

CHAPTER 1

METHODOLOGY

This monograph made use of interviews conducted with DSO personnel as well as external DSO stakeholders. The results of these interviews were combined with other materials obtained from the DSO, such as their Annual Reports, and other data specifically requested from the DSO, such as information on personnel and training. Other sources, such as newspaper reports, government documents, and the work of other researchers, were also consulted. The author drew on her own experience in 1999–2000 of a brief secondment to the Cape Town DSO office, as well as discussion with research colleagues.

An ISS research team selected the interviewees.¹ In all, 78 interviews were held from December 2002 to late March 2003.² The majority of the interviews (45) were held with internal DSO personnel, in all four DSO regions, and at head office, including prosecutors, investigators and analysts, both managers and non-managers. This constitutes 8% of the DSO staff complement in 2003.

Of all internal interviews, 15% were at the DSO Head Office, 36% were with investigators, 29% with prosecutors (excluding head office and regional heads) and 9% with analysts. This means that of the internal interviews, investigators were somewhat under-represented, as they comprised 63% of the staff at the time the interviews were done, while analysts and prosecutors were slightly over-represented in terms of the staff composition of the DSO.

With respect to the method of selection of internal DSO interviewees, this varied from region to region. In Gauteng and the Western Cape, the regional head provided a list of interviewees, covering a range of personnel from trainee to deputy director. In the Eastern Cape, the DSO employee's committee appointed persons to speak on their behalf. In KwaZulu-Natal, secretarial staff asked personnel who were available on the days the researcher was there, to attend interviews. The duration of interviews varied from 30 minutes to 2.5 hours.

A further 33 interviews were held with key people among various stakeholders, ranging from other entities within the NPA, such as the National Prosecuting

Service (NPS); to national and provincial police officials; selected members of Parliament; key people among relevant government bodies; and informed opinions outside of government. Interview notes were written up and distributed amongst the team. The ISS research team assisted with analysis.

The monograph was intended to answer the ordinary reader's questions about the DSO. A relatively informal writing style was therefore adopted. Most of the technical detail, particularly with respect to legislation, can be found in the endnotes rather than in the body of the work, in order to ensure easier reading.