

the Ministry of Defence. To support the preparation of this statement, FEL have searched handwritten notebooks containing details of all cases submitted to FEL at the time (i.e. a handwritten 'log'), located and retrieved hard copy records and retrieved electronic copies of statements.

Part B

2. DERA's role within Northern Ireland between 1 December 1997 and 15th August 1998 and in relation to any investigations that followed the Omagh bombing.

- 2.1. DERA's role in Northern Ireland was to provide technical support and analysis to support the work of its customers, for example the Director of Equipment Capability (Special Projects) [DEC(SP)] (a predecessor of what is now Special Projects Capability Branch in UK Strategic Command (StratCom)); HQNI; and other Government Departments including the Home Office.
- 2.2. DERA's support to authorities in Northern Ireland consisted of:
 - FEL tasking from HQNI as described above.
 - 'Non FEL' research relating to Northern Ireland, generally referred to as 'special projects' to provide the necessary security protections to staff. Routes to support provision were CRP, ARP and Project Support as detailed points 1.8-1.12.
 - Whilst DERA conducted research relating to Northern Ireland, these related to science and technology research that informed equipment capability related to Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Electronic Countermeasures and Surveillance. DERA's research programme related to ensuring that the military equipment capability was developed appropriately in terms of the 'detection of' and 'defeat of' Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Research was also conducted into the development of non-lethal weapon capability (plastic baton rounds and water cannon), personal protective equipment (body armour and bomb disposal suits), and enhancements to Military vehicles (Land Rover variants etc).
 - Between the embedded SCIAD branch and the DERA project teams, there were several programmes of work to characterise the performance of different terrorist weapons, for example, pipe bombs and improvised mortars; in order to better understand how to safely dispose of them and to understand what protection measures were required for personnel, vehicles and buildings.