

techniques being introduced. In order to strike a balance between training and ensuring that appropriate officers were available for front line investigations, a rolling programme of training was in place for officers to be withdrawn and sent on major crime investigation courses.

The principle of training Reserve Constables was to equip them with sufficient basic knowledge of the public policing part so that they could assist the Constable in the conduct of his duty. A Reserve Constable had the power of arrest like any Constable but he was not trained in depth. He was a front line officer whose role was not to supplant the regular officer but to be an aid and assistant to the full time officer. However, a number of Reserve Constables over the years became involved in front line policing despite the fact they had not been fully and properly trained for this. To my knowledge the whole purpose of the reserve officers was that they would conduct their duty in accompaniment of a full time, fully trained officer. The full time Constable would be senior in rank to the Reserve Constable regardless of their relative lengths of service.

However, although the theory and policy sets down the objectives, time and circumstances dictate otherwise and due to an insufficiency of full time officers to be present with reservists all the time, a Reserve Constable, some of which had many years experience, could be dealing with basic investigations of assaults and minor thefts.

In 1997, the RUC followed ACPO's instructions in relation to the use of policy files in major crime investigations. The HOLMES system was in place and policy books were part and parcel of major crime investigation. The Senior Investigating Officer in discussion with his investigators maintained the policy book as his record of how he saw the investigation being structured and conducted with a record of the decisions made. The Senior Investigator would have recorded the progress of his investigation, the lines of inquiry that appeared to him to be most productive, the outcome of those lines of inquiry, new lines of investigation, an assessment of the witnesses and his own thinking processes as to how he would see the investigation through at each stage. Some Senior Investigators might give a very full account and others more in shorthand. It was a visual record which