

RNI DE-CLASSIFIED

application was forwarded on 13 April 2000. Mr Port cancelled this at a later date. Although the request was cancelled by the MIT the records were still forwarded by the telephone provider and were sent through to the MIT. At the instigation of Mr Port these were destroyed. The most likely reason why the billing came through to us was that the request had been made in writing [REDACTED] who would have requested the records [REDACTED] and the request had probably been actioned before the request was cancelled by the MIT.

Requests for CHIS Identities

32. I was not involved at all with this issue. I knew it was going on in the background and was aware it was causing friction, but Mr Port and Mr Provoost handled this. A fundamental issue for Special Branch is source and particularly CHIS protection. Once details are disclosed, they lose control of where that information will end up and consequently can never recover it. We had the capability to handle such information [REDACTED] [REDACTED] are vital to Special Branch so I can understand their difficulty with this request. It was a step too far for them, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The request was unprecedented and pushed the boundaries. In my view, Special Branch are still as protective today and rightly so.

Mark Fulton's Suicide

33. When I learned that Mark Fulton had died in prison I rang Mr Provoost and we agreed that we should examine the cell. I spoke to the SIO responsible for the investigation, Superintendent [REDACTED], and I made the preliminary arrangements for this. He wondered why we wanted to be there, but I was senior in terms of experience and so he accepted my view that we should be present and Mr Provoost went to the prison. His attendance was to examine if there were any notes or other evidence which may pertain to our investigation and not in an ombudsman type role checking up on them. After I made the arrangements Chief Superintendent [REDACTED] (Superintendent [REDACTED]'s Regional CID Head) became involved and I believe perhaps personalities got in the way which meant that we were denied access