

2015. At the briefing DCI Williams was present; I cannot recall who else would have had attended but it may have been DI Rob Murray.

13. Whilst I cannot recall the detail of this briefing, I would have asked about the intelligence picture and what the planning was to minimise the risks. The briefing would have included the plan for the operation, the thinking behind it, and the alternative options to disrupt the plot. I would have focussed on the public safety aspects (both immediate and enduring) to reassure myself that the right thinking and approach was being taken. I would also have asked about what options had been considered and the strengths and weaknesses of each. I also would have reassured myself that the right, experienced and skilled people were in the key decision making positions along with ensuring that the team had access to the right resources. During this briefing it became apparent that these things had been considered and the right people and resources were in place which gave me confidence that it could proceed.

14. Of course, I was not in charge of Operation Ankaa. I was neither the TFC, SFC nor SIO. I would not have reviewed any of the FA forms in respect of the operation. I was very conscious of the clear lines of responsibility in any firearms operation and I did not have any operational decision making role, however, I had the wider interests of the MPS to consider. If I had concerns in regards to Operation Ankaa then I would not have permitted it to proceed. Indeed there have been unrelated policing matters where I have received briefings that gave me cause for concern and I intervened despite the fact that I did not have an operational role.

The Application to HMCTS for Armed Security Within the Court Precincts

15. I do not recall any further meetings in respect of Operation Ankaa between 19 November 2015 and my approval of the application for authority from HMCTS to deploy armed officers at court on 9 December 2015. However, I would have expected to have discussed it with Detective Chief Superintendent Manson. I do not recall any discussions with AC Gallan during this period.