

Crime Support

26 JAN 2009

Received

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL JOHN PORTER

DATED THIS 22 DAY OF January 2009

I, MICHAEL JOHN PORTER, 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.

1. The Inquiry has disclosed a number of documents to me. Where I make specific reference to a document in my statement I have given the number of the relevant page.
2. I am currently a serving Constable with the Police Service of Northern Ireland ("PSNI") based in Donegal Pass Police Station in Belfast. In April 1997, I was a Constable with the Royal Ulster Constabulary ("RUC"), attached to 'J2' Mobile Support Unit ("MSU") in Portadown.
3. As the local MSU, we carried out most of the searches in the area. Sometimes we were treated like an outside agency, and were called in to do certain tasks. Searches were part of our routine duties, and we carried out so many at that particular time. I think we received three or four courses in executing search warrants, either just before or just after April 1997, but there was definitely at least one training session prior to April 1997. Usually there would be a log keeper and someone in possession of the Search Pack, which included the search warrant. Sometimes the log keeper would also take the Search Pack; at other times it would be another person. We had all been trained to be log keepers, but the individual who took on this role would change with every search. We usually searched when the civilian was present, and then made an arrest.