

As directed by Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney, I undertook the interview of Andrea McKee as a witness. Whilst I was not fully sighted or privy to the overall strategy being pursued by Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney, I was in no doubt that Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney was pursuing a course of action that he believed was most likely to achieve his objective of bringing those responsible for assisting offenders and withholding information in the Robert Hamill murder to account.

Because of the discreet nature of the interview and the fact that it was being conducted in the presence of a solicitor I was not accompanied by any other officer. I carried out the interview of Andrea McKee as directed by Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney. As a result of this interview I recorded a statement from Andrea McKee on 29th October 1997 in the presence of her solicitor. Understandably, Andrea McKee did not refer to our previous meeting and, as instructed by Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney, I did not reveal this fact during the interview. However, at the commencement and during the course of this interview process I made sure that Andrea McKee was fully aware of the statement declaration and that she was also fully aware of the consequences should it be revealed that anything she stated was found to be untrue. She acknowledged the warning and signed the statement.

On 3rd November 1997 I travelled to Armagh and briefed Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney regarding the outcome of the interview with Andrea McKee. I believe Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney had been on a period of leave and this would have been my first opportunity of discussing the interview of Andrea McKee and for seeking further clarification and direction on this matter. During the conversation that followed, I provided Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney with my personal assessment of Andrea McKee and how she had presented her account during the course of her interview. In brief, I told Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney that whilst Andrea McKee appeared uncomfortable throughout the interview, she had fully supported the account provided by her husband and Eleanor Atkinson. I volunteered my opinion to Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney, that a review of this specific area of the investigation was necessary prior to any further action and prior to any consideration of interviewing under caution those