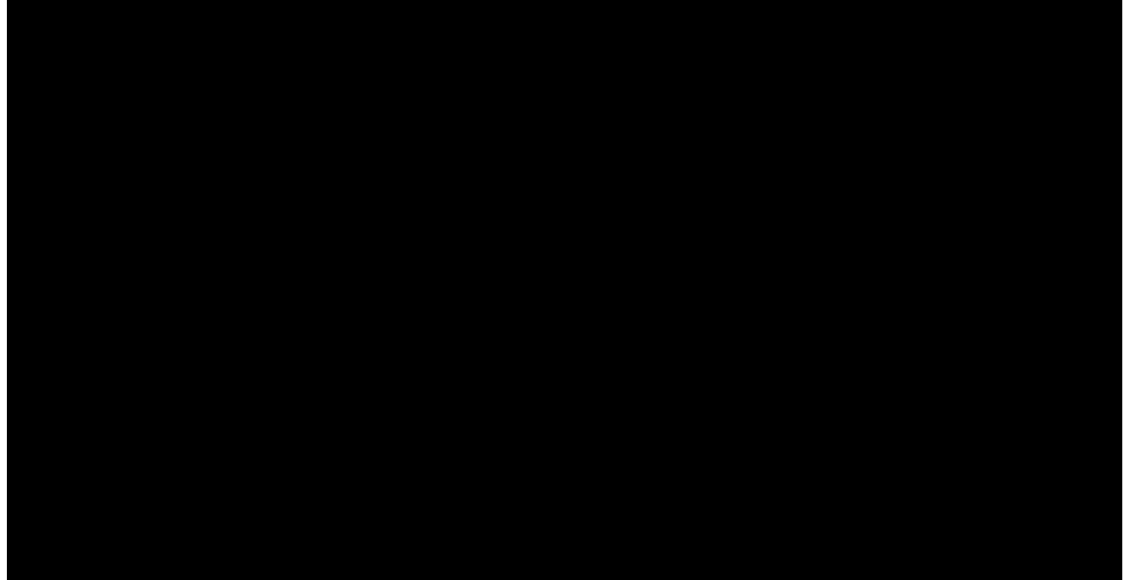


background with DCS Stewart fronting the enquiry. DCS Stewart then stated that there will be some delay to the proceedings as the RUC were still 2 pieces of technical kit short which would take several weeks to obtain and may have training implications. It was also clear that no preparation had taken place in respect of deployment, particularly if deployment was not found feasible at the time of their arrest. The following would appear not to have been undertaken;



- On evening of 6th March I telephoned chief constable and informed that progress was being delayed, as 2 pieces of kit were required. He promised to sort the problem out the next day.
- Meeting with Supt [REDACTED] on 12th March when he stated that deployment could not take place before 9th April as they were still to secure kit to be used and had to train officers. He felt that there would be no problem technically in deploying in Atkinson's house in that he was confident that he would not be able to compromise the kit. He stated that there was an RUC security package on the house and that deployment could not take place unless DCS Stewart secured the details of that package from the Organisation. Supt [REDACTED] also stated that external surveillance of the various premises was not to be conducted and appeared not to have been considered. This is highly desirable if evidential use is to be made of the surveillance product. He felt such external surveillance would be difficult in the areas.
- Further contact with Supt [REDACTED] on 13th March when he stated that he had seen the chief constable who had asked if the matter could be expedited. He was thus sending someone to England to buy it immediately. Chris MAHAFFEY was invited tomorrow morning to assist in the writing of the Part 3 Applications. He also stated that they were reviewing external surveillance opportunities.

CONCERNS

- There is a lack of appetite to tackle R/C Atkinson in a proactive way for all the reasons stated
- RUC investigators have frequently used the term, 'a sledgehammer to crack a nut' with regard to the proposed strategy. This either is indicative of an attitude, or demonstrates a complete lack of awareness of the strategic importance of the investigation.
- There has been delay after delay and the deployment is still some way off from professional deployment