



STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL KENNETH MATTHEWS

DATED THIS 29th DAY OF June 2006

1. I, MICHAEL KENNETH MATTHEWS, formerly of the Public Prosecution Service, 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. From 1988, I was an Assistant Director in the DPP in Belfast and in 1993 I was dealing with the Northern Circuit. In October 2001, I moved to the Special Cases section, which dealt with cases of such complexity, difficulty, sensitivity or were so high profile that they couldn't be dealt with in the geographically based prosecution section i.e. they would be sent out of their usual area to a central unit. These included some criminal cases involving police officers but were not limited to them.
3. My involvement in the Robert Hamill murder case was very peripheral but references to it were a part and parcel of the evidence against Michael and Andrea McKee in the sense that they colluded in a cover story, allegedly at the behest of Robert Atkinson, about a phone call which was made from his house to one of the suspects. My involvement was limited to the cases against Eleanor and Robert Atkinson, Elizabeth, Thomas, Kenneth and Allister Hanvey, and peripherally the case against Andrea and Michael McKee. These were special section cases due to their connection with the Robert Hamill murder and the high profile nature of that.
4. In April 2001, all alleged conspirators were arrested and interviewed. The crime file initially received in June 2001 related to the McKees alone and came from K The McKees were finally dealt with in May 2002, having both pleaded guilty. I gave an interim direction on R v Atkinson and Others on 16 January 2002 following a consultation on 11 January 2002 on R v Atkinson & others. A copy of that direction is now produced and shown to me marked "MKM1". The