

# PRE-SENTENCE REPORT

This is a pre-sentence report as defined in section 3(5) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991. It has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Standard for pre-sentence reports. This report is a confidential document.

Probation Service:	NORTH WALES PROBATION SERVICE
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Offenders details:	
Name (first followed by family in capitals)	Andrea Louise MCKEE
Address	[REDACTED]
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Offence Details:	
Offence(s) (dealt with in this PSR)	Pervert the Course of Justice
Date of Offence(s)	29.10.97
Court Details:	
Court	Craigavon Crown Court
Petty Sessions Area and Supervising Court	Wrexham Maelor
Hearing Date	07.05.02
Date Report Requested (indicate whether PSR is expedited)	06.03.02
PSR Writer's details:	
Name	[REDACTED]
Official Title	Probation Officer
Office Location	[REDACTED]
Telephone Number	[REDACTED]

Date PSR completed and signed: 26.04.02

## 2. Offence Analysis

- 2.1 Ms McKee accepts full culpability for this offence and, to her credit, has entered an early guilty plea. Her account of events concurs entirely with the information in the Crown Prosecution Service documents.
- 2.2 This offence occurred in 1997 when Ms McKee made a statement to police corroborating a statement which her then husband had made that he had made a telephone call from a friend's home on the night of a serious assault which resulted in the death of a young man. This statement was false and, in fact, no such telephone call was made, the couple having been at their own home for the entire evening with friends.
- 2.3 There is some history to this offence of which the Court will be fully aware. Ms McKee tells me that Mr Atkinson, from whose home the telephone call was made, had been a friend of her and her husband for some years. She tells me that he had asked her husband to lie to the police to cover up the fact that he had, in fact, made the 'phone call and out of loyalty to his friend Mr McKee had agreed. Ms McKee tells me the statement was made to the police by her husband to this effect and later Mr Atkinson and her husband told her that she would need to make a statement corroborating this, saying that she had overheard the telephone call in order to back up her husband's statement.
- 2.4 Out of misguided loyalty to her husband and feeling under some pressure to do so the defendant agreed to make the statement. She told the police that she had heard her husband make the telephone call to his niece's home on the night in question. She now accepts that this was wholly untrue and says at the time she did not fully realise the serious position in which she was placing herself. The defendant tells me she knew the whole situation was wrong and felt in a dilemma. She did eventually realise the gravity of what she had done but, given the political climate in the community in which she was living, felt unable to do anything about it.
- 2.5 The defendant tells me that Mr Atkinson, a serving police officer in Northern Ireland, had made a telephone call to Mr McKee's niece's home who was then the girlfriend of Mr Harvey who was later arrested in connection with the earlier mentioned assault. The defendant tells me that she understands the purpose of this telephone call was to warn Mr Harvey to get rid of his clothes in order that no forensic evidence could connect him with that offence. Obviously

telephone records would show that this call had been made and in order to cover this up, Ms McKee tells me she and her husband were asked to make false statements to the police. It transpired that Mr Harvey was eventually arrested and remanded in custody for some considerable time, initially charged with the murder of the victim. Ms McKee tells me that charges were later dropped as a result of the Prosecution Service not having enough evidence. The outcome I am told is that no-body has been convicted for the murder of the young man who was assaulted that evening.

2.6

[REDACTED] Following the breakdown of the relationship with her husband she returned to Wrexham in North Wales to her parents' home and thought that the whole matter was behind her. In June 2000 police from Northern Ireland visited her home and again questioned her about the statement she had made. Ms McKee tells me her feelings were of great relief at that time and she was very glad to be able to put the record straight and tell the truth. She says that for three years she had felt guilty about lying to the police and since becoming a mother herself was particularly aware of the nature of the loss to the victim's family.

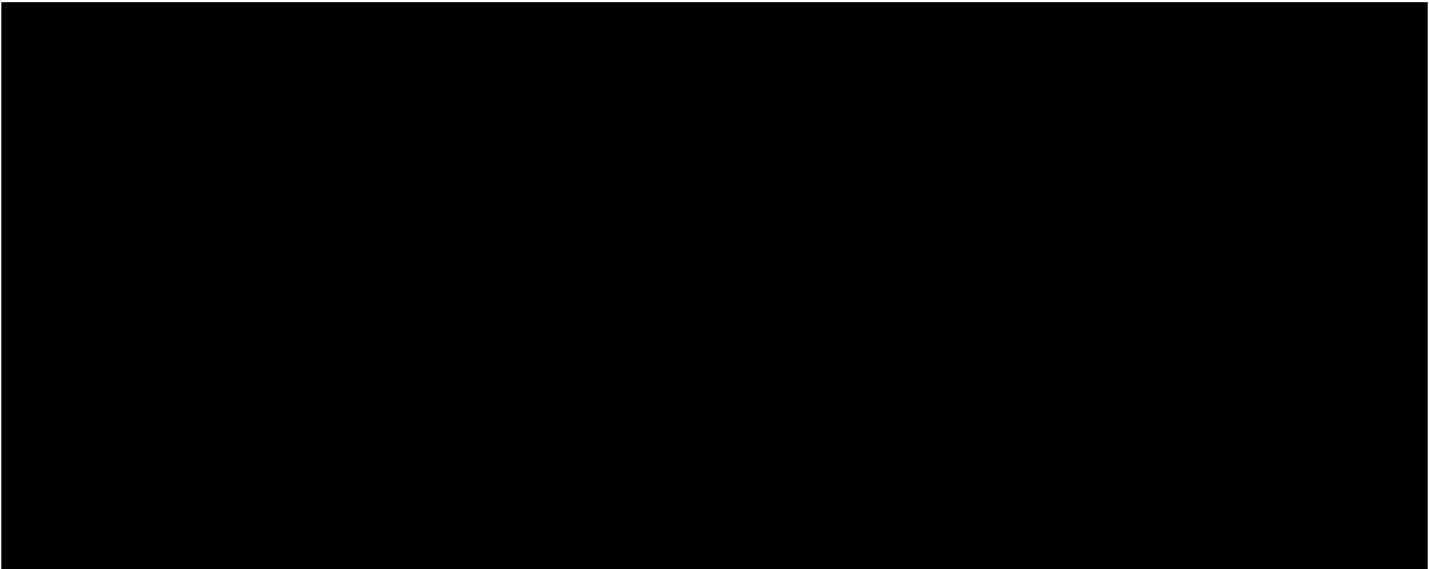
2.7

The defendant was aware that telling the truth would put her in a very serious position herself, however despite this she gave a full and frank account to the police. She is aware that the Court could consider a custodial sentence in relation to this offence and is extremely concerned about such a prospect.

### 3. Offender Assessment

3.1 Ms McKee is a woman with no previous convictions.

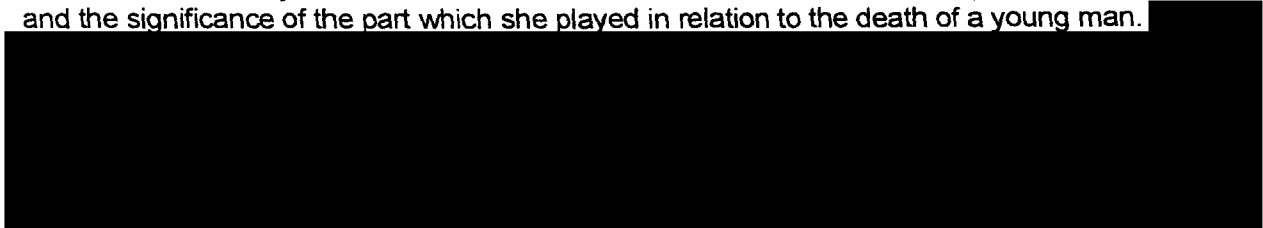
[REDACTED]



5. Conclusion

5.1 Ms McKee accepts full responsibility for her commission of this offence and describes feelings of great relief when she was eventually offered the opportunity to set the record straight. She expressed genuine remorse and regret for her behaviour and says that at the time she felt under some pressure to take the action that she did and made the false statement out of misguided loyalty to her then husband.

5.2 The defendant is fully aware of the seriousness with which the Court will regard her behaviour and the significance of the part which she played in relation to the death of a young man.



5.2

(a) Custody: Clearly this offence is serious enough to warrant a custodial sentence.

