

OFFICER'S REPORT – D/CHIEF INSPECTOR

K [Redacted]

Subject: Directional Meeting with the Police Ombudsman
Date/Time: Friday 16.02.01 @ 10 am
Location: Gough Barracks, Armagh
Present: Representing the Police Ombudsman
Mr. Chris Mehaffey (Senior Investigator)

Representing the Police Investigation Team
D/Chief Superintendent Stewart
D/Chief Inspector K [Redacted]

Notes:

The meeting opened with DCS Stewart giving Mr. Mehaffey an account of how the investigation, and various lines of enquiry within the investigation, had been progressed since the previous meeting. In assessing where the investigation stood at the present time in evidential terms, there was a lengthy and detailed discussion on the evidential merits of the evidence gathered to date. A number of currently actioned lines of enquiry, which have not yet been finalised, were also discussed.

It was agreed that a further meeting should be held with Mr. Raymond Kitson of the DPP during the week beginning 26.2.01 to discuss the evidential merits of the evidence as the case currently stands against each of the suspects. It was also agreed that the issues surrounding the evidence of Andrea McKee and Tracy Clarke should be discussed with the DPP and a direction sought. It was agreed that this would help further decision-making about arrest, interview and process of the suspects and the presentation of the evidence in the prosecution case. DCS Stewart to arrange meeting with Mr. Kitson.

Mr. Mehaffey was informed that interview schedules were currently being prepared as we plan for the arrests and interviews of Robert and Eleanor Atkinson, Michael McKee and Alistair, Kenneth and Elizabeth Hanvey. The timing of arrests was discussed.

It was agreed that the arrest strategy remains the same. It was also agreed that a number of factors such as the meeting with Mr. Kitson, the finalisation of as many outstanding enquiries as is practicable within the forthcoming time period, and the logistics involved in the implementation of the Intrusive Surveillance strategy would influence decisions concerning the timing of arrests.

The interview of DCI P39 [Redacted] (retired) is planned for next Friday 23.2.01. Mr. Mehaffey informed us that he would be interviewing her about the issues surrounding how the information from Andrea McKee and R/Constables McCaw and G [Redacted] was handled and managed. Mr. Mehaffey said that he would be making a provisional arrangement to interview DI Irwin around 2.3.01.

It was previously agreed that this interview would be conducted jointly. It was agreed that DCI K [Redacted] would accompany Mr. Mehaffey and jointly interview Miss P39 [Redacted] concerning matters relevant to the current investigation. (HOLMES Actions 588, 643, 654, 655 and 918 refer)

The issue of Timothy Jameson was discussed. DCS Stewart stated that his strategy at this stage would be to focus resources on the current investigation involving R/Constable Atkinson in order that these investigations, which are at an advanced stage, can be finalised and arrests made as soon as practicable. As soon as this element of the investigation was completed, his intention was to re-visit and review the

issues surrounding the murder and this would involve a re-examination of the matters relevant to the information from R/Constables McCaw and G concerning Timothy Jameson. DCS Stewart informed Mr. Mehaffey that this review would assist him to make decisions on how to proceed with Timothy Jameson as a potential suspect in the murder. DCS Stewart informed Mr. Mehaffey that R/Constable G is still on sick leave with anxiety.

On the information currently available, it was agreed that the issue of Timothy Jameson was unrelated to the present investigation surrounding Robert Atkinson and that the matter would be investigated when current investigations are completed. In view of this, it was agreed that the further interview of R/Constable G be temporarily suspended due to his sickness for a further period of time. DCS Stewart to monitor R/Constable G's sickness absence and to review with Mr Mehaffey in due course.

DCS Stewart informed Mr. Mehaffey that Superintendent [REDACTED] of Complaints and Discipline Department had commenced an investigation into the initial actions of police after the incident, focusing on the issues concerning the initial investigative actions taken and the preservation of the crime scene.

There was a further discussion on how the intrusive surveillance strategy was being progressed. Mr. Mehaffey was informed that it was our intention to operationalise the strategy if the opportunity was there for an installation. For logistical reasons, Mr. Mehaffey was informed that we would not be in a position to implement the strategy before the beginning of March. We discussed a number of factors focusing on the lifestyles of the suspects, their home circumstances and logistics (installation and extraction) which require careful assessment and planning to ensure the legal and evidential integrity of any product in relation to this investigation and to minimise the risk of compromise to this investigation and other future police operations in a wider context.

DCS Stewart informed Mr. Mehaffey that he had met with Mr. [REDACTED] and updated him regarding the progress of current investigations.

K
[REDACTED]
D/Chief Inspector
16.02.01