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03 AUG 2006

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF SIR RONNIE FLANAGAN

DATED THIS 31ST DAY OF JULY 2006

1. I, SIR RONNIE FLANAGAN, of an address known to the Robert Hamill Inquiry, 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.
2. Between November 1996 and March 2002 I was Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. I am currently Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary.
3. In 1997, CID was within the structure then known as 'C' Department with an Assistant Chief Constable in charge. There were three operational regions in Northern Ireland and each of those had a regional head at Chief Superintendent level. Portadown fell within South Region, and there was a Detective Chief Superintendent in charge of all the CID resources in that region. In addition to that, operationally there was an Assistant Chief Constable in charge of each of those three regions. Therefore, the regional head of CID had a twin line of reporting. He would have been in virtual daily contact with his regional Assistant Chief Constable but he would also have been in regular contact with the Assistant Chief Constable in charge of crime, who was responsible for such things as crime policy, and, liaison with the Director of Public Prosecutions on behalf of the Chief Constable.
4. By April 1997, the RUC had introduced policy files for use in all investigations. In my position as Chief Constable, however, I did not have a direct involvement in policy files. If, however, officers came to me and a decision arose, they might record that in their policy file but it was not practice for ACPO officers routinely signed off on policy files.

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