

A P P E A R A N C E S

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His Honour Judge Peter Smithwick

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Mr. Justin Dillon, SC
Mr. Dara Hayes, BL
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**A WORD INDEX IS PROVIDED AT THE BACK OF THIS TRANSCRIPT.
THIS IS A USEFUL INDEXING SYSTEM, WHICH ALLOWS YOU TO QUICKLY SEE
THE WORDS USED IN THE TRANSCRIPT, WHERE THEY OCCUR AND HOW OFTEN.**

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THE TRIBUNAL RESUMED ON THE 27TH OF OCTOBER, 2011,
AS FOLLOWS:

MR. VALENTINE: Good morning, Chairman. Chairman, this morning, we continue with -- we have, in total, three witnesses scheduled today, one of those this morning and two this afternoon, and we are continuing with what we might describe as the telecoms aspect of the evidence. So the witness this morning is Mr. Leo Duffy.

LEO DUFFY, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS EXAMINED BY MR. VALENTINE
AS FOLLOWS:

1 Q. MR. VALENTINE: Morning, Mr. Duffy.

A. Morning.

2 Q. I wonder if you could just outline briefly for the Chairman
your employment history with Telecom Eireann, now Eircom?

A. I joined in 1973 as a trainee. I worked on Exchange
Maintenance most of the time. I worked in the old Exchange
in Dundalk, and then transferred over, in 1984, to what's
known as the E10 Exchange, the Digital Exchange. I worked
there -- I still work there at the moment, but not on
Exchange.

3 Q. And I think when you say, you refer to the old Exchange,
that was the mechanical Exchange which was in existence
before Alcatel upgraded the number in 1984?

A. That's right, yeah.

4 Q. Was that Exchange in the same location as the current E10
Exchange?

A. No, it was located behind the general post office in the
centre of the town, just about half a mile away.

5 Q. And so then, at that point, in 1984, you moved from that
building to The Ramparts?

A. Yeah, that's correct, yeah.

6 Q. And I think at the time period which we are considering,
which is the late 1980s, you were a technical officer
working on Exchange Maintenance?

A. That's right, yeah, part of the Exchange Maintenance team,
yeah.

7 Q. Am I correct in thinking that that means that, as we

1 understand it, the Chairman has heard evidence there was a
2 distinction, effectively, between internal and external
3 maintenance, and external were in charge of the wires until
4 they reached the point of the MDF, and the Exchange was
5 from the MDF up to the Exchange itself, which was the floor
6 above?

7 A. Yes, the MDF was the demarcation point between the external
8 plant and the internal Exchange, as such.

9 8 Q. So you were primarily concerned with the --

10 A. Primarily, yeah, 90% of my work would be on that.

11 9 Q. On the internal Exchange itself?

12 A. Yeah.

13

14 CHAIRMAN: And who -- the cable chamber underneath, that
15 was part of the external maintenance, was it?

16 A. It was part of their work area, but it was part of the
17 building which -- we controlled the building, as such, and
18 we had -- we looked after the building in the sense that
19 anybody accessing that room or -- we checked that, we did a
20 routine to check that everything was okay. That cable
21 chamber was liable to flooding, so, every week, we did an
22 individual check on that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN: So it was you who checked on that?

25 A. Yeah, one of the team.

26

27 CHAIRMAN: So it was you who would have seen if any, well,
28 illicit work was done on cables, that would have been --
29 you would have been the person who would have noticed it?

30 A. Well, we would have noticed it unless it was -- yeah, yeah

1 -- from the photographs that are coming up, you'll see that
2 the cable chamber is a fairly -- there is no furniture in
3 it, or anything like that; it's just a sparse open space
4 with cables running straight through it.

5

6 CHAIRMAN: I am sorry for interrupting you, Mr. Valentine.

7

8 MR. VALENTINE: Not at all, Chairman. Please feel free at
9 any time.

10 10 Q. Now, Mr. Duffy, I am going to ask Mr. Mills to put up *The*
11 *Phoenix* article. I think you are familiar with this
12 article. It was published in *The Phoenix* magazine on the
13 3rd of June, 2005.

14 A. Yeah.

15 11 Q. I am just going to refresh your memory. I am going to read
16 the relevant extracts which describes, how, according to
17 *The Phoenix* magazine, this intercept was carried out. And
18 it begins with "Information": "*Information now in*
19 *Goldhock's possession means Judge Smithwick need not probe*
20 *for the provenance of their story. To allow Judge*
21 *Smithwick more time to explore this mess and the sorry*
22 *tales of incompetence, intrigue and worse in the local*
23 *Special Branch, Goldhock can now reveal how the IRA knew*
24 *the Breen/ Buchanan travel plans. From 1987 until 1990, a*
25 *Garda private wire, PW circuit, was intercepted 24/7 by the*
26 *IRA at the Telecom Eireann Telephone Exchange at The*
27 *Ramparts, Dundalk, known as E10. The PW was a dedicated*
28 *RUC liaison hot line. At the main distribution frame, the*
29 *MDF, IRA engineers covertly connected a hidden jumper to*
30 *the Garda line, running this to spare wires on the*

1 *termination block of a 400 pair underground distribution*
2 *cable running through the basement jointing chamber. The*
3 *technicians (ironically trained by British Telecom) had*
4 *free access after hours to E10 and other Exchanges. In the*
5 *cable chamber they slit the sheath of the PUT cable and*
6 *extracted the tapped circuit. This was then linked to a*
7 *modified US voice-operated long-play recorder hidden in*
8 *jointers' test equipment. Each time the RUC hot line was*
9 *used, the listening device switched on automatically*
10 *recorded conversations on cassettes, which were changed*
11 *regularly. Since the cable was air pressurised, the IRA*
12 *had to heat-shrink a repair sleeve and nozzle onto it to*
13 *avoid a telltale loss of air. The work still exists and*
14 *Judge Smithwick may care to inspect it with his technical*
15 *advisors."*

16
17 Could I just ask you for your initial reaction to that when
18 you read that article?

19 A. I didn't believe that they could do that. There was a much
20 easier way to do it. That's a very complicated way to do
21 it, you know. They have to identify the -- to say they
22 have to identify the pair on the MDF, they could have
23 intercepted a line outside the Exchange. They said they
24 have easy access to the Exchange. Nobody had easy access
25 to the Exchange.

26 12 Q. If he we break that down, first of all. They could have
27 intercepted a line outside the Exchange. Would that be at
28 a junction box?

29 A. Yeah, as they mention there, the cables are 4 or 6 or 8
30 hundred pairs in the one cable and they run out to what's

1 called a cabinet, a local cabinet, where they are
2 terminated, and then they are taken away on smaller cables
3 in, say, 100s, 20s, 40s, to smaller distribution frames,
4 then, on poles or on walls, and that. So if they needed a
5 pair, they could have intercepted it out there and less
6 likely that it will ever be seen, you know.

7 13 Q. And why would it be less likely to be seen at one of these
8 cabinets?

9 A. It's much more infrequently visited, you know.

10 14 Q. Okay.

11 A. Especially the smaller -- as the -- as the amount of cable
12 -- the amount of pairs get smaller, there is less visits to
13 that area.

14 15 Q. And you said there if they knew the pair they were looking
15 for, they could do it more easily in one of these cabinets.
16 How would they know --

17 A. I don't know how they knew the pair, because the PWs
18 weren't on any -- there were cable records held, but the
19 PWs weren't on the common cable records, you know.

20 16 Q. So I think the Chairman heard evidence yesterday that there
21 was a room at the other side of The Ramparts where records
22 were held, and jointers could go in and check those
23 records?

24 A. Yes.

25 17 Q. But you are saying the PW records weren't with those
26 general records, is that correct?

27 A. No, they weren't.

28 18 Q. And where were the PW records kept?

29 A. There was another section in the Exchange called
30 Transmission Maintenance, and they looked after these PWs.

1 Well, that's the way it was in the old Exchange. There
2 were different lines going from, as Dave said, from the
3 Garda barracks --

4 19 Q. To, for example, a bank?

5 A. Yes, for an alarm, and they were kept sort of separate --
6 there was a higher priority on them for fixing them, and
7 stuff like that, you know.

8 20 Q. But they were still within cables with a large number of
9 pairs, is that correct?

10 A. They were, they were still in the same cables but the
11 records wouldn't have indicated that pair number 1, 2, 3
12 was an army --

13 21 Q. An army private wire?

14 A. An army or a Garda private wire.

15 22 Q. If you didn't have the records and you opened a cable, and
16 I think, in fact, the Chairman has heard evidence that the
17 wires, the pairs of wires coming from the Garda station
18 were in a 1,200 pair cable and a 2,400 pair cable. If you
19 opened up such a cable and looked at the wires, was it
20 possible, on sight, to distinguish a private wire from the
21 other pairs?

22 A. No.

23 23 Q. They looked the same?

24 A. The cable had a colour code, and it followed a colour
25 coding just for jointing purposes, but nobody knew what was
26 on a particular pair in a cable.

27 24 Q. Unless you had the codes?

28 A. Well, even with the colour codes, it was fairly difficult.
29 You would have to, especially a big 1,200 pair cable, which
30 is this sort of size, you would have to cut it open and fan

1 out 2,400 pairs of cables. Like, it's 4,800 wires, which
2 is a mass to get in to the particular one.

3 25 Q. I notice when you said you would have to cut it open, you
4 spread your arms quite wide. If we are talking about a
5 2,400 pair cable to identify and isolate a single pair of
6 wires, how great an opening do you think you'd require in
7 order to be able to spread them out to do that properly?

8 A. I'd say probably two to three foot, because the joint that
9 they use -- if you have two cables come together, the
10 actual piece of equipment that they put on it is about
11 three-foot wide, to when they are originally jointing the
12 cable, you know.

13 26 Q. I think you also said, when I asked you about your initial
14 reaction to the article, you also said it was untrue that
15 there was easy access to The Ramparts after hours?

16 A. It was, because I was on 24-hour callout, on a rota for
17 that, and, at night, you had to go up, the gates were
18 closed, you had to put your key-fob up to the gate to open
19 the gate. You went in and you had to put your key-fob up
20 to open the doors to get into the building, as well. So
21 unless somebody had a key fob...

22 27 Q. So unless you were an employee --

23 A. Yeah.

24 28 Q. -- or had stolen the key-fob off an employee, it would be
25 impossible, effectively?

26 A. I wouldn't say there was easy access.

27 29 Q. I think in the statement that you provided to the Tribunal,
28 you did say that the article contained technical terms
29 which suggest that there was some technical knowledge
30 provided to the author of this article?

1 A. Yeah, there was sort -- they were using terms that people
2 within the telecoms industry used, like MDF and jumper and
3 PUT cable, and stuff like that, you know.

4 30 Q. In relation, specifically, to the suggestion that the
5 intercept taken from the cable in the cable chamber was
6 *"linked to a modified US voice-operated long-play recorder*
7 *hidden in jointers' test equipment,"* what would your
8 comment on that suggestion be?

9 A. That -- test equipment wasn't readily available. It was an
10 expensive piece of kit at the time and there were fairly
11 limited numbers of them around Dundalk, and anybody who had
12 one, looked after it, because it was a down on your record
13 now, so unless, again, they bought their own one and put it
14 in. But if somebody saw one sitting around, they wouldn't
15 leave it in the cable chamber anyway, you know.

16 31 Q. I might --

17 A. You'd notice it in the cable chamber.

18 32 Q. I'd ask Mr. Mills to put up Photograph No. 78, please. So
19 these pieces of test equipment were a relatively scarce
20 commodity, such that one wouldn't be left around; it would
21 be snapped up, so to speak?

22 A. No, and the people who had them, used them regularly, as
23 well, you know.

24 33 Q. Is that what --

25 A. Yeah, that's -- there were a couple of different models of
26 them, but that's the newer model. The older box would have
27 been, maybe, green, I'd say, you know, back in those days,
28 maybe.

29 34 Q. Was the other box --

30 A. Exactly, similar size, similar -- the buttons mightn't have

1 been in the same place, but it was the exact same as that.
2 When you see the black top there, there is four screws in
3 that, that all -- you can loosen those four screws and the
4 whole unit lifts out of the box, you know --

5 35 Q. When the unit lifts out, is it, for example, hollow
6 underneath?

7 A. It's hollow underneath, but when you put the kit back in,
8 it fills up. When people are manufacturing something like
9 that, they use every bit of space for the equipment; they
10 don't leave spare space in it, you know.

11 36 Q. So if, for example, some kind of listening/recording device
12 was put underneath -- the black centre-piece was removed, a
13 listening/recording device put underneath, when you put the
14 black centre-piece back in, it wouldn't fit properly?

15 A. No.

16

17 CHAIRMAN: If you saw one lying around there in the cable
18 chamber, first of all, any employee of Telecom would
19 immediately remove it and --

20 A. They'd take it up --

21

22 CHAIRMAN: -- and find out who owns this?

23 A. Yeah, who left it there, you know.

24

25 CHAIRMAN: And, secondly, they'd open it, and if there was
26 a recording device in it, it would soon be -- it would soon
27 be obvious?

28 A. It would, yeah, because it wouldn't fit underneath. The
29 only way it would fit into that is if they took that top
30 piece out and left it out, and then you would notice the

1 recording equipment straightaway.

2

3 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

4 A. But there would be a wire coming out of it, as well. Like,
5 it would be very suspicious to see, you know.

6

7 37 Q. MR. VALENTINE: Because the suggestion is that the wire was
8 taken out of the cable and into this test equipment?

9 A. Yeah.

10 38 Q. So, obviously -- if you saw it sitting there with a wire
11 going into the cable, that would be extremely
12 suspicious-looking?

13 A. Yes. For them to identify the pair on the MDF and go to
14 the trouble to run the jumper down and cut it into a cable
15 and then take it back out of that cable and put it into the
16 box, is -- the easiest way would have been just to take the
17 jumper straight down into the box. Like, why would you --

18 39 Q. Explain that to me again?

19 A. In the article, they said they identified the pair, they
20 put it on a spare cable and then they picked that cable up,
21 down in the cable chamber. They cut into it in the cable
22 chamber and then took a wire out of it into the box. Like,
23 the distance between where they talk and they put the box -
24 the cable chamber, say, is here, and the cables they are
25 talking about are directly above it and there are holes the
26 whole way along down into the cable chamber. Like, they
27 could have run a jumper just down and into the cable
28 chamber.

29 40 Q. In other words, take a wire down from the MDF, through,
30 kind of, alongside the cable --

1 A. Through the hole.

2 41 Q. Through the hole?

3 A. And just into the box.

4 42 Q. And that would avoid having to open the --

5 A. You would have done that in five minutes, where it would
6 have took them hours to do the other job.

7 43 Q. Very good. Now, I think in the statement you provide to
8 the Tribunal, you indicated that these were quite expensive
9 pieces of equipment, is that right?

10 A. Yeah, at the time I would have reckoned they were maybe up
11 to around £1,000 each, you know.

12 44 Q. Which, again, underlies that no one would leave one lying
13 around indefinitely?

14 A. They were the most expensive piece of equipment that any of
15 the external jointers had in their van.

16 45 Q. I think you also indicated in your statement to the
17 Tribunal that they were unlikely to be left around because
18 the cable chamber was liable to flooding?

19 A. It did, yeah. In the early years, there is a river runs
20 across the road from the Exchange and it used to flood into
21 the cable chambers outside and we had trouble -- where the
22 cables came into the Exchange, there is a series of
23 four-inch pipes, maybe, I know it's probably about 100
24 pipes all sitting on top of each other just coming in, and
25 they used to find it difficult to seal those up. So, the
26 cable chamber was always -- water was always coming into
27 it. There was a pump there to pump the water out, but if
28 there was heavy rain or a flood outside in the river, it
29 would come in quicker than the pump could take it out, in
30 those days, and it used to flood maybe two or three times

1 over the winter, you know.

2 46 Q. And how would you know if it flooded?

3 A. We had a little alarm set up that was sitting above a
4 certain -- above a certain level. There was a sump hole --
5 at one end of the chamber, there was a big hole where the
6 water went into, and we had an alarm set up above that,
7 that, if it rose out of the sump hole, it put off an alarm.

8 47 Q. That would generally happen in circumstances where the pump
9 was overcome?

10 A. Yeah, the pump couldn't cope with the amount of water that
11 was coming in.

12 48 Q. I wonder if Mr. Mills could put up Photograph 17. I think
13 whilst he is doing that, I think, Mr. Duffy, you are in a
14 position to confirm that on the 14th of July, 2010, you
15 accompanied Mrs. Laverty, Ms. McKevitt and John Ryan from
16 the Tribunal as they took these photographs?

17 A. Yes.

18 49 Q. And you showed them around The Ramparts. And at the end of
19 your evidence, I am actually going to take you through the
20 photographs, but, for the moment, I just want you to look
21 at this one. This is number 17. And I think, am I correct
22 in showing that that shows an area liable to flooding?

23 A. That's the area I was talking about. You can see on the
24 top right-hand side there, holes, you see where the cables
25 are coming in through those holes.

26

27 CHAIRMAN: Which photograph is this?

28

29 MR. VALENTINE: Photograph 17, Chairman.

30 A. That's where the external cables come in from throughout

1 the town.

2 50 Q. Number 17 in the booklet that's been handed to you,
3 Mr. Duffy. So this is where, when there is a lot of rain,
4 the flood water came in, just where those cables are coming
5 in on the top right?

6 A. On the top right, yeah, and you can see, at the bottom,
7 there is water there all the time, sits there all the time.

8 51 Q. And there is some staining on the wall, which probably
9 indicates --

10 A. Yeah, that's the highest level, which is about two-thirds
11 of the way up the wall there, is the highest level that we
12 ever got flooding on.

13 52 Q. You are talking about this line here? [Indicates]

14 A. Yeah.

15 53 Q. That's a line two-thirds the way up the wall, effectively,
16 yeah. How many of the -- returning to the issue of the
17 jointers' test equipment, how many of those -- did every
18 jointer have his own Megger box?

19 A. Yeah, there were, sort of, two-men teams and a jointer at
20 that stage, the jointer and his mate, and there were
21 probably, I don't know, maybe six of those in Dundalk, I
22 would think.

23 54 Q. Six of the boxes in total?

24 A. Yeah, maybe -- six teams, I would have thought, around that
25 time, and we had one in our Exchange, because we did some
26 work on what were known as trunk cables, the bigger -- that
27 carry traffic out to smaller Exchanges. They don't carry
28 individual telephone traffic or they don't go to individual
29 telephones; they carry all the traffic from a smaller
30 Exchange, say, in -- say, Castlebellingham has a small

1 little remote Exchange, that works back into Dundalk, and
2 we would work on the main trunk cables, so that's why we
3 had one, as well.

4 55 Q. You had one?

5 A. Yeah.

6 56 Q. So the majority of the testers' equipment were with the
7 external jointers?

8 A. With the jointers, yeah, because they worked on the cables
9 -- they were for locating equipment, that's what they were
10 for, you know.

11 57 Q. You think there was approximately around six?

12 A. I think, yeah, around about that.

13 58 Q. Now, I think did you know Mr. Gerry Finnegan, who is
14 referred to, I think, further on in *The Phoenix* article; he
15 is the person who is alleged by *Phoenix* to have discovered
16 the intercept?

17 A. Yeah, Gerry Finnegan, when I worked in the older Exchange,
18 he was my superior over there, but then when -- he went,
19 then, to cover external, the external maintenance area,
20 that's where -- he was over the Exchange, the old Exchange,
21 but then he got promoted and went out to take over all the
22 external maintenance at that stage.

23 59 Q. So he was on the external side whilst you were on the
24 internal side?

25 A. Yeah, when the new Exchange opened up, yeah.

26 60 Q. From 1984 onwards?

27 A. Yeah.

28 61 Q. Did he ever tell you that he had found an intercept?

29 A. No, he didn't, no.

30 62 Q. Do you recall ever hearing that he had found an intercept?

1 A. No, there was no -- there was never any rumour about
2 anything like that being found around the place.

3 63 Q. Would it have been easier, also -- I think you have already
4 given evidence that it would have been easier to carry out
5 an intercept, for example, outside The Ramparts at one of
6 these cabinets where the junction box --

7 A. Yeah.

8 64 Q. Would it have been easier, also, than what is described as
9 having been done in the cable chamber, to have done it at
10 the MDF itself?

11 A. It would have been quicker -- it would have been easier to
12 do it at the MDF, again, but people would have noticed it
13 an awful lot quicker because there were people working at
14 the MDF every day, you know, for periods of time.

15 65 Q. So whilst it might have been easier to do it at the MDF, it
16 would have been --

17 A. More noticeable.

18 66 Q. Noticed quicker?

19 A. Yeah.

20 67 Q. Just for the Chairman, could you explain, if you were to do
21 it at the MDF, how would you do it?

22 A. Again, it's -- well, if they were saying that they have a
23 recording device, again you have to pick the telephone line
24 out, run the cable into the recorder, and they are saying
25 it was a voice-activated machine.

26 68 Q. Exactly. Obviously, I think --

27 A. I don't know how they powered the machine, anyway, for two
28 years, either. They must have had some size of an enormous
29 battery to keep it going for two years, as well, you know,
30 because, you know, cassette recorders at that stage were

1 fairly hard on batteries, they would have had to change
2 batteries fairly regular on it, as well as, they say,
3 change cassettes.

4 69 Q. So they would have been having to regularly go into it to
5 change both the batteries and the cassettes?

6 A. That's what seems incredible to me.

7 70 Q. That's not realistic?

8 A. No.

9

10 CHAIRMAN: Well, the story is that they -- as the article
11 says, they gained access after hours and that they then
12 were able to remove the cassettes from the recording
13 machine and listen to them, then, after hours.

14 A. As I said before, there wasn't easy access. There are
15 large electronic gates on that building that closed at
16 night. They closed at -- actually, even at that time, I
17 think maybe they closed all the time. Since that, there is
18 24-hour security at the gate, so they leave the gates open,
19 but the gates close at six o'clock now, but I think, at
20 that time, the gates opened and closed every time you went
21 in, nearly, you know, and, again, you needed -- there was
22 no easy access to the building, either; it was electronic
23 locks, as well.

24

25 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

26

27 71 Q. MR. VALENTINE: And was that a different fob or the same
28 fob?

29 A. The same fob, but it was a small black fob, say, two inches
30 by three-quarters of an inch wide. You just put it up

1 against a strip on the wall, similar to what you use to get
2 in and out the door here.

3 72 Q. And let us assume for a second that, for some reason, they
4 did have this fob. Would it be the case that they could go
5 in every night and remove the tape without anyone ever
6 seeing them, or were there people in The Ramparts at night?

7 A. There were people, yeah, there were night -- at that time,
8 there were telephone operators on the top floor and it was
9 24-hour. The building has three floors on it, so there
10 were 24-hour cover in the building.

11 73 Q. But the Exchange is on the floor above the MDF, so it would
12 be conceivable that somebody was at the MDF?

13 A. My recollection is, as well, is that there were cameras on
14 the gate and that they had control of the gate, as well,
15 the guys --

16 74 Q. In the Telephone Exchange?

17 A. The telephone operators had access to opening the gate if
18 some of their people wanted in and out, you know.

19 75 Q. And leaving aside...

20 A. There was just one thing you mentioned, that BT engineers
21 had easy access to our Exchange. They didn't. They never
22 came into our Exchanges unless they were accompanied by us.

23 76 Q. I think there was a suggestion that people -- that the
24 technicians who carried this out had free access, had been
25 trained by British Telecom engineers. At any stage, were
26 any -- do you recall any of your fellow employees having
27 been trained by British Telecom?

28 A. No. We were all -- everybody was local. There were no --
29 I don't ever remember anybody -- nearly everybody in our
30 area would have been recruited when they were fairly young,

1 taken in as trainees and apprentices and gone up through
2 that way, you know. There were very few people that came
3 in late or after being trained elsewhere, that I can
4 remember, anyway.

5 77 Q. There was no one, for example, seconded to British Telecom,
6 sent off for training by British Telecom, that you can
7 recall?

8 A. No, we would -- we had circuits going across border, we had
9 cross-border circuits, so we would deal with British
10 Telecom. We would know a few guys in Newry and a few guys
11 in Belfast because we'd be speaking to them over the phone.
12 We would meet rarely, but it was always out, nearly, on the
13 border you'd meet them, you know. They wouldn't come up in
14 their vans and we wouldn't go down there in our vans, you
15 know; so it was nearly at the Customs you'd meet.

16 78 Q. No one that you can recall was trained by them?

17 A. No, I can't, no.

18 79 Q. Just in relation to the key-fobs, you said it was a similar
19 system to what we have here. The key-fob system here
20 records who has come in and out. Was that technology in
21 existence in The Ramparts in 1989?

22 A. I don't know whether it recorded them, but I know the
23 programming of them was controlled within the technical --
24 the transmission team. The man who was over that team, he
25 controlled the actual programming of the fobs, I know that,
26 Damian Kinlan.

27 80 Q. Damian Kinlan?

28 A. Yeah.

29 81 Q. And you are not sure whether or not that meant that he had
30 information --

1 A. I don't know whether it recorded every time you went in and
2 out. The one we have at the moment, does. I know we have
3 a newer system now, but, at that time, I am not too sure
4 whether it recorded.

5 82 Q. Just coming back to -- again, leaving aside the *Phoenix*
6 article and the suggestion of the voice-activated
7 recording, recorder; without using a recorder, would it be
8 easy to place an intercept on the MDF, for example, to
9 another line or to a house in Dundalk somewhere, could that
10 be easily done?

11 A. Well, yeah, if you knew the pairs, yeah, you could just
12 connect a wire from the private wire that they are talking
13 about and pull it out onto a line and pick it up --

14 83 Q. Is that what's referred to as a jumper?

15 A. A jumper, yeah. It's a small twisted pair of wires.

16 84 Q. And where would the easiest place to do that be?

17 A. Well, that is at the MDF. You would be taking it from the
18 cable side on the MDF and just putting it back out on the
19 cable side again and picking it up.

20 85 Q. And that would be less easily detectable, obviously, than a
21 voice recorder. Would that be detectable at all, or,
22 because there are so many wires, would you simply not see
23 that jumper wire?

24 A. You probably wouldn't see that, no. There are thousands of
25 wires on that frame, you know, so...

26 86 Q. I might just turn now to the photographs, since you were
27 the person present with the legal team when they took these
28 photographs. I am just going to run very, very briefly
29 through them and ask you just to explain. Mr. Mills, we'll
30 just start with No. 1 there, please. Can you just explain

1 what we are looking at?

2 A. That's, again, in the cable chamber. It's just showing
3 cables coming in, and you can see a joint there. If you
4 lift that up, do you see where it says "A-B 1-200"?

5 87 Q. Yeah, I can see A-B cable, it's the second cable.

6 A. That's -- when I was talking about a joint, that's what a
7 joint looks like on a 200 pair cable. So if you are
8 talking about one on a 24 pair cable, it's magnified by a
9 number of times. Then, you see where it's going straight
10 up and that's where they actually go up to the MDF room,
11 which is above the cable chamber, so straight up through
12 the ceiling, as such, if it was here.

13 88 Q. Through a hole in the ceiling to the MDF above?

14 A. Yeah.

15 89 Q. And then, just overleaf, Photograph 2?

16 A. Again, that's all the cables just on a tray, and you can
17 see them coming in. And when he was talking about the
18 valve, the air valve, do you see the little brass unit
19 there? That's the air. The cables are pressurised to keep
20 the water out, that if a cable is damaged externally, a
21 small hole, there is air pumped out from the Exchange to
22 keep the water from getting into the cable, to keep it from
23 damaging it, and that's just when he was talking about the
24 barrier, the air barrier there.

25 90 Q. When that air valve is put into the cable, what size is the
26 heat-shrinking sleeve that's put around it?

27 A. Well, it's put in through the -- if you see the one with
28 the cable-tie towards the bottom of the right-hand side of
29 the picture there, just up --

30 91 Q. Down here? [Indicating]

1 A. See the valve, just the brass piece on the other cable-tie,
2 that's where it actually goes into the -- the joint has a
3 little brass nozzle on the top of it and then you connect
4 the external pipe to pump the air into it across that.

5 92 Q. But am I right in thinking that when that was put in that
6 nozzle, obviously the cable was opened to do that, and to
7 seal it again there would have been a heat-shrinking sleeve
8 fitted around the nozzle?

9 A. Yeah.

10 93 Q. And how big would that heat-shrinking sleeve be? Perhaps
11 on Photograph 10, does that show --

12 A. I am just trying to see if there is a... On a 2,400 pair
13 cable, again, they are all small cables there, that's a 75
14 pair cable -- sorry, on --

15 94 Q. That's No. 10?

16 A. Yeah.

17 95 Q. Is that a heat-shrinking sleeve there just beneath that?

18 A. Yeah, that's the nozzle going into that one.

19 96 Q. And, roughly, how big is that heat-shrinking sleeve? How
20 long is it?

21 A. That's probably about 18 inches, that one, I'd say.

22

23 CHAIRMAN: Do they come in pre-destined sizes? Are they --
24 do they come ready to be used, do they, or are they
25 specially made?

26 A. On a 2,400 pair cable, they wouldn't use a heat-shrinkable
27 sleeve, I don't think.

28

29 97 Q. MR. VALENTINE: How would you seal it?

30 A. There is a special kit that comes. That's why I was just

1 trying to see was there anything on any of the other
2 pictures that was similar. Say, if you go to 14. The
3 cable just where the thread, the bar is, do you see the
4 aluminium bar with all the holes in it?

5 98 Q. Yeah.

6 A. The closure kit is similar to that. It's a circular kit,
7 but it would be, probably, twice the length of that one
8 that's on that.

9 99 Q. So this thicker grooved --

10 A. Yeah, it's --

11 100 Q. It looks, to me, like rubber. Is it kind of a rubber?

12 A. It's a plastic. It's just a heavy plastic, yeah.

13 101 Q. And that's, in fact, what you would use?

14 A. Yeah.

15 102 Q. I mean, you have described -- what the article described
16 was that the cable was opened, and you indicated, I think,
17 two to three foot would be what you would have to open it.
18 So how would you -- in relation to a 2,400 pair cable that
19 had to be opened three foot, which is about a metre, how
20 would you reseal that?

21 A. You would need one of those -- you would need -- you
22 actually need a box -- if you were opening up about three
23 foot, you'd need a closure kit that's four-foot long
24 because it has to go beyond any opening in the cable and it
25 has to seal down on the existing sheet without any damage
26 on it, you know.

27 103 Q. And you think, because of the width of a 2,400 pair cable,
28 you would use one of those heavier plastic things rather
29 than a heat-shrinking sleeve?

30 A. Yeah, yeah.

1 104 Q. And therefore, that would -- if this had been done, it
2 would be very visible?

3 A. It would be noticeable, yeah.

4 105 Q. I think, if you just go back to Photograph 6, please,
5 Mr. Mills, is that the cables coming into the chamber from
6 outside?

7 A. Yeah, that's the cables coming in.

8 106 Q. Again, you can see some wetness around -- is that possibly
9 upside down --

10

11 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, what number is that?

12

13 MR. VALENTINE: Number 6, Chairman.

14 107 Q. Which way should that be, Mr. Duffy?

15 A. The cables should be heading down towards the --

16 108 Q. I think you can see some wetness there where the cables
17 come in on the wall, is that correct?

18 A. Yeah, we saw that picture before, just with the sump
19 underneath it, yeah.

20 109 Q. If you go to Photograph 8, please. Can you just explain to
21 the Chairman what we are seeing here, Mr. Duffy?

22 A. That's a picture taken from one end of the cable chamber,
23 and you can see the cables running the whole way up. The
24 entry door is where the people are standing into the cable
25 chamber, and then they run the whole way up, and at the far
26 end is where they enter, where they go up through the
27 ceiling into the main distribution frame.

28 110 Q. Into the MDF, and they are elevated from the ground, are
29 they?

30 A. They are, they are kept off the ground.

1 111 Q. Is that also largely because of the flooding risk?

2 A. Well, the flooding risk down there, the cables are all
3 sealed down there and they are air-pressured so the
4 flooding doesn't affect the cables that much down there,
5 but you can see how the cables are laid on top of each
6 other. Even to pull out the right cable, to identify the
7 right cable, if it was one that was underneath, you can see
8 there is no damage to any of those ones that are on top.

9 112 Q. Okay. So, underneath that, there are more layers of
10 cables?

11 A. Yeah, there is probably a couple of cables lying on top of
12 each other. You can see other ones underneath of, sort of,
13 where the people are standing, you can see underneath
14 there, that there are other cables underneath there again.
15 So, you know, to get access to any cable that's underneath
16 there --

17 113 Q. Would be very difficult?

18 A. Very difficult, because there is no slack to pull those
19 cables out. A 2,400 pair cable is very heavy, as well.
20 You can see --

21 114 Q. Even to pull it physically away from the others so that you
22 could get at it properly, would be quite difficult?

23 A. Yeah.

24 115 Q. Number 12, Mr. Mills, please. Is there any particular
25 significance to --

26 A. That's the mark on the wall, the white mark on the wall is
27 the high mark, the high side mark I suppose you'd call it
28 where the flooding got up -- yeah -- just above there.

29 116 Q. The flooding was that high, almost at head height, in fact?

30 A. Yeah.

1 117 Q. About five foot?

2 A. About five foot, yeah.

3 118 Q. Go on to No. 14, Mr. Mills, please. And is that the cables
4 going up into the ceiling of the cable chamber towards the
5 MDF?

6 A. Yeah. The MDF is directly above it. You can see they are
7 sealed there, as well, for fire seals. That grey material
8 around the black cables, that line is a fire seal that's
9 put in.

10 119 Q. That's at the very top of the photograph?

11 A. Just at the top of the photograph, yeah. That's a fire
12 seal to prevent --

13 120 Q. If we go to Photograph 20, Mr. Mills. Is that the access
14 to the cable chamber?

15 A. Yeah, that's known as the engine room. There is a standby
16 generator in that and that's the access down into the cable
17 chamber. That floor level is the same level as the MDF
18 room, which is the other side of the wall on the right-hand
19 side of the picture.

20 121 Q. I think the Chairman has already heard evidence that the
21 cable chamber was locked, is that correct?

22 A. I'd say the door was locked, but the key was probably left
23 in the door, to tell you the truth, you know.

24 122 Q. The key was left in the door?

25 A. Yeah, because --

26 123 Q. So certainly, you recall -- do you recall --

27 A. The door into that room would have been locked. The door
28 into that engine room would have been locked.

29 124 Q. The door into the engine room?

30 A. Yeah, because we were the only ones who went in, the

1 Exchange Maintenance team were the only team that went in
2 there. If the jointers wanted access into the cable
3 chamber, they would ask us for access into that room.

4 125 Q. What was carried out in the engine room?

5 A. As I said, we had a weekly -- the engine room, there is a
6 standby generator in this which was run weekly, which takes
7 over the power in case the main feed, the ESB feed into the
8 Exchange goes down. We have a standby generator that can
9 run the whole power for the building, so that was run for
10 one hour every week as a routine to make sure that it cut
11 in when the power was -- so we visited that room at least
12 once a week.

13 126 Q. Okay. Now, was there a second entrance into the cable
14 chamber? I think there has been reference to a manhole
15 from the MDF room?

16 A. There was, yeah, there was a manhole right at the end of
17 the cable chamber, but that was never left open.

18 127 Q. That was locked?

19 A. Well, it's not that this was locked, but it was in the
20 floor where you were walking past constantly, there were
21 guards that had to be put up around it, so it was something
22 that was --

23 128 Q. If someone was in the MDF room and wanted to go to the
24 cable chamber, would they go through the manhole or would
25 they come into the engine room and go down those stairs?

26 A. No, they would go down the stairs all the time, yeah.

27 129 Q. But --

28 A. But they could get in through the manhole if they wanted
29 to, yeah, they could lift it up.

30 130 Q. If you go to Photograph 38, please. I think we are seeing,

1 there, the bottom of the MDF, and, on the left-hand side,
2 is that the manhole?

3 A. That's the manhole there with the brass surround on it,
4 yeah.

5 131 Q. And the door just above that?

6 A. The door above it is the door into the engine room.

7 132 Q. That's into the engine room?

8 A. Yeah.

9 133 Q. And would that -- the door between the engine room and the
10 MDF, was that locked --

11 A. No, sorry, that door isn't into the engine room; that's
12 into a different room. The door into the engine room is
13 about eight feet further down from that. There were two
14 doors in that room.

15 134 Q. And was the door between the engine room and the MDF room
16 locked or open?

17 A. Between the -- no, it was kept locked.

18 135 Q. It was kept locked?

19 A. Usually, yes.

20 136 Q. If one wanted to get from the MDF room to the engine room,
21 they'd have to get a key from --

22 A. Yeah, there were two master keys for the building, an A key
23 and a B key, that would give you access to different --

24 137 Q. And who held the master keys?

25 A. Anybody -- we held them, the Exchange Maintenance team all
26 had keys, an A and a B key.

27 138 Q. Photograph 21, please, Mr. Mills. Those double doors,
28 what's that?

29 A. That's a sort of a room within a room. That's the main
30 powers room within -- all the main fuses and switches are

1 in those double doors, but that is just a room that's built
2 within that main room. You can see that wall goes up and
3 there is a cement ceiling on top of it. There is no other
4 access --

5 139 Q. Other than through those doors?

6 A. The door on the left-hand side is the door back out to the
7 MDF room, the green door.

8 140 Q. And I think the following photos are, again, of the engine
9 room. 27, what are those doors?

10 A. They are the external doors into the engine room.

11 141 Q. From outside?

12 A. From outside. But there is a large bar across that that
13 was kept -- they were kept locked all the time.

14 142 Q. So could a member of the public have accessed the engine
15 room through those doors without a fob?

16 A. No, because they were bolted from the inside. There is
17 actually two bolts on each door, top and bottom, and then
18 the bar running across between the two doors. They were
19 well-secured, those doors, they were actually very
20 difficult to open.

21

22 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, where -- if I was taking that photograph,
23 where would I be standing?

24 A. You are standing in the engine room, nearly just at the
25 standby engine is just behind the photographer, in fact.

26

27 143 Q. MR. VALENTINE: Coming on then to Photograph No. 32, then,
28 Mr. Mills.

29 A. 32 is the cable pressurisation machine. There was an air
30 pump in the bottom of this, and then, as we saw earlier,

1 there were small plastic tubing going down to all the
2 cables that we saw going in through the brass valves and
3 then each cable had - you can see the A, B, C, D, E, F,
4 they are the actual cables. Each cable had an
5 alphabetical; A cable went one direction and B cable went
6 in another direction.

7 144 Q. If you go to the next one, 33, you can see the lettering
8 more clearly at the top there. There is the lettering?

9 A. So they are alarm points. You can see the little triangle
10 on the left-hand side. On, say, A cable there, there is a
11 black triangle and then there is a white triangle. So the
12 black triangle indicates when there is a certain pressure
13 out, and when it drops down and hits where the white
14 triangle is, the alarm goes in then on that cable.

15 145 Q. We have heard evidence that if someone had slit the PUT
16 cable to take an intercept from the wire, there would have
17 been a fall in pressure and the alarm would have gone off?

18 A. Yeah, because the air was put in after a certain point on
19 the cable. There were air blocks put on the cable, that
20 the air couldn't come out up into the MDF room and so there
21 was a picture with that -- showing those. If you go to
22 picture 16. They are the air blocks, those thick pieces
23 around the cable. They prevent -- the air is -- comes down
24 on little tubes, you can see it there. If you lift the
25 picture up slightly. See that little tube there, around
26 the fifth cable.

27 146 Q. This?

28 A. Yeah, that's the air coming down, and it goes down and into
29 the brass and that -- those blocks prevent the air from
30 actually escaping upwards; the air only goes out to the

1 cables.

2 147 Q. And I think the machine is also -- what's also known as a
3 Drallim machine?

4 A. A Drallim machine, yeah.

5 148 Q. The next few photographs are the Drallim machine. If we
6 can go then to Photograph 40, please.

7 A. That's the MDF now. That's just straight above where the
8 cable chamber was. The block I have my hand on is the
9 Exchange side, it's known as the Exchange side of the
10 frame. And the other -- the other side of the frame, then,
11 where the vertical blocks are shown, is where the cables
12 come in from the telephones, they come into that side. In
13 simple terms: the telephone numbers are all on the other
14 side where my hand is, and you run a little -- see the
15 little yellow wires there, they run from cable A 26 over
16 onto telephone number 12345, and that's a permanent jumper
17 that's left there as long as that telephone line is
18 working.

19 149 Q. That's what effectively links that telephone line to its
20 assigned telephone number?

21 A. Exactly, yeah.

22 150 Q. And I think if we just go to 43, please, Mr. Mills. Which
23 side are we on here, Mr. Duffy?

24 A. We are on the cable side.

25 151 Q. And this identifies each pair coming in, is that right?

26 A. Pair. You can see that that is marked 'A', just where my
27 finger is, it's marked 'A 501' to -- sorry, I am on the
28 wrong -- 40?

29 152 Q. 43.

30 A. It's 'A 501 to 600', so that identifies that it's A cable

1 and pairs 501 to 600 within that cable. And you can see
2 the jumpers, if you see -- you can see them coming in
3 there, if you look at the -- there is a red and green
4 jumper on pair 1, that's coming from the other side, from
5 the Exchange side, that's where the jumper comes in and
6 it's punched in on that side. At the top of that cable
7 where it says '1A' and 'B', if you look further down,
8 sorry, at -- go down to 50, just below the 50s, you can see
9 where the external cables are terminated then on the top
10 side of that. See they are a different colour. Just below
11 52 there. There is the external cables coming in - blue,
12 orange, green. See them there?

13 153 Q. At the bottom of the screen now?

14 A. Yeah, there is a red -- sorry, there is a red/blue on 51,
15 there is a red/orange, it's 52, and a red/green would be
16 53. That's the way the cables are colour-coded, that the
17 jointers know which ones are the same pair in each cable
18 when they are jointing them together.

19 154 Q. So those are the external --

20 A. They are the external cables then and the jumpers are on
21 the bottom. There is actually no jumpers on those low
22 ones, but where the red and green -- the two little
23 connectors are just on top of each other, the external
24 cable comes in here, the jumper comes in on this side and
25 they are physically connected on the back of that
26 permanently.

27 155 Q. Okay. Thank you. And then 44, this just shows the wires
28 interconnecting from one side to the other?

29 A. Yeah, that shows you the amount of wires that are
30 criss-crossing between.

1 156 Q. And 46?

2 A. They are the jumpers being fed in the side of the external
3 cable block to connect on to --

4 157 Q. To connect to the Exchange side?

5 A. Yeah.

6 158 Q. I think then the next few photographs are all quite similar
7 of the -- if we just go to 52.

8 A. That's the Exchange side now.

9 159 Q. And what are we looking at there?

10 A. You are looking at the -- again, the terminations from the
11 Exchange is up on the next floor, all the wiring comes down
12 and they terminate on one side of that block, and then,
13 again, it's very similar to the other blocks, you just
14 punch on the jumper on the other side and take it over then
15 and put it out onto the external cable out towards the
16 house from the telephone.

17 160 Q. And Photograph 56, Mr. Mills. And just in the centre of
18 that photograph, there is wires going up from the MDF into
19 the room above, and those are the wires that are
20 connecting --

21 A. They are the wires that are connecting to the Exchange side
22 terminations, yeah, they go up through the floor.

23 161 Q. And into the Exchange?

24 A. Into the Exchange, yeah.

25 162 Q. I think that's what's shown again at 58. You might just
26 confirm that?

27 A. Yeah, that's just another angle of the cables going up
28 through the ceiling.

29 163 Q. Photograph 60, please, Mr. Mills. I think you are the
30 person on the right-hand side of that photograph, is that

1 right, Mr. Duffy?

2 A. Yeah, standing at the door.

3 164 Q. What's the door you are standing beside?

4 A. That's the door into the engine room, now, that leads down
5 to the cable chamber, yeah.

6 165 Q. And, in fact, 63, then, is, again, a close-up of the
7 manhole that we talked about that goes from the MDF room to
8 the cable chamber below, is that correct?

9 A. That's it, yeah.

10 166 Q. If you go to 67, please. What's that room that we are
11 looking at there?

12 A. That's the power room that I was talking about earlier, the
13 -- you'll see the door, that door goes back out into the
14 MDF room as well.

15 167 Q. That's the --

16 A. The second --

17 168 Q. Depending on which way --

18 A. Yeah.

19 169 Q. The door beside. If you walk through that door, you'd come
20 out in the MDF room just beside the manhole?

21 A. Yeah.

22 170 Q. Photograph 69, please, Mr. Mills. What's that machine?

23 A. It's a tester for testing out on the line and there is a
24 set of clips connected to that. You see a little box on
25 the top there. There is wires heading away over onto the
26 -- at the MDF, and there is a plug on the end of that and
27 it can plug into the blocks that we saw earlier on. It
28 plugs in between the external cable and the internal cable
29 and then you can test out to the telephone line to test to
30 see if the line is faulty.

1 171 Q. Is faulty?

2 A. Yeah.

3 172 Q. There would be no way of really tapping, using this machine
4 to tap a telephone line, would there?

5 A. No, that machine was in constant use, you know, guys were
6 in and out all the time testing lines. When they would get
7 a report of a line-fault, the first place they would come
8 to would be the Exchange, to test out, to make sure the
9 line was faulty out to line, as such. They would plug the
10 machine in, test out, see what conditions they were getting
11 on the little meter there, and it would give them an
12 indication how far the fault was out, even, maybe, you
13 know.

14 173 Q. If we just turn over to the next page, I think that, again,
15 just shows --

16 A. Yeah, that shows the cables again in detail.

17 174 Q. In detail, yeah. And finally -- number 73, please. What
18 are we looking at there, Mr. Duffy?

19 A. 73, the door that's being held open there with the Eircom
20 check sign on it, that's the door into the MDF room.

21 175 Q. And double doors?

22 A. The double doors are the external doors.

23 176 Q. Those are the external doors?

24 A. Yeah.

25 177 Q. So you'd come -- to get into the MDF room from outside,
26 you'd come first through the double doors, which require a
27 fob?

28 A. Yeah.

29 178 Q. And then you come to the door of the MDF room?

30 A. Into the MDF room.

1 179 Q. Into the MDF room. Would that door be open or --

2 A. Yeah, at that time it would have been normally open, yeah.

3 180 Q. Okay. I think the following photograph is just the -- is a
4 photograph, again, of those double doors?

5 A. Double doors, yeah. This is just showing the new system
6 that's on the doors.

7 181 Q. One of these release buttons?

8 A. The new fob system, yeah.

9 182 Q. And number 76, what's that corridor we are looking at in
10 76?

11 A. If you are -- that hallway that -- just this side of the
12 door frame is the door into the MDF room where the small
13 black box is on the wall, you see the small -- that's the
14 door into the MDF room, that's the access system there now,
15 and that corridor just leads down to a couple of offices
16 and canteen and --

17 183 Q. Just administrative rooms?

18 A. Yeah.

19 184 Q. 78, I think we have already looked at the Megger box?

20 A. Yes.

21 185 Q. And that's Photograph 78 to 82?

22 A. Yeah.

23 186 Q. Photograph 83, please, Mr. Mills. What's that orange thing
24 in the centre, at the top centre?

25 A. It's a -- it's actually a cover for a smoke detector. See
26 the smoke detectors up here? It's just they come with that
27 cover on them when you get them first.

28 187 Q. And if we just turn over to 84?

29 A. 84 is the external, where those two vans are, that's the
30 external door now, along the side of the building.

1 188 Q. Just behind those two vans, that's the doors?

2 A. The high doors, the louver doors.

3 189 Q. Those are the doors that we saw a photograph from the
4 inside a couple of moments ago?

5 A. Which have bars and bolts on them, yes.

6 190 Q. So those are the bolted doors into the --

7 A. Into the engine room.

8 191 Q. -- into the engine room, but they are not the two access --
9 the access doors that we just saw a moment ago?

10 A. The access doors are underneath the cement plinth there,
11 you see --

12 192 Q. Yeah. In fact, and a better photograph for those is shown
13 at 85?

14 A. Yeah.

15 193 Q. Photograph No. 91, please, Mr. Mills. That just shows that
16 RTE occupied some of the building, is that --

17 A. They do now, yeah. At that stage, they didn't.

18 194 Q. Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Duffy. Will you answer any
19 questions.

20

21 MR. DURACK: Just a couple of questions, if I may.

22

23 **THE WITNESS WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. DURACK AS FOLLOWS:**

24

25 195 Q. MR. DURACK: During the day, how many people were there on
26 the maintenance side, back, now, in '89?

27 A. There were two internal teams: there was the Exchange
28 Maintenance team, which was, I think, three at that stage;
29 and there were -- there was a Transmission Maintenance
30 team, as well, and they were probably three or four on that

1 team, and then there were -- they were the -- there was
2 another team then for -- they were called Exchange
3 Construction, you know. There were several teams that used
4 the building as their base, but, permanently people, there
5 was probably eight permanent people.

6 196 Q. Who were within the building -- who were based there for
7 the day?

8 A. Yeah, or most of their day, yeah.

9 197 Q. And then the external stuff was --

10 A. In and out all the time as required, yeah. There was
11 another guy who was, at that time, was permanently on the
12 MDF running those jumpers, the jumpers between the external
13 and internal cables. He was -- it was his job to run those
14 jumpers.

15 198 Q. So you'd have something less than ten on the technical
16 side?

17 A. Yeah.

18 199 Q. Based in the building most of the time?

19 A. Yeah, around that.

20 200 Q. And then you'd have external people who were out and about?

21 A. Yeah, as they were required, in and out of the building.

22 201 Q. On top of that, presumably there were operators in and out
23 of the building?

24 A. Yeah.

25 202 Q. How many of them would there have been?

26 A. At that time, there was probably maybe 50 or 60, I'd say.

27 203 Q. During the day?

28 A. Yeah. At night, less.

29 204 Q. A night shift?

30 A. A night shift of, maybe, I think about six or eight at

1 night, yeah.

2 205 Q. There was a night shift on the technical side?

3 A. No, we were on call.

4 206 Q. You were on call, and you came in when you were needed?

5 A. Exactly, yeah.

6 207 Q. But --

7

8 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, how many did you say on the night shift?

9 A. On the operator side, there was probably, maybe, I'd say,
10 maybe six or eight.

11

12 208 Q. MR. DURACK: But anybody who wasn't part of the team or at
13 least who wasn't on the regular staff, would stand out like
14 a sore thumb?

15 A. They would, yeah, yeah.

16 209 Q. Because everybody, presumably, knew everybody else to see?

17 A. They did, yeah. As I said, there were cameras on the
18 corner of the building, and, at night, you got access. The
19 guys upstairs, they had a monitor, the 24-hour night staff
20 on the operator side had a monitor up there, that they
21 could look at the gate.

22 210 Q. And if you didn't have your fob with you, they would let in
23 whoever was at the door that needed to be let in?

24 A. Exactly, yeah.

25 211 Q. So it wasn't a case that there were so many people that the
26 odd stranger could go unnoticed?

27 A. No, because all the operator staff didn't have a fob,
28 because -- and that's how they got in at night, by their
29 colleague.

30 212 Q. But again, equally, they, as I understand it, are on the

1 top floor, is that it?

2 A. Yeah.

3 213 Q. So that, in fact, for their access, they have to come in
4 the hallway and go up the stairs, or whatever?

5 A. Where that RTE gate, they usually went in at that end of
6 the building.

7 214 Q. But people are wandering around the building, presumably,
8 on the ground floor, and then, to get upstairs -- they may
9 not be down in the cable chamber, I take it, at night?

10 A. No, no.

11 215 Q. But certainly a stranger would stand out?

12 A. Yeah, they would, yeah.

13 216 Q. Now, Mr. Finnegan, you said, at that stage was he -- did
14 you say he was in control of the external stuff, the
15 external works at that stage?

16 A. Yeah, he was, yeah.

17 217 Q. So he wouldn't -- he wasn't actually based in the building?

18 A. He wasn't based in that building, no. He was based in
19 another -- the area engineering headquarters, which was
20 further over the town. He was based there. All the
21 external staff were based over in that place. That's where
22 they parked their vans and had all their stuff over there.

23 218 Q. It says in the article that there was an investigation,
24 that three investigators came to Dundalk to look into this
25 alleged piece of tapping. Were you aware of any
26 investigators arriving at any stage?

27 A. No, they never -- no, not about --

28 219 Q. And I take it an investigation couldn't be conducted
29 without you being aware of it?

30 A. Well, I was on a team, I had a technical team leader now,

1 unless they went to him and just spoke to him, but he never
2 mentioned to us, and at that time he would have said, "Did
3 you see anything around the place?" I am sure he would
4 have said that to us, you know, because we worked in the
5 one office. Like, it wasn't that we were -- like, we
6 worked in a room, maybe, you know, this size, you know, so
7 it wasn't --

8 220 Q. It was a small office?

9 A. Yeah, and we worked -- we were in and out in vans together
10 all the time and --

11 221 Q. And it looks as if it's a very sparse building. There
12 aren't curtains or a lot of furniture in it; there is a lot
13 of equipment?

14 A. Yeah, that corridor is all the office. Any office is a
15 small office with normal office furniture in it, but the
16 other rooms are just total equipment rooms, you know.

17 222 Q. And anything unusual would stand out?

18 A. It would, yeah.

19 223 Q. And I think we have heard in relation to the Megger boxes,
20 that you think there might have been five of them
21 altogether, there were five teams?

22 A. Yeah, five or six teams around the place, yeah.

23 224 Q. And presumably, whoever the technician was, would have his
24 initials or some mark on it so he'd know his own one?

25 A. Yeah, there were actually team codes; like, a team was
26 161T, or something like that.

27 225 Q. But they'd be marked with some way of recognising them, in
28 any case?

29 A. Yeah.

30 226 Q. And as we have been told, they maybe cost £1,000; everybody

1 minded what they had?

2 A. Exactly, that's what I said. There was --

3 227 Q. There is no question of there being spare ones lying
4 around?

5 A. No, no.

6 228 Q. And I think we have also -- am I right in understanding it,
7 that it's sort of a fiberglass box, and we can see that it
8 has clips on it for closing it, and I presume it's
9 watertight?

10 A. No, it wouldn't be watertight.

11 229 Q. It wouldn't be watertight. I see. The thing is, if it was
12 used externally, that it might be in danger of getting wet,
13 the equipment might be in danger of getting wet?

14 A. It's not something you leave on. It's something that you
15 take out, you test a pair of wires, it gives you a location
16 to where the fault is, you pull it away and move down the
17 line further, you know.

18 230 Q. Now, it's suggested that there was a wire going into this
19 where the tape-recorder was hidden. Is that a feasible
20 thing? It looks like a fairly tight fit with a sort of a
21 one-inch overlap, or thereabouts, with a lid on it?

22 A. When they talk about a jumper wire, it's fairly thin, you
23 know. It probably could have went underneath it --

24 231 Q. One of your colleagues yesterday suggested that it
25 wouldn't. In fact, it's more likely to snip it or nip it
26 in some way?

27 A. Yeah, probably...

28 232 Q. Thank you very much indeed.

29 A. Okay.

30

1 CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?

2

3 MR. COFFEY: No questions.

4

5 MR. O'CALLAGHAN: No questions.

6

7 MS. O'SULLIVAN: No questions.

8

9 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Duffy. You have been
10 very helpful and I appreciate your assistance to the
11 Tribunal. Thank you very much.

12

13 MR. VALENTINE: Chairman, as I have already indicated,
14 there are two further witnesses today, scheduled at two
15 o'clock. One of them is a former telecoms employee also,
16 and the other is a member of An Garda Siochana with an
17 expertise in that area, and neither of them are here, so if
18 you say two o'clock, Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN: Two o'clock. Very good. Thank you very much.

21

22 **THE TRIBUNAL ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH.**

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THE TRIBUNAL CONTINUED AFTER LUNCH AS FOLLOWS

MR. DILLON: We have two witnesses for you this afternoon
and the first witness is Mr. Thomas Martin, please.

1 THOMAS MARTIN, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS EXAMINED BY MR.
2 DILLON AS FOLLOWS:

3

4 MR. DILLON: Now, Mr. Martin, thank you very much for
5 coming along. I think you are a retired employee of
6 Eircom?

7 A. That's right, yes.

8 233 Q. And you were employed as a linesman dealing with repairs
9 and, in the context of what the Judge is considering,
10 callouts to Dundalk Station?

11 A. Correct, that's right.

12 234 Q. And I think you have been shown a -- when you spoke to the
13 Tribunal, you were shown a newspaper article regarding
14 allegations that the Eircom switch was tapped, and I think
15 that your view was that it was easy to write this sort of
16 thing after the event?

17 A. That's right.

18 235 Q. Yes. I think you thought that to carry out the tapping in
19 the way that was described would be to draw attention to
20 oneself?

21 A. Yes, that's right.

22 236 Q. And that it's very difficult to identify the proper cable,
23 in any event, isn't that right?

24 A. Correct.

25 237 Q. Now, I think that your status was what's called a technical
26 class one linesman?

27 A. That's right, yes.

28 238 Q. Could you explain to the judge what that means?

29 A. It was generally doing repairs on telephone lines, cables,
30 people's premises, wiring, et cetera, equipment, and so on.

1 239 Q. Now, I think that you worked from time to time --

2 A. Will I elaborate on that?

3 240 Q. If you wouldn't mind?

4 A. There is no necessity, really. That's what it entails, or
5 it did entail in my time, was general repairs of the
6 telephone apparatus and lines.

7 241 Q. Now, I think that from time to time you went to the garda
8 station in Dundalk?

9 A. That's right.

10 242 Q. I presume that is whenever they had -- they reported a
11 problem or a fault, is that the idea?

12 A. Yes, I would be normally first on call there, yes.

13 243 Q. And what was the procedure for getting admittance to the
14 station --

15 A. I beg your pardon, sorry?

16 244 Q. I was asking what was the procedure for gaining admittance
17 to the station; how did you get in?

18 A. Usually went to the reception area, the hatch, and showed
19 your ID to the garda present, guard on day duty, and he
20 would admit me, of course, whenever he was sure I was who I
21 was.

22 245 Q. Is it fair to say by reason of your having been in and out
23 of station over the years, you became known to the guards
24 in the station?

25 A. Most of them, yes, most of them, yes. There would be a
26 change of guards of course.

27 246 Q. So once you were inside, you were left to your own devices,
28 is that right?

29 A. Yes.

30 247 Q. So, I think you went -- sorry, you could go to -- you

1 described a large cream box with a lid. What was that?

2 A. This was where all the lines were terminated in the guards
3 barracks coming in from the street, the main cables on that
4 and the distribution to the barracks itself, the
5 distribution to various rooms and sections of the barracks.

6 248 Q. And was this particular box locked?

7 A. No.

8 249 Q. And how was it secured if it wasn't locked?

9 A. It wasn't secured; it was just a couple of screws kept the
10 lid on it, that was the way it was. You know, it was open
11 to ourselves and any other technical people that were --
12 that needed to get to it.

13 250 Q. So when you opened it up you saw a whole mass of lines, I
14 take it, wires in other words?

15 A. Yes.

16 251 Q. And how could you identify what wire did what?

17 A. Well, it was labels on each. The way it was made up, the
18 box, there was labels on each and each would be numbered,
19 the telephone number or the identification of the line, not
20 always a hundred percent accurate, may I add, but within
21 reason.

22 252 Q. And there were -- they were labelled in ordinary language?

23 A. Ordinary.

24 253 Q. Not in code?

25 A. Well, a little bit of technical jargon about them. You
26 know, a PW would be a power wire, and unless you knew
27 that...

28 254 Q. A power wire?

29 A. Yes.

30 255 Q. What's a --

1 A. Sorry, private wire, I beg your pardon, private wire,
2 sorry.

3 256 Q. We will just pause there for a moment. Can you describe a
4 private wire?

5 A. A private wire would be like an alarm line to a bank,
6 something like that, security line, you know, or a direct
7 line to a --

8 257 Q. Jeweller's, for example?

9 A. Yes, exactly, exactly.

10 258 Q. Now, I think that the box was looked after by yourself?

11 A. Yes.

12 259 Q. And other personnel from Telecom?

13 A. Yes.

14 260 Q. The garda technical people and also the alarm people, is
15 that right?

16 A. Yes, that would be true, yes.

17 261 Q. And anyone from any of these three organisations had access
18 to the box?

19 A. Yeah, yeah; it wasn't secured.

20 262 Q. That said, there was something called a book of codes
21 hanging near to the box?

22 A. Yes, this is something we use where there would be cables
23 like that terminated. It's just an identification book or,
24 actually, cards they were, to give you the idea of the
25 lines and so on.

26 263 Q. I think the codes weren't in the sense of, let's say, war
27 time message codes?

28 A. Ah no, no. Very straightforward, direct, easy to
29 understand stuff, yes. But you would have to know the way
30 the cards were laid out, you know.

1 264 Q. I think you attended Dundalk Station on and off, say, on a
2 monthly basis, is that the idea?

3 A. Yes, that would be true enough.

4 265 Q. I think you dealt only with the lines because the gardaí
5 themselves had their own technical personnel?

6 A. Yes, they had some of their own gear too, yes.

7 266 Q. I think you recall being interviewed by, was it Inspector
8 Kelly?

9 A. Yes, that's right.

10 267 Q. You were told about the article in the *Phoenix* magazine?

11 A. I was told about it, yeah.

12 268 Q. And I think you recall the manner in which it was suggested
13 in *Phoenix* magazine that the telephone line had been --

14 A. It didn't impress me.

15 269 Q. -- interfered with?

16 A. No, it didn't impress me at all.

17 270 Q. Was it your view that it would have been easier to tap
18 within the station rather than within the Ramparts?

19 A. Technically, yes, it would be far easier.

20 271 Q. Now, the lines come from outside up to the station, up to
21 the box?

22 A. Yeah.

23 272 Q. And thereafter, then, the lines are garda lines, is that
24 right?

25 A. Yes, that's right.

26 273 Q. And Eircom didn't deal with the lines once they went beyond
27 the box?

28 A. Some of them, yes, some of them had -- depending on what it
29 was, if it was just an ordinary private telephone, yes.

30 274 Q. Like a direct line telephone?

1 A. Yes, yes. Some of them then went to the gardaí equipment,
2 which was their own concern.

3 275 Q. Did Eircom do any sweeping for taps or bugs?

4 A. Not that I am aware of. I was never in it anyway.

5 276 Q. I understand that essentially your job was to respond to
6 faults?

7 A. Correct, that's right.

8 277 Q. The MDF, that is the main distribution frame, is that
9 right?

10 A. Yes, that's right.

11 278 Q. And was there a main distribution frame in Dundalk Station?

12 A. Garda station?

13 279 Q. Yes.

14 A. Just that box that I spoke about, the cream box.

15 280 Q. I see.

16 A. That would be the -- yeah.

17 281 Q. Performs the function of an MDF?

18 A. Exactly.

19 282 Q. I see. And is it possible to notice within that box
20 whether there had been a tap in terms of jumper wires; it's
21 the normal form of tap is it?

22 A. I would certainly not have noticed it, no, because you had
23 alarm companies like Chub who had access to it as well and
24 they had their own sort of different colour-coded wiring
25 and so on. You wouldn't pass any remarks on it, no.

26 283 Q. Is it possible to install a tap on the junction box in the
27 street?

28 A. Yeah.

29 284 Q. And how is that done?

30 A. It would be a case of identifying the line that you wanted

1 to tap, of course naturally, and then just running a wire
2 across to where you wanted to tap it on to.

3 285 Q. And the wires or the lines in the junction box in the
4 street, were they labelled as well?

5 A. No.

6 286 Q. So you would need to know what you were looking for?

7 A. You would need to know exactly what you were looking for
8 and exactly where you are putting it to.

9 287 Q. I think can you tell the judge what you mean by or what is
10 meant by a 'numbers flap'?

11 A. On the box I spoke about in the guards barracks, that is
12 how you would read what was on what. They were in
13 little -- there was five wires like that, five pair wires,
14 and over that was a little flap and the numbers were
15 written on it. So, 1 was a number, 2 was another number,
16 and so on.

17 288 Q. I see. So this was in ease of identifying individual lines
18 or wires?

19 A. Yes, you had a series of flaps on the box because it was
20 something like 200 lines on it or something like that.

21 289 Q. March 1989, as you may know, is the month in which the two
22 RUC officers were murdered. Did you hear anything at that
23 time about the possibility of telephone lines being tapped
24 at that time?

25 A. Definitely not.

26 290 Q. I think you are aware of an incident involving pay phones,
27 though, is that right?

28 A. Yes, there was something, yeah. Again, I wasn't alarmed
29 because we had the troubles in the North, there was the
30 usual thing about drugs and so on, so you really didn't get

1 involved in that.

2 291 Q. Can you remember where that pay phone was?

3 A. I remember a pay phone -- I can't say if that was the year
4 or not -- out the Dublin Road, facing Crossan's garage,
5 something happened there, yeah.

6 292 Q. But well out of sight of Dundalk Garda Station?

7 A. Oh yeah, yeah.

8 293 Q. Yes. Is it possible to run a wire or a line to a
9 neighbouring house, can that be done?

10 A. On the -- at the cabinet, as we call it, which is outside
11 the guards barracks, which is where all the lines of the
12 area come, to, like, there is hundreds in there, it would
13 be possible to do a tap there, all right, across to another
14 premises.

15 294 Q. Now, when you describe the cabinet, is that something that
16 stands up from the ground?

17 A. Yes, yes, you see them out on the street there quite
18 frequently.

19 295 Q. Yes, we may be familiar with that?

20 A. Yes.

21 296 Q. But you say that clearly you need access to this cabinet?

22 A. Again, they are not locked, they weren't locked -- they may
23 be locked now, they weren't locked at that stage.

24 297 Q. How did you get in then; just open the door?

25 A. Ah no. There is a little catches that you use that we
26 had -- we had a tool to open. They weren't really that
27 hard to access. The thing about that is, and may I add,
28 that you would you certainly need the information and know
29 what you are looking for there.

30 298 Q. Because presumably you are there in the open street visible

1 to anybody passing by?

2 A. Yes, and you would also need the records of the place to
3 know -- it's just a mass of wires to anyone passing by, as
4 it would be even to myself because you have to know the
5 records.

6 299 Q. But from a practical point of view, it's unrealistic?

7 A. It's unrealistic.

8 300 Q. Yes. I think that if you were to carry out a tap like
9 that, you'd simply hear calls, you couldn't make a call, is
10 that right?

11 A. It would be difficult to make a call.

12 301 Q. Thank you.

13

14 **THE WITNESS WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. DURACK AS FOLLOWS:**

15

16 302 Q. MR. DURACK: Just a couple of questions, if I might. I
17 appear for An Garda Siochana; my name is Michael Durack.
18 You were saying that you would have access to the internal
19 system in the garda station, at least where the wires
20 terminate?

21 A. That's right.

22 303 Q. And you mentioned Chub and a few other alarm people?

23 A. Yes.

24 304 Q. I think all these people would be security cleared, I take
25 it?

26 A. Oh, well I expect so.

27 305 Q. And equally, you weren't allowed into the station without
28 showing your ID or unless you knew the guard who was there?

29 A. Yes.

30 306 Q. Certainly anybody interfering with the box would be

1 spotted?

2 A. Absolutely, yes.

3 307 Q. Now, you were just talking about the cabinet and tapping
4 into the cabinet?

5 A. Yes.

6 308 Q. That, as you said, would be obvious?

7 A. It would be obvious, yes.

8 309 Q. I presume it couldn't be done at night, really, with any
9 degree of --

10 A. It would be difficult.

11 310 Q. It would be very difficult to do?

12 A. Very difficult, that it would, yes.

13 311 Q. And in terms of the suggestion in the article that the --
14 that the calls would be taped?

15 A. Tapped.

16 312 Q. -- in some way, that that would mean that one's information
17 would always be out of date by a day anyway?

18 A. Correct, correct.

19 313 Q. Whereas if one put a jumper on it --

20 A. A wire tap, yeah, yeah --

21 314 Q. -- you would in fact be in constant communication?

22 A. Yes, that's right.

23 315 Q. And I think while it might have been possible to jump it on
24 to one of the spare lines in the station, that would be
25 blatantly obvious to anybody?

26 A. Absolutely.

27 316 Q. Were you at any stage aware of an investigation being
28 carried out by three members from the Investigation Branch?

29 A. No, no.

30 317 Q. Because it's suggested in the article that three people

1 came down from the Investigation Branch to --

2 A. That was -- I wasn't made aware of it at the time and it
3 was a long time after that before I heard anything about it
4 at all.

5 318 Q. But I take it if it happened, you would have heard about
6 it?

7 A. Oh yeah, definitely, absolutely.

8 319 Q. It's not something that happens casually?

9 A. No, no.

10 320 Q. And I think there was a sort of a PABX system there, isn't
11 that right?

12 A. That's right, yes.

13 321 Q. And I think it was capable of having, perhaps, ten lines in
14 at the time and about 40 extensions?

15 A. I would think so. My memory is --

16 322 Q. Not that good?

17 A. -- not that sharp on it now, but I wouldn't argue with
18 that.

19 323 Q. Thank you very much.

20

21 CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?

22

23 MR. O'CALLAGHAN: No questions.

24

25 MR. COFFEY: No questions.

26

27 MS. O'SULLIVAN: No.

28

29 CHAIRMAN: Mr. Martin, thank you very much for coming, you
30 have been most helpful to the Tribunal. Thank you very

1 much.

2 A. Sorry about the phone.

3

4 CHAIRMAN: These things happen. Thank you.

5

6 **THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW.**

7

8 MR. DILLON: Now, the second witness for today, Chairman,
9 is Garvan MacFadden.

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1 GARVAN MACFADDEN, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS EXAMINED BY MR.
2 DILLON AS FOLLOWS:

3

4 324 Q. MR. DILLON: Garda MacFadden, I think that prior to joining
5 the Garda Siochana, you studied electronic engineering for
6 a period of three years beforehand, is that right?

7 A. That's correct.

8 325 Q. And did you obtain or perform a qualification from that or
9 did you just join the guards?

10 A. I attained a certificate in electronics, radio
11 telecommunications and electronics.

12 326 Q. And I think that since joining the Force, you always worked
13 in the telecommunications division of the Garda Siochana?

14 A. That's correct.

15 327 Q. And you say this is a separate department within the Force,
16 is that right?

17 A. That's correct, yes.

18 328 Q. Is it independent or is it under the umbrella of a division
19 of the Force such as Crime and Security or Personnel or --

20 A. No, it's under Telecommunications itself, we would have our
21 own rank structure, Chief Superintendent, Superintendent
22 and that.

23 329 Q. I see. So it's a separate section of the Force that deals
24 solely with telecommunications?

25 A. That's right.

26 330 Q. So that is telecommunications in its widest sense, not just
27 phones but other forms of telecommunication?

28 A. Every form of electronic equipment used by the guards.

29 331 Q. Yes. I take it you work in conjunction with Crime and
30 Security, is that right?

1 A. My colleagues in Dublin would have more dealings directly
2 with Crime and Security, so they would.

3 332 Q. So you are based in Drogheda, is that right?

4 A. I am in Drogheda, yes.

5 333 Q. Are you based in the garda station in Drogheda?

6 A. Oh yes, in the garda station.

7 334 Q. And does every division have a telecommunications expert
8 such as yourself?

9 A. Yes, every division would have a telecommunications office
10 and then every regional headquarters would have a sergeant
11 over the telecommunications technicians who are in that
12 area at the time.

13 335 Q. I see. And when did you start with the guards?

14 A. In 1982.

15 336 Q. 1982?

16 A. '82, yes.

17 337 Q. So in 1989, where were you at that time?

18 A. I was still stationed in Drogheda. I started off I was
19 stationed in Dublin for a few months at the end of 1982,
20 then I was in Monaghan until 1985 and then I was in
21 Drogheda since 1985.

22 338 Q. So 19 -- so 1989 you were in Drogheda. Were you brought in
23 at all into the investigation conducted by the guards in
24 relation to the murders of the two RUC officers?

25 A. No, I wouldn't be involved in the investigation. I would
26 just be dealing with technical problems or issues that they
27 had.

28 339 Q. Was there any suggestion at the time that there might have
29 been a telecommunications dimension to the IRA action?

30 A. No, I wasn't made aware of...

1 340 Q. Now, turning to the telephone lines in Dundalk Station, I
2 think the first thing that might be said is that a whole
3 new system has been put in place since 1989, isn't that
4 right?

5 A. That's correct, yes.

6 341 Q. So what we are -- what you will tell the Chairman about is
7 really what applied then, in effect, is historic?

8 A. Is historic. There was an extension done to the building
9 so everything has changed since that.

10 342 Q. Now going back, then, to 1989, what is your view about the
11 possibility of tapping a line going into the garda station?

12 A. Are you referring to the *Phoenix* article, is it?

13 343 Q. No, just in general.

14 A. In general, it would have been possible to tap phone lines,
15 so it would. There are various locations where it could
16 have been done. It could have been done, as the previous
17 witness said, in that MDF, it could have been done there.
18 It could have been done in the jointing cabinet called the
19 Harp Lager jointing cabinet; it could have been done back
20 in the Eircom Exchange.

21 344 Q. You mean the Ramparts, is that right?

22 A. The Ramparts. Or if there were any other jointing junction
23 boxes on the route from the Harp Lager one back to the
24 Ramparts that that cable appeared in, it could have been
25 done in any of them. Now, I am not -- I wouldn't be aware
26 of where Eircom would have their jointing boxes, so I
27 wouldn't.

28 345 Q. Very good.

29 A. I would only know the one I said; our own building.

30 346 Q. So you are, as the previous witness said, your

1 responsibility, if I could put it that way, begins inside
2 the station?

3 A. Inside the station.

4 347 Q. And Eircom look after the wires coming into the station and
5 you look after that?

6 A. Eircom would be our service provider and they would provide
7 us with the lines, exchange lines, private wires, whatever
8 kind of lines they are, they supply them, and I deal with
9 them after that.

10 348 Q. And that was the situation that applied in 1989?

11 A. That's correct, yes.

12 349 Q. And I think it's the case that even in 1989, as I say,
13 Eircom were up, let's say, to the MDF and then after that
14 it was the guards and I think you retained one or other
15 private company to assist you in that regard, is that
16 right?

17 A. Siemens would have been the company that were contracted to
18 install our PBX within the building and doing some of the
19 maintenance on that. Eircom would have worked some of the
20 lines the whole way on to desks and offices, they would be
21 scrambled lines, the old type scrambled lines or ordinary
22 direct dial phones that weren't going through the PABX,
23 they would fix them the whole way to the desk or computer
24 line.

25 350 Q. I think, as the previous witness said, if you are going to
26 tap lines by a jumper I think, or a jumper connection, I
27 hope I am using the right phrase...

28 A. Yes.

29 351 Q. The trick is to identify the correct lines, isn't that
30 right?

1 A. That's correct, yes.

2 352 Q. Because if you don't do that, you are wasting your time?

3 A. Yes, you have to have the correct line.

4 353 Q. It just won't work?

5 A. No.

6 354 Q. And this means of tapping, it could happen anywhere from
7 one end, let's say from the Ramparts up through to the
8 station, whatever about beyond and in the station but
9 certainly it could have occurred anywhere along the way?

10 A. It could have occurred anywhere along the route of that
11 cable.

12 355 Q. So it wasn't essential that it happened within the
13 Ramparts?

14 A. No, no.

15 356 Q. Now, did Eircom assist you with some of the lines in the
16 offices such as scrambled lines?

17 A. Yes, some of the senior officers would have had a scrambled
18 line on their desk, so Eircom supplied the actual
19 scrambler, the scrambled telephone, and they would have
20 been responsible for the maintenance of that the whole way
21 to that phone. That phone then would have been connected
22 to an ordinary exchange line, it wouldn't have been
23 connected on to the PABX. It would have just been a
24 director Eircom exchange line out.

25 357 Q. Like a direct dial phone?

26 A. A direct dial phone, yes.

27 358 Q. And I think Eircom also brought private wires into the
28 Radio Room?

29 A. That's correct, yes, they brought private wires in.

30 359 Q. As we have heard from the previous witness, private wires

1 were lines from institutions such as banks or jewellers?

2 A. That's correct, yes.

3 360 Q. Of course it could be -- could you also have a private wire
4 to another station?

5 A. To another garda station?

6 361 Q. Another garda station.

7 A. You could, yes.

8 362 Q. And indeed to an RUC station?

9 A. Yes.

10 363 Q. And did those -- did that type of communication exist in
11 1989, private wire communication?

12 A. It did, yes, Chairman, that existed then. There were
13 private wires to two RUC stations, to Bessbrook and to
14 Newry.

15 364 Q. I think the MDF station in -- sorry, the MDF in the garda
16 station wasn't properly enclosed in 1989, is that right?

17 A. It was enclosed in as far as there was a lid on top of it.
18 As the previous witness said, it was a cream box with two
19 screws holding the lid on it and there was two of these
20 boxes side by side. The first box was the termination of
21 the Eircom line coming into the building, all the pairs in
22 that were terminated on that. And on the other box was the
23 termination of all the wires from the phones in the offices
24 within the building, and then when Eircom or ourselves
25 would want to bring a phone line to a particular office or
26 to a PABX, a jumper was just ran from one box to the other
27 box, so it was just a matter of opening four screws and you
28 were into the two boxes then to run your jumper.

29 365 Q. These boxes, are they in the basement of the building?

30 A. They were in the basement, yes.

1 366 Q. Did they have a room of their own or did they share a room
2 with some other function?

3 A. No, they were in a corridor, a wide corridor that also had
4 all ESB boards, sub-boards and generator changeover
5 switches and that in it.

6 367 Q. The private wires went into the Control Room, so does that
7 mean that if you wanted to use a private wire, you had to
8 go into the Control Room or could you use it from your
9 desk?

10 A. No, you had to go to the Control Room to use the private
11 wire. A private wire being that nobody has access to it
12 from within your building anywhere or you can't transfer a
13 call from it, so you can't. It's basically a solid copper
14 pair of wires going from one location, location A, to
15 location B, and to initiate a call between them you don't
16 have to actually dial a number or anything, you just turn a
17 handle on it which causes a charge and causes the phone on
18 the other side to ring, it'll tinkle, and that's how a
19 private wire works, in a basic form.

20 368 Q. And I presume if you wish, you could put a scrambler phone
21 on to a private wire?

22 A. You could, yes.

23 369 Q. Now, looking at the MDF, as it were, if there was something
24 inappropriate, is that something you could spot easily?

25 A. In the garda station MDF?

26 370 Q. Yes.

27 A. If it was just a wire tap, a wire T, where basically
28 another pair of wires was put on top of a line that was
29 there already and neatly wrapped in behind them, no you
30 wouldn't see it, because you are talking about very, very

1 fine little wires they are. You wouldn't see that. But if
2 it was a tap that was extracted and connected to radio
3 transmitter or to a tape-recorder or that, you would spot
4 that, so you would.

5 371 Q. Yes. Now, tell me this: if there is a tap on the line
6 that is -- let's say there is a tap on the line and
7 somebody in the station is using his or her phone, do you
8 notice it? Do you notice a change in the quality of the
9 line or anything like that?

10 A. No, you shouldn't notice a change in quality.

11 372 Q. I see. There is no diminution in the level of sound or --

12 A. No, no.

13 373 Q. So the tap doesn't rob any energy from the --

14 A. No, it shouldn't, it shouldn't.

15 374 Q. Yes.

16 A. You would only notice it if -- you would only notice if
17 somebody tried to do a tap while you were on a call, if
18 they tried to make the tap while you were on the call.

19 375 Q. Affix it to the wires at the time?

20 A. While you were on the call you would hear a click sound
21 maybe at that stage. But a tap that is running, no.

22 376 Q. Yes. Now, I think you told us that there were three
23 scrambled phones in Dundalk Station: one in the
24 Superintendent's office, one in the Detective
25 Superintendent's office and one in the Detective Unit, is
26 that right?

27 A. Yes.

28 377 Q. Now, presumably to work these phones must be connected to
29 other phones at the other end of the line that are
30 compatible?

1 A. They would have been able to dial anybody at all on an
2 ordinary phone but they would only be able to talk in a
3 secure mode with somebody who had a compatible phone.

4 378 Q. It had to be compatible on the other end if you wanted to
5 use the secure mode?

6 A. Correct, yes.

7 379 Q. We understand, maybe you can confirm this, in 1989 that
8 there wasn't a system where the scramblers on both sides of
9 the border were compatible?

10 A. There was a system started in January 1989 where there was
11 compatible scramblers between the RUC and ourselves.

12 380 Q. That was just a test -- it was tested at the time?

13 A. It was in the test phase early 1989 and went live, it was
14 fully rolled out towards the end of 1989.

15 381 Q. Let's say, in March 1989 might it have been possible for
16 somebody to use it to make a call, to make a scrambled
17 call?

18 A. It probably was, yes.

19 382 Q. It was in official operation at that stage?

20 A. It was. It may not have had its final codes allocated to
21 it, the fully secure encrypted codes, they may have just
22 been test codes in it but it may have been operational for
23 making test calls okay.

24 383 Q. But it wasn't -- it hadn't been released for official
25 calls, is that right?

26 A. No, no it hadn't been.

27 384 Q. But if push came to shove, if it was an emergency, could an
28 official call have been made at that time on a scrambled
29 line?

30 A. If the RUC station or person that they were ringing had the

1 same test codes. Now, they may well have been using
2 different test codes to get their own -- to test out their
3 own systems. Until a coordinated code came from Crime and
4 Security, it wasn't fully operational.

5 385 Q. It was still, as you said, and I am repeating what you
6 said, it was still in the testing phase?

7 A. Still in the testing phase. There were only two of them
8 fitted in Dundalk at the time: one in the Superintendent's
9 office and one in the Control Room.

10 386 Q. And these phones, were they linked up to specific stations
11 north of the border such as Newry, is that right?

12 A. They could ring anybody. They were just on an ordinary
13 telephone line and they could ring anybody who -- on an
14 ordinary telephone but the conversation wouldn't be secure.

15 387 Q. But in terms of scrambled service?

16 A. You wouldn't have to have it linked to anybody in
17 particular. You could ring anybody who had that same unit,
18 had voice lock unit.

19 388 Q. So you could make a call to somebody in Belfast, for
20 example?

21 A. If they had a voice lock unit, yes.

22 389 Q. You also mentioned that the Radio Room had something called
23 a Goliath phone?

24 A. That's correct, yes.

25 390 Q. What is the Goliath phone?

26 A. Goliath was the predecessor of voice lock, which was a
27 large box, maybe 2 foot by 2 foot by 18 inches, and had a
28 telephone handset on the front of it. It was connected to
29 a direct exchange line also, so it could ring anybody or
30 any station anywhere or any private house or that, but,

1 again, you could not have a secure conversation on that
2 unless the person at the far side had a Goliath unit set on
3 the same secure codes; it had encrypted codes on it.

4 391 Q. And was the Goliath phone in use in 1989?

5 A. It was in use, yes, but very, very rarely used.

6 392 Q. Why was this? Because it was a particular type of
7 conversation?

8 A. It was reaching the end of its life at that stage and the
9 voice lock was superseding it so the units were giving
10 trouble at that stage, so they were.

11 393 Q. I understand, yes. Now, you mentioned that if there was a
12 problem with the telephone line in a station the first port
13 of call is the upstairs equipment room?

14 A. Yes.

15 394 Q. What is the upstairs equipment room?

16 A. In Dundalk Garda Station there would have been a Radio
17 Control Room where all the telephone and radio calls came
18 through, the private wires were terminated and the main
19 switchboard was there, so behind that room, then, we would
20 have had a room called a Radio Equipment Room where our
21 transmitters, radio transmitters were housed, which had to
22 be in fairly close proximity to the Radio Room and the
23 telephone PABX was located in that room also.

24 395 Q. You had all that upstairs and you had the MDF down in the
25 basement?

26 A. Downstairs, yes.

27 396 Q. Were you ever asked to carry out a scan for taps or bugs in
28 Dundalk Station?

29 A. No, never in Dundalk Station.

30 397 Q. Was there ever any suggestion in 1989 that the station

1 might have been bugged?

2 A. No, no suggestion to me.

3 398 Q. If there was a concern, might you have expected to have
4 been informed of that?

5 A. Yes. At the time if there was a concern and there was a
6 sweep to be done I would have been carrying out the sweep.

7 399 Q. It was your job, after all, for the Louth/Meath division,
8 is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 400 Q. Yes. I think there are two, essentially two ways of
11 tapping lines: one is what you might call realtime and the
12 other is recorded, is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 401 Q. And the recorded speaks for itself: you have to come along
15 and find the -- take away the recording device to listen to
16 what had been recorded, isn't that right?

17 A. That's correct, yes.

18 402 Q. That is a fairly cumbersome way --

19 A. It would have been a voice activated recorder of some sort
20 that when it detects speech on the line the recorder will
21 switch on automatically and record the voice, but you have
22 to go and retrieve the tapes then on a regular basis.

23 403 Q. Whereas realtime means that somebody is listening in?

24 A. That's correct, yes.

25 404 Q. Might it have been possible to install either a realtime or
26 recorded voice system, let's say, in a neighbouring house?

27 A. It would have been possible, yes. To do realtime recording
28 you would have to use a radio transmitter or to have a
29 physical tap across the phone line, which was being
30 monitored 24/7 so that you heard immediately what was

1 going. With a radio transmitter you could tap the line
2 anywhere, it would transmit the contents of the message so
3 it would, in live time and you would use a scanner to
4 listen to the conversation.

5 405 Q. Speaking in general terms and not specifically in relation
6 to Dundalk Station, but was there ever, or did you ever
7 have a concern or did your colleagues ever have a concern
8 about garda stations being monitored or bugged?

9 A. No, not -- not to my knowledge.

10 406 Q. I think that leaving that aside, that people can buy
11 scanners and other forms of monitoring equipment and listen
12 into garda messages?

13 A. A scanner, a radio scanner will just listen into radio
14 messages, it won't pick up telephone conversations unless
15 you have the phone lines tapped with a radio tap which is
16 transmitting the message out.

17 407 Q. And if the wires in the MDF or in the equipment room had
18 been tapped by using a tape-recorder, that, I take it,
19 would be noticeable?

20 A. That would be very noticeable, yes.

21 408 Q. Now, you recall speaking to Inspector Kelly?

22 A. Yes.

23 409 Q. And I think you discussed certain aspects, I think, of the
24 *Phoenix* article with him?

25 A. That's correct, yes.

26 410 Q. And I am going now on what your statement to Inspector
27 Kelly says, so I hope you can follow it. "...speaking
28 about the IRA CI, which monitored various dial-up phone
29 lines including those going into Dundalk Station."

30 A. Yes.

1 411 Q. Could you sort of explain what that means? It's on the
2 last page of your statement, at the top there, the
3 fourth-last paragraph goes on to talk about -- do you see
4 that paragraph?

5 A. Yes, that was part of the article and it just stated that
6 the IRA communications intelligence unit monitored various
7 dial-up phone lines including those going into Dundalk
8 Garda Station.

9 412 Q. I think that was a more serious allegation?

10 A. It was different to the first set-up where it indicated
11 that they intercepted a private wire just coming in; that
12 this is where they intercepted the dial-up phone lines.
13 So, to me, that was a more serious allegation than the
14 description of the tapping in the Ramparts.

15 413 Q. When you say 'more serious', I mean did it strike you as
16 being more credible?

17 A. Either was credible. They were both equally credible. But
18 to put a tap on a private wire, you were going to glean
19 very little information off that, whereas a tap on the
20 dial-up lines is going to pick up all communications coming
21 in and out of a building because the private wires would
22 have been mainly used for just direct communications to
23 Newry for car checks and things like that.

24 414 Q. Then you go on to deal, in the second-last paragraph of the
25 article which stated "*At 9:20 a.m. on 20th of March the*
26 *first of several telephone calls intercepted from Buchanan*
27 *to Dundalk indicated that the ambush would take part that*
28 *day.*" I think you then went on to deal with the suggestion
29 that there was a tape-recorder which was being continuously
30 checked that day.

1 A. What that is coming from, I was asked to give my
2 observations on the article as to what they meant by -- or
3 what I felt that they meant by their wording of the
4 article. So that was my interpretation of the article.

5 415 Q. And I think that given the times that we know, the timings
6 that we know, it means that if there had been a
7 tape-recorder, it would have to be monitored during work
8 hours?

9 A. Work hours, yes.

10 416 Q. Which would be a very difficult thing to do?

11 A. It would, considering they said that the intercept was in a
12 jointing chamber in the Ramparts.

13 417 Q. Mm-hmm. And I think that in his covering report, you may
14 not be aware of this, but in his covering report Inspector
15 Kelly refers to your contribution to his investigation by
16 way of your statement. Have seen that report?

17 A. I think so.

18 418 Q. I think he outlines in a number of paragraphs what you have
19 told him, and indeed you dealt with the possibility of
20 tapping wires that were encased in pressurised cables,
21 isn't that right?

22 A. That's correct, yes.

23 419 Q. To get to the wire you would have to pierce the outer
24 covering, release the air, and I think I am -- I am sure
25 the Chairman has heard this already, but that is the
26 situation, isn't it?

27 A. That is the situation, yes.

28 420 Q. Amongst other things, that would set off an alarm?

29 A. It would, yes.

30 421 Q. And I think the idea of pressurising is to prevent damp

1 from getting into the cables?

2 A. That's correct.

3 422 Q. The air will force any dampness away?

4 A. That's correct, yes.

5 423 Q. And it has the dual function then of setting off an alarm?

6 A. An alarm, that's correct.

7 424 Q. Thank you.

8

9 **THE WITNESS WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. DURACK AS FOLLOWS:**

10

11 425 Q. MR. DURACK: Just a couple of questions, if I may. I think
12 back at this time we are talking about, there were three
13 direct lines to the officers, isn't that right?

14 A. That's correct, yes.

15 426 Q. To the Border Superintendent, the District Superintendent
16 and the Detective Office?

17 A. That's correct, yes.

18 427 Q. They were direct lines that had their own numbers?

19 A. That's correct, yes.

20 428 Q. And they could be used as an ordinary phone. And I think
21 to those there was added, at various times, various
22 scrambling equipment?

23 A. That's correct, yes.

24 429 Q. And a call would only be scrambled if, in fact, there was a
25 compatible scrambler on the other end of the line?

26 A. That's correct.

27 430 Q. Otherwise it would operate as a perfectly ordinary phone?

28 A. An ordinary standalone phone, yes.

29 431 Q. Now, the private wires came from the Control Room to the
30 five different places you have mentioned, I think that was

1 Newry, Bessbrook, the 999 circuit, the army barracks and
2 the courthouse?

3 A. That's correct, yes.

4 432 Q. And they would work on the basis, you would pick up the
5 receiver and you twirl a knob which generates some power?

6 A. That's correct.

7 433 Q. And then you are automatically in contact with the person
8 on the other end?

9 A. That's right, yeah.

10 434 Q. And you can't use those as an ordinary phone?

11 A. No you can't.

12 435 Q. They are point-to-point?

13 A. Point-to-point communications, yes.

14 436 Q. Now, how many ordinary lines were there in Dundalk at this
15 stage?

16 A. At that stage there were approximately ten direct lines on
17 the telephone system on the PABX and there were four or
18 five direct lines to offices.

19 437 Q. Yes. Well, let's leave the direct lines to offices we have
20 dealt with. So there are ten going into the Exchange?

21 A. Into the Exchange.

22 438 Q. Into the internal PABX in the station?

23 A. That's correct, yes.

24 439 Q. Am I right in thinking that when you -- that those would be
25 hunting lines, if you like; that when one when is being
26 used you go on to the next one or the next one or the next
27 one?

28 A. That's correct, yes. If you deal into the PABX, whatever
29 number you dial into, it will ring directly in that office,
30 so it will.

1 440 Q. Yes.

2 A. But when that office goes to make a call out on the PABX,
3 he presses zero and he can go out on any line.

4 441 Q. Take the next free?

5 A. He'll take the next free line, so he will, not necessarily
6 his own line.

7 442 Q. So that you can't necessarily, if one is using the phone
8 that is going through the internal exchange, you don't know
9 exactly which line you are going out on?

10 A. No, you won't know.

11 443 Q. And that neither would anybody know, who had to monitor it,
12 which line it would be used?

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 444 Q. And that would, therefore, involve ten pieces of monitoring
15 on those direct lines, wouldn't it?

16 A. Yes, that's correct.

17 445 Q. In order to cover the station completely?

18 A. You would have to do them all, yes.

19 446 Q. You would have to have ten taps, or ten people listening
20 and doing it 24 hours a day to have the level of
21 information that the article suggests?

22 A. That's correct, yes.

23 447 Q. If it was being done by way of the tape-recorded system,
24 the tape-recorder would have to be somewhere other than in
25 the station?

26 A. Yes, because the tapes would have to be -- they would have
27 to be changed fairly regularly because the tape would only
28 have a certain amount of recording time.

29 448 Q. Which --

30 A. Which would fill up fairly quick.

1 449 Q. But equally you could have many of the lines going through
2 the PABX being used at the same time?

3 A. That's correct, yes.

4 450 Q. In fact, you could have all of them being used at the same
5 time?

6 A. All of them could be used at the one time, yes.

7 451 Q. And unpredictably?

8 A. Yes.

9 452 Q. So therefore it makes it virtually impossible to monitor
10 such a system, isn't that right?

11 A. It's not a simple job. You have to do everything. Do all
12 the lines --

13 453 Q. And you need a lot of people?

14 A. You need a lot of people to monitor it, yes, a lot of
15 equipment.

16 454 Q. Now, while it might be possible to monitor a private line
17 or -- yes, a private line going directly from
18 point-to-point, that would be, as there were a number of
19 them, you would have to monitor each of those as well,
20 isn't that right?

21 A. Yes, each one would have to be done individually there as
22 well.

23 455 Q. I think -- what do you know of the use that was made of
24 these private wires?

25 A. Private wires were, as I say, to the RUC stations were to
26 Bessbrook and to Newry and used mainly for car checks.

27 456 Q. I see. And, of course, we know that they are in the
28 Control Room so they are not in any of the officers' rooms,
29 there are none there?

30 A. None there, no.

1 457 Q. So that whatever correspondence that Mr. Nolan had or
2 whatever discussions Mr. Nolan had with Newry to arrange
3 the meeting could either have been on one of the ten lines
4 going out through the PABX or on his own direct line that
5 he dialled up?

6 A. That's correct, yes.

7 458 Q. And we know that there wasn't -- we know that there wasn't
8 a corresponding scrambler, isn't that right, in Newry, so
9 it couldn't have been a scrambled line?

10 A. The basic analogue scrambler that the Chief Superintendent
11 would have had, no, it was only in the 26 counties. There
12 was none in the RUC stations.

13 459 Q. So that if Mr. Nolan merely picked up his -- other than his
14 dedicated private phone, if he picked up a line from the
15 internal exchange, he could be on any one of ten lines?

16 A. That's right, yes.

17 460 Q. And I take it, equally, if the calls coming in to the
18 station, if they were going into the internal exchange,
19 could be on any of the ten lines as well?

20 A. They could be, yes.

21 461 Q. And there is no presumption, I take it, that if one
22 receives a call, or should I say if a call is made, that
23 the return call doesn't necessarily go out on the same line
24 either?

25 A. Of they ring in on the PABX, more than likely it won't be
26 on the same line.

27 462 Q. The odds are against it in fact?

28 A. Yes, yes.

29 463 Q. And for anybody to do anything with the internal MDF in the
30 station, they'd have to get through the front desk at the

1 station, isn't that right?

2 A. Yes, they would have to produce their credentials to the
3 guard on duty at the front desk.

4 464 Q. And I take it that people who do this sort of work such as
5 the last witness, be they alarm men or otherwise, are all
6 people who are security checked?

7 A. They would have been, yes.

8 465 Q. Can you help us in relation to another area: scanners.
9 What sort of telecommunications, walkie-talkies, that sort
10 of equipment, what was available at this stage in 1989? We
11 know that we are just about the time of the brick mobile
12 phones so they weren't really around?

13 A. Yeah. Well, radio wise, would have been well advanced on
14 phones at the time, on mobile phones, so we would have had
15 a garda radio system which was just an analog radio system
16 which could have been listened into using scanners,
17 ordinary scanners that could be bought anywhere. The PSNI
18 could have had a radio system that could have been listened
19 into also with basic scanners.

20 466 Q. What sort of money are you talking about or are they
21 relatively easily bought?

22 A. 20 quid in the Jonesboro market.

23 467 Q. I see, £20. And I take it, then, that equally we have
24 heard mentioned that the men who stopped the cars on the
25 road had some class of walkie-talkies with them, or at
26 least one, it seems, certainly. Would they have been
27 fairly common in the area?

28 A. Again, walkie-talkies would have been easily bought at the
29 time, they could have been CB radios, hand-held CB radios,
30 it could have been any type of media equipment that was

1 capable of communicating one to one, you mightn't have
2 wanted long range --

3

4 MR. DILLON: There is a problem with the microphones, I
5 don't think people can hear.

6

7 CHAIRMAN: Has anybody at the back difficulty in hearing?
8 Would it be solved by the witness raising his voice for a
9 bit, if you wouldn't mind doing that; speak loudly.

10

11 468 Q. MR. DURACK: I think a lot of truck drivers and things used
12 CB radios?

13 A. That's correct.

14 469 Q. There was a phase when they were terribly popular and were
15 everywhere?

16 A. That's correct.

17 470 Q. I would imagine in the border area where smuggling was
18 common, I take it there were communication systems among
19 the smugglers?

20 A. Oh, there was, yes.

21 471 Q. And equally among the IRA?

22 A. Yes, I would agree.

23 472 Q. And at the same time, presumably the, as you say, the
24 gardaí had their own radio system, the RUC had theirs, and
25 I take it that the military in the North also had a radio
26 system?

27 A. That's correct, they would have had their own networks.

28 473 Q. And am I right in thinking that all of these could have
29 been accessed by scanners?

30 A. The basic garda ones, yes, the basic RUC ones, yes, the

1 Provos' ones, yes, the military ones may well have used
2 encryption of some sort on their radio signals. There
3 would also have been certain garda units and RUC units who
4 would have used encrypted radio also, specialised units.

5 474 Q. And what sort of units would they have been?

6 A. Hand-held radios with encryption codes in them.

7 475 Q. No, I mean the type of police unit, what sort of work might
8 they be dealing with?

9 A. Special Detective Unit or Special Task Force it was called
10 at the time, units like that.

11 476 Q. Were they generally available to the Special Branch or was
12 it just very specific numbers of them?

13 A. Just small units that would have had them at the time.

14 477 Q. I see. Equally, of course, sorry just in relation to
15 anybody doing any internal interference in the garda
16 station, the internal box was in fact in the basement,
17 isn't that right?

18 A. That's correct, yes.

19 478 Q. And it was -- there were locker rooms down there, there
20 were people going up and down on a regular basis?

21 A. There were, yes.

22 479 Q. And I think that in fact it was -- there were also toilets
23 and a snooker room, I think, down there, as well?

24 A. Yeah, there was a female restroom and a snooker room beside
25 it and a locker room.

26 480 Q. So there was fairly constant traffic around that area.
27 It's not as if it was locked away in a corner?

28 A. No, no.

29 481 Q. And that anything unusual would be spotted or any person
30 that was unusual would be spotted?

1 A. I would expect so, by the local members.

2 482 Q. And during the course of your time there, did you ever come
3 across, at any stage, any evidence that there had been any
4 attempt at bugging any of the phones in the garda station?

5 A. No, never, I never came across it.

6 483 Q. And I take it if any of the ways that have been talked
7 about in the course of your evidence had occurred, that
8 they would have been brought to your attention?

9 A. They would, yes.

10 484 Q. Were you ever made aware of any investigation conducted by
11 An Post or at least by the investigation unit in Telecom?

12 A. No, I wasn't.

13 485 Q. Into, perhaps, something odd happening at that Ramparts?

14 A. No.

15 486 Q. Thank you very much.

16

17 CHAIRMAN: Nobody else for questions?

18

19 MR. COFFEY: No questions.

20

21 MR. O'CALLAGHAN: No questions.

22

23 MR. DILLON: Nothing further arises.

24

25 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much indeed, you have been very
26 helpful. I am grateful to you for coming.

27

28 MR. DILLON: Chairman, that concludes witnesses for today.

29 I believe you are sitting tomorrow at 11 o'clock, is that
30 right?

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CHAIRMAN: That's right, yes.

MR. DILLON: Very good.

CHAIRMAN: Very well then, 11 o'clock tomorrow.

THE TRIBUNAL THEN ADJOURNED TO THE 28TH OF OCTOBER, 2011,
AT 11 A.M..

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