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- the allegation had been exhaustively investigated under the direction of the ICPC's most competent member (now dead) and even the ICPC were not suggesting that any disciplinary charge should be brought.

It was true that a call had been made from Atkinson's home to the leading suspect's home on the morning after the incident. This had been explained thus

- Atkinson lived with his mother who had been visited that morning by a friend who was the aunt of either the leading suspect or his girlfriend (I wasn't clear which)
- Atkinson was asleep and his mother explained that there had been trouble in the town and he had come in only at 4 or 5.00am
- the visitor then wished to check that her nephew or niece had not been caught up in the trouble and had made the phone call shown in the billing records.

7. I said that I had been told that there was a pattern of phone calls from Reserve Constable Atkinson's number to the leading suspect's number. Ronnie appeared to accept that this was so and said that the explanation given was that the two of them were members of the same "ju-jitsu" or martial arts club. Ronnie said that, if the advice had been given, he thought that it was more likely to have been done face to face at the club than over the telephone.

8. I said that, whatever the ICPC thought, I was pretty uncomfortable about Portadown being policed by someone who, at the level of a strong possibility or even probability, had conspired to pervert the course of justice in a murder case. Surely any social contact with a leading suspect in a murder case where the police officer had been

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