

supervised by them and Chris Mahaffey later wrote to me, page **14882**, confirming the strategy to be adopted in the Atkinson investigation and the fact that the Ombudsman would be investigating the allegation of mishandling two witnesses. After my meeting with Mr Wood and Mr Mahaffey I briefed ACC [Crime] Mr. White.

7. I spent some time discussing the case with Maynard McBurney and he referred me to DCI **K** who he felt had a very good handle on the investigation and was well placed to brief me. Having spoken with McBurney I spent my time with DCI **K**. During the Christmas period I spent my time reading the files and over the December/January period I was able to give 100% of my time to the investigation. In February 2001 after being promoted to being the Head of CID for the South Region I had responsibility for that area as well as overseeing this investigation.
8. Maynard McBurney had not raised specific problems with me about the investigation. He was obviously aware of the investigation by the Ombudsman and that some people were unhappy with how his investigation had been handled.
9. As part of my familiarisation of the investigation I was aware of the policy files being used by DCI **K** and I took it that these were the files that Maynard McBurney had been using. I did eventually find policy files completed by **P39** between 9 and 30 May 1997 but there were no other policy files between her final entry on 30 May 1997 and **K** starting his policy files on 26 June 2000.
10. The use of policy files and sensitive policy files was standard procedure in the RUC in 1997.
11. On 5 January 2001 I went with DCI **K** to see **P39**. I had known **P39** for years and it was a warm and cordial meeting. **P39**'s memory consisted mainly of hearsay comments and as far as she was concerned she had retired from the Force. The meeting did not advance the investigation.