

To: D/Chief Superintendent Stewart, Crime Adviser, South Region

Subject: Enquiry re: Reserve Constable P/T [REDACTED], Tandragee R.U.C.

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As discussed, I interviewed Reserve Constable [REDACTED] on Friday 7 September 2001 at his home address. There was some delay in arranging due to annual leave period and difficulties with mutually suitable arrangements. The interview took place informally, and I made clear to Reserve Constable [REDACTED] that he was not being treated as a suspect in this matter.

Background

This interview was conducted on the basis that the subject, with his wife, visited the home of Reserve Constable F/T Robert Atkinson on 15 April 2001, when Atkinson had recently been arrested and interviewed in connection with the 'Hamill Enquiry'. At this time, under authority appropriately granted, technical surveillance was being conducted within this address, using equipment which was subsequently to become compromised.

There was concern as to how the equipment used in this surveillance had come to be compromised, and the enquiry wished to establish if Atkinson had been made aware of the existence of the equipment from within the police service.

There was a suggestion from 'product' extracted from the surveillance, that during the visit of the [REDACTED] on 15 April 2001, the matter had been discussed. The 'product' indicated (through an indecipherable whisper & a subsequent change in conversation subject) that [REDACTED] may have been informed that Atkinson believed that their conversation was being monitored. There was no other reference to the subject in the surveillance 'product'.

The focus of the enquiry with [REDACTED] resulting from this, was to establish what knowledge he had in relation to the surveillance/equipment in Atkinson's home and as to what discussions the two might have had on the subject. Specifically, the enquiry wished to ascertain whether the existence and or identity of any person within, or associated with the police service had played a part in the compromising of this surveillance.

Enquiry

I met with Reserve Constable P/T [REDACTED] at his home address. I informed him that I wished to speak to him in respect of Robert Atkinson and discussions they may have had subsequent to his arrest. In the introductory phase of our discussions I was given the following information;

- The two have known each other for over 20 years, originating from both being P/T officers in Tandragee station.
- The two men would socialise on a very occasional basis, primarily with their wives, mostly alternating between each other's homes on Boxing Day, and additionally at an occasional Masonic function.
- The most recent meeting between the two was on 12th July in Keady, at the County demonstration.

When I initially informed [REDACTED] of the nature of my enquiry (in broad terms as to the two meeting in April), I was told that Atkinson had been at [REDACTED] home in February/March in relation to a "tiling job", and subsequently at a "[REDACTED]' Funeral". (The death is referred to in the surveillance product) When I pressed on whether [REDACTED] had called at Atkinson's home in April or at any time after Atkinson's arrest, [REDACTED] was vague and stated that he had never really discussed the matter with Atkinson, stating "in fact I don't even know what he was arrested for". When I asked if Atkinson & [REDACTED] had discussed the arrest, [REDACTED] merely stated that he knew Atkinson had been arrested, but again stated he didn't know what for. When pressed on visiting Atkinson on or around 15 April 2001, [REDACTED] again was vague & neither confirmed nor denied this.

At this point Mrs [REDACTED] joined us and became involved in the discussion. She immediately confirmed the visit to Atkinson's home when I again queried this. [REDACTED] then agreed that they had called, but that it was merely a friendly visit although this did not accord with the initially stated 'once-a-year' nature of their contact.

After more general discussion, I asked both the [REDACTED] if Atkinson or his wife had ever intimated that they thought the house was under surveillance. [REDACTED] responded saying "sure it was, didn't he find the things in the house". I asked [REDACTED] if this had been discussed on the day he visited the house, he said it had not & that Atkinson had told him after he had found the equipment. I enquired as to how/why Atkinson had come to think that surveillance equipment was in his house, to which [REDACTED] said he had no idea, and that he had not discussed it with Atkinson.

I then recovered all the previous points with both of the [REDACTED], but nothing new was forthcoming.

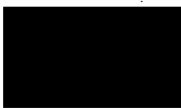
Throughout the discussions, I neither confirmed nor denied the nature nor result of the surveillance on Atkinson's home. I did not refer to the transcripts of the product, nor suggest that I had access to same.


Summary

I would describe [REDACTED] as 'canny'. He is reluctant to commit himself to knowledge of specifics and does not willingly offer information in relation to himself or others. He clearly is of the opinion that Atkinson is not being fairly treated, using phrases such as "it's a disgrace", "it's worse because his comrades have done this" and "in this job we should be sticking up for each other". He came across as highly supportive of Atkinson and his family, and left me with the opinion that in the unlikely event that he would

have material evidence impacting on this enquiry, that he would not volunteer that information if he felt it would compromise a friend or colleague.

For Information



 D/Inspector
Armagh CID