

12. On 10 January 2001 I met with Chris Mahaffey and proposed a time frame of early February 2001 for arrests to be made as the Ombudsman was anxious to move forward as quickly as possible with this phase of the operation. My view was that when we did carry out the arrests we had to make certain we had everything in place and if we did have to wait a few weeks more so be it and that is eventually what happened.
13. On 18 January 2001 I met with the Chief Constable and briefed him on areas of concern that I had with the initial management of the crime scene, the preservation of evidence at the scene and the lack of debriefing of officers which had an accumulative affect on the initial investigation stage. I cannot recall if this meeting was at my own request or that the Chief Constable had asked for a briefing when he appointed me to the role. Normally I would have reported through ACC White but his view was that if it was something the Chief needed to know first hand it should be done by the officer concerned.
14. My report of the 29 January 2001 went to ACC Complaints and Discipline as I had outlined areas which I believed were outside of my remit as the SIO and sat more comfortably within Complaints and Discipline.
15. An investigation was initially started by Superintendent [REDACTED] of Complaints and Discipline but didn't really start until after arrests had been made in the Atkinson investigation as I was concerned that activity may alert the alleged offenders to our intentions. By this time Superintendent [REDACTED] had retired and was replaced by Superintendent Karen Kennedy and she was assisted by Chief Inspector Desmond Jackson.
16. I had identified in my report what were basic policing issues that had not been performed on the night of 27 April 1997. I was sore that after all the years policing the problems with major crime scenes we had not got the initial action right. It was not as if Portadown was not used to major crime scenes. Basic errors had been made which had an effect on the investigation.