

Frequently, in a case of this nature, the head of the local crime squad would be in attendance at a consultation. I recall that the police were very anxious to get evidence to the court in this case and the presence of Mr Cooke was partly an indication of how seriously they were treating the matter. The police did not play any role during consultations unless I directly asked them a question.

9. After speaking to Jonathon Wright, I was satisfied he was a competent and careful witness, subject to the fact that he had contradictory statements. This opinion was in my note to the DPP.
10. On the same date, 17 October 1997, and in the same office; I met Witness A. Prior to the consultation, I was told that the police were satisfied with the evidence of this witness but that there could be problems with her giving evidence as she had a relationship with one of the potential accused. The purpose of the consultation was to test witness A's ability to give evidence. It appears DSupt. Cooke, Detective Sergeant Bradley, and DC McAteer were present, as well as Mr Davison, and Witness A's parents.
11. My impression of witness A was that she did not want to give evidence at all. She denied that it was as a result of fear and maintained that she was in love with one of the potential accused. The witness also considered other people involved with the case as friends. For these reasons, it was evident Witness A was unwilling to give evidence. My recollection is that Witness A's parents were supportive of her.
12. With regards to compellability, Witness A was as compellable as any other witness but it is not the practice in Northern Ireland to call witnesses in most situations like this. In Northern Ireland, we are not in the same position as in England where, if a witness can give reasonable evidence, they will become compelled. We have very different considerations. Witness A was associating with a group of people who potentially, could not only cause her harm, but also harm to her family. My recollection is that there was discussion at the end of the consultation or the next