

resources for the investigation into Mrs Nelson's murder. This is something I discuss further below, in relation to Mr Port's arrival.

15 MARCH 1999

The Initial Response

29. [REDACTED] I was doing my briefing rounds at the RUC divisional HQ in Mahon Road at 13.05 hours on 15.03.99 when I was informed of the explosion that led to the death of Mrs Nelson.
30. As I have already said, when a serious incident occurred it was the procedure that local detectives took control. First response to the scene would be by local police patrol vehicles and local detectives from CID. The most senior detective (of whatever rank) on the ground would assume control so as to secure the scene as soon as possible for detailed forensic examination. The Detective Inspector CID in charge of the sub-division, if not one of the first at the scene, would attend the scene and immediately initiate enquiries on the basis of the information coming to his attention, while at the same time formulating the structure of an investigation team. At the earliest opportunity the Head of CID for the Division and Regional CID command at Gough Barracks would be informed. The Divisional CID Head would attend and visit the scene promptly and discuss with the Detective Inspector the immediate priorities. It would naturally follow that the Detective Superintendent and/or Regional CID Head would respond and attend the incident as soon as possible. There would be frequent communications between the relevant officers by telephone or mobile until they could convene together.
31. The response by police and CID that followed the murder of Rosemary Nelson was typical of such an event, although on that morning the local Detective Inspector, DI Monteith, and the [REDACTED] Detective Superintendent for J & K Divisions, [REDACTED], were, to the best of my recollection at court. I spoke to [REDACTED] B567 who was the Divisional Head of RUC SB, firstly, to confirm that he knew of the incident and secondly, to ascertain if he had any indications that a crime of this nature was anticipated. He had no knowledge of any build up to this attack; it appeared to have taken SB by surprise. Contacting my SB counterpart in this way was a formality on my part. SB were responsible for intelligence gathering on paramilitaries and therefore, while not knowing that a specific incident was going to take place, they may well have an intelligence picture leading up to the attack that could enable action such as searches or early arrests. I spoke to the