

STATEMENT OF WITNESS



STATEMENT OF G

DATED THIS 12th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2009

I, G, 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 joined the RUC, which is now known as PSNI, in November 1987 as a full-time Reserve Constable. I was stationed in Edward Street, Portadown from January 1993 to May 2002, when I retired on medical grounds. By the time of the incident in 1997 I had been a Reserve Constable for 9½ or 10 years.
3. There were regular Constables, full-time Reserve Constables and part-time Reserve Constables. As a full-time Reserve Constable I was trained for a slightly longer period of time than those working part-time, but we all had similar duties. In 1997 I was on normal police beat duties on foot, and patrol duties in a vehicle.
4. I had been on patrol many times in Market Street, Thomas Street, High Street and Woodhouse Street. In 1997, this was known as a flashpoint interface for sectarian violence in the centre of town. Woodhouse Street is a predominantly Roman Catholic area; Thomas Street is predominantly a Protestant area, and the two streets emerge onto the main street of Portadown, facing each other. Generally Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights were policed more heavily than usual. Usually, there were two Mobile Support Units, J1 and J2, stationed in Portadown at Mahon Road, but we would not have known their standby