

16. I cannot be sure how long it took to get the crowd under control and up to West Street but I think it was about 15 minutes. It was probably a few hundred metres from the junction to West Street. I think the police officers did a first class job managing a volatile situation in very difficult circumstances. I cannot recall what precisely each member of the Land Rover crew was doing at the scene but I am quite satisfied that they did what was asked of them. I can recall Constable A in very close proximity to the crowd. She was engaged in what appeared to be a serious dialogue between her and a young man. I cannot recall what he looked like but I think that I talked to Constable A at the scene and was told that the young man had been arrested by the officer but as it was not practical to detain him there and then he had been released.
17. Having satisfied myself that the Mobile Support Unit was managing the town centre and that Sergeant **P89** was making enquiries at the hospital I went back to my divisional night duty responsibilities going first to Banbridge then to Lurgan with Constable Adams. At that stage I did not manage the scene forensically because I did not know the extent of what had taken place at all, but police officers were stationed at the scene to prevent any vehicular movement through the scene and I think the barriers were closed. I did not know of the severity of the injury to Robert Hamill at that stage and did not see any requirement to manage the scene. These were common incidences and if one were to secure every scene of every public disorder in 'J' division, one would simply not have the resources to enable this to be done. I am aware of the Police General Order 1994 regarding scene preservation but that does not require preservation of every scene of crime. I did what I believed to be necessary at the time based upon the knowledge I had of the incident. With the information I had at the time, it would have been impossible for me to have concluded that there was a need to secure the scene.
18. In any event, it was unclear to me where the scene actually was. There were so many people milling around at the junction. I did not know anything about the injuries at that time or who had been assaulted. There was nothing to suggest to me that this was a serious assault. No officers said it was a life-threatening assault. I had an opportunity to speak to all of the officers or virtually all of