

17. Andrea told me that her son had mumps and ochtitis. She explained that her son's testicles were swollen and there was concern that her son might fit because of his high temperature. Andrea explained that her child's illness had started two weeks earlier with an ear infection and she had taken him to see the doctor on two occasions and the doctor had visited her home on one occasion. She was going to take her son to the doctor on Monday morning. She told me that Dr. [REDACTED] had prescribed Amoxicillin and Calpol for her son. Andrea seemed to be fully aware of what her son's illness was and the medication he had to take.
18. I enquired whether we could do anything to assist her and she told me not at the moment. She was very apologetic but not prepared to travel to court when her son was ill. She was adamant that as the child's mother she was not going to leave him. I enquired whether she would be available on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December or the following week. She said definitely not Tuesday and she declined to attend the following week because she did not know how well her son would be by then. We discussed which dates would be suitable and she told me that she was returning to college at the beginning of January and she would like to get things over and done with before the workload at college became too much. She offered the half term break in February 2004 as being the ideal time. She again stressed how sorry she was and I told her that I would be in contact regarding new arrangements. I then telephoned DCI K to explain my conversation. My overall impression of Andrea after this conversation was not that she did not want to give evidence but that she did not feel able to attend the hearing because her son was sick.
19. I attended Craigavon Court at 9:00am on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2003 where I spoke with a representative of the DPP. I recorded the events of that day in my notebook at page 74236. I telephoned Strathmore Surgery at about 9:45am and spoke to a receptionist. She told me that Dr. [REDACTED] was not available until Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December but she would ask the other two doctors at the surgery to see if they would prepare a report to fax to the court. I have recorded in my notebook that the other two doctors were Dr [REDACTED] and Dr [REDACTED]. I telephoned the surgery again at 10:45am and again spoke to the receptionist. She told me, as I have recorded in my notebook at 74237, that "*neither Dr [REDACTED] or Dr [REDACTED] would get involved by committing themselves to paper*".