

# DRAFT

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

### STATEMENT OF TRACEY ANNETTE SARA CLARKE

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2008

I, TRACEY ANNETTE SARA CLARKE, declare that this statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that if it is tendered in evidence at the Inquiry I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

1. The Inquiry has disclosed a number of documents to me. Where I make specific reference to a document in my statement I have given the number of the relevant page.
2. I was in the town centre of Portadown on the night of 26/27 April 1997 and I witnessed a fight.
3. I was seen by the police on 8 May 1997 and completed a questionnaire which contains page number **17649**.
4. I made a statement to the police dated 10 May 1997. A copy of that statement contains page numbers **17327 to 17330**. That statement is not true. Since I made that statement this is the first time that I have said that the contents were not true. I did not tell the RUC or the Director of Public Prosecutions that the contents of the statement were untrue.
5. In April 1997 I was living with my mother, [REDACTED] and my stepfather, James Murray in Portadown. I had been in a relationship with Allister Hanvey for approximately 18 months to two years. The nature of our relationship was such that we would break up on a regular basis.
6. I was working at Going Places Travel Agency during the day and also I had a part time evening job at The Mandarin House Chinese Restaurant in Portadown.

## DRAFT

7. On 26 April 1997 I went to the Coach Inn and travelled back to Portadown on the bus which left at 01.15, I can't remember who I was with now but my statement of 10 May 1997 says Shelley Liggett and I accept that to be true. I went to the Coach Inn very frequently. I wasn't going out with Allister at the time because we had broken up for some days, at the most two weeks.
8. In my statement to the police I said that after leaving the bus I walked up the High Street and "*a crowd of fellows joined us*". I don't remember this. It also says "*Pauline Newell went into Boss Hoggs and got chips we waited for her*". Again I cannot remember that. I am not saying it is untrue, I cannot remember.
9. The statement continues, "*I think at that stage the other persons with me were Pauline Newell, Tracey McAlpine, Kelly Lavery, Shelley Liggett and a fellow called Jason.*" "*I would say this was about 01.45am approximately when we were in West Street as the bus got in about 01.30am.*" "*Around this time we heard shouting coming from the main street. I can't remember what was said but it was something like 'fight, fight'*". "*We all ran down to see what was happening.*" This part of my statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
10. In my statement of 10 May 1997 I said, "*When we got as far as the Church I could see a crowd at the junction of Thomas Street/Market Street. I met up with Stephen Bloomer and I just sat down beside him.*" I remember walking back to the church and seeing the crowd but I don't now remember meeting up with Stephen Bloomer.
11. My statement continued, "*I saw two people lying on the street. One was near the centre of the road and the other was near the footpath close to Eastwoods.*" "*The person I saw in the middle of the road I thought was dead as he was not moving.*" "*It was at this time I saw a number of persons gathered around a person lying in the centre of the road.*" This part of my statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

12. In my statement I said, *“These persons were kicking the person on the ground around the head and body.”* I never saw that. *“I saw them jump on the person on the ground.”* *“They jumped all over him and kicked him.”* That is not true. I continued by saying, *“I saw the persons who were doing this and I can identify them as 1. Dean Forbes 2.Allister Hanvey 3.Stacey Bridgett 4. Muck 5.Rory Robinson.”* That part of my statement is untrue.
13. The statement continues, *“The other person lying near Eastwoods was being helped by Michelle Jameson but I saw persons run up and kick him about the head and body. Michelle was telling them to stop.”* This part of my statement is untrue and I do not know a Michelle Jameson.
14. I then said, *“At the time I saw a number of police behind the crowd who were attacking the persons on the ground.”* *“As far as I could see the police were not doing much to stop what was happening.”* This part of my statement is untrue I only saw the police Land Rover I didn’t see any police on the street.
15. I then said, *“The next thing I remember some more police arrived and pushed the crowd back.”* I remember the police pushing us back up the town but I think that’s down a wee bit because the police moved us up the street to the church and later moved us up into West Street. I cannot remember an ambulance arriving and taking the two people lying on the street away.
16. In my statement it says that I spoke with Reserve Constable Robbie Atkinson whilst the crowd was being pushed back. I don’t remember speaking to him and that part of my statement is probably wrong. It could have happened but I don’t remember. I can’t think of any reason why I would have made that up in my statement. I knew Robert Atkinson to say hello to as his daughter went to Tae Kwon Do Club. The club was run by my Uncle Michael McKee with his wife Andrea.
17. It is correct that I went on holiday to Lanzarote with a group from the Tae Kwon Do the year after the incident involving Robert Hamill. Robert Atkinson went

## DRAFT

with his wife; I went with my boyfriend at the time. Andrea and Michael McKee also went.

18. I do not remember going to a party at Tracey McAlpine's house at Brownstown Road after the crowd had dispersed. In my statement I said, "*There was a good crowd at the party and everybody was discussing what happened in the town centre and some of the people who had been involved appeared happy about what they had done.*" I cannot remember. I don't think this would be true because I was that drunk I don't even know what was happening or why I would even say that. I can't remember if they mentioned that one of them was Robert Hamill.
19. I did go home and probably told my mother about the fight in the town but I probably made up the fact that Allister Hanvey was involved in the fighting because we had fallen out.
20. In my statement I say, "*I spoke to Allister Hanvey on the Tuesday and I told him about what I had seen and that I had told the police about everything and that he was in deep trouble.*" "*He said he would meet me after work and I met him outside my house about 11.05pm.*" I don't know if this true I don't recall it. I went on to say, "*He wanted to know what I'd told the police and as I had not been seen by the police, I made up a few things to annoy him.*" This probably is true because it would have been my type of thing to have done, I was very vindictive.
21. In my statement I said, "*I remember Robbie Atkinson's name coming up and Allister said that Robbie Atkinson had been very good to him because on the Sunday morning after the incident in the town centre he rang him about 8am and told him to get rid of the clothes he was wearing the previous night.*" I do not know where this came from. I think that has come from my auntie, Andrea McKee. She was with me when I made my statement and I believe she had this put into the statement. I also do not remember Allister contacting me after this to ask what I've said to the police because I wasn't going out with him and I

## DRAFT

was disliking him at the time and I didn't really want to speak to him. So I probably made that up or it was put in by Andrea McKee.

22. The statement continues, "*I spoke to Allister yesterday and I asked him what he did to the person that they attacked in the centre of Portadown and who was now dead. Allister said he jumped on his head and kicked his head. I told him that is how he got a fractured skull and he said 'He doesn't have a fractured skull anymore'.*" I would have made this up and this part of my statement is untrue.
23. The police did ask me about a jacket I had bought for Allister Hanvey. I don't recall buying the jacket but accept that it is in my statement. I don't remember what the jacket looked like.
24. I made a false statement to the police because my auntie, Andrea McKee took me to the police station and the police were not going to let me out of the police station unless I told them these things and my aunt was telling me what to say.
25. I did sign the statement but I cannot remember the certification at the top of the statement which says that the statement is true being pointed out to me. Michael and Andrea McKee lifted me from work about 11:00 on 9 May 1997 and took me to the police station. I knew it was to do with the Hamill murder.
26. The police officer told me to say the names of those involved in kicking the deceased. I gave Allister Hanvey's name because I wanted to hurt him. I was being vindictive. I didn't realise what I was doing. I was only young.
27. In 1997 I knew Dean Forbes and Stacey Bridgett from going to the Coach Inn and going around town. I didn't have anything against them. I don't know a person called 'Muck'. I had nothing against Rory Robinson.
28. The police were shouting at me and saying things to me and banging the table saying that I wasn't going to get out.

## DRAFT

29. I did send Allister Hanvey a birthday card whilst he was in prison and his mother wasn't very happy about it probably because she thought I had caused him being in prison. I don't know why I did not try and withdraw my statement. I still had feelings for Allister. I didn't know what to do. I was very depressed and went off to Belfast to live.
30. I refer to a note of consultation dated 17 October 1997 with Gordon Kerr QC and the DPP, which is now produced and shown to me containing page numbers **17591**. I was accompanied by my parents to the consultation.
31. I did not say in this consultation that I had been forced to make the statement and that parts of the statement were wrong. I just wanted to get out of there as quickly as possible. The note of consultation says that I had not refreshed my memory but that I was able to relate the events more or less in accord with my statement. I don't remember doing that.
32. I did say that I didn't want to give evidence because of my love for Allister Hanvey and I was uncomfortable living where I was because of what I had said. I don't remember anyone suggesting to me prior to the consultation that I should try and withdraw my statement. I didn't want to go over all the stuff that happened that night it was a very traumatic time and I wanted to forget that night at the police station.
33. I refer to the statement of my mother [REDACTED] which is dated 1 November 2000 and now produced and shown to me containing page numbers **17331**. My mother has had a traumatic life with physical and mental illness. She made her statement to the police three years after the incident and she could easily have made things up. Where my mother says that Robert Atkinson told Allister Hanvey to burn his clothes I guarantee that came from Andrea McKee. She gets people in trouble. She's very, very vindictive. Allister never spoke to me about Robbie Atkinson telling him to burn his coat. Andrea did let Allister and I stay at her house even though she and Allister did not get on.

**80189**

**DRAFT**

- 34. Although I have said that Andrea put things into my statement I have never asked her why she took me to the police station and made me include things in my statement.
  
- 35. I did not know that Andrea McKee had made a statement about a phone call from Robbie Atkinson's house to the home of Allister Hanvey. After she and my uncle Michael McKee split up Andrea returned to Wales and I have not spoken to her. The last contact I had with her was shortly after the trip to Lanzarote in 1998.
  
- 36. In 2001 Allister was arrested for perverting the course of justice. It was something to do with a phone call. I cannot now remember what Allister said about it, I do remember that the McKee's were mentioned as was Robert Atkinson.
  
- 37. Allister and I did not get back together for about two years after the incident but we now live together and are engaged to be married. We have two children from our relationship. I never had any cause to involve the police for any domestic violence.
  
- 38. I remember when I made my statement that the police said my name would be kept anonymous but I did not know that I was referred to as Witness 'A'. I have not been the subject of any threats or intimidation to withdraw my statement to the police of 10 May 1997. In the run up to the trial I think I lived in Belfast. I moved there and was there on my birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**SIGNED:** .....  
**TRACEY ANNETTE SARA CLARKE**

**DATED:** .....