would be persuaded by the defence that the adjournment had been obtained on the basis of information that was not fully accurate;
  - b. While I was aware that the police in Wrexham had so far failed to find confirmation of Andrea's alleged visit with her son to Pendine Park, it remained possible that they would do so and that such evidence might go to confirm the reasons for Andrea not attending at court;
  - c. I took the view that it would not be proper to simply rely on Dr [REDACTED]'s