

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF JOHN STEELE

DATED THIS 16 DAY OF Sept. 2009

I, JOHN STEELE 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. This is my first witness statement for the Inquiry. I shall endeavour to provide some commentary on the documents that have been disclosed to me.
3. In 1997 I was Director of Policing and Security in the NIO and that was coupled with being Senior Director of Belfast. In other words I was the administrative peak of the Belfast operation for the NIO as well as being concerned with policing and security.
4. The big change in 1997 came with the new Secretary of State when Patrick Mayhew was replaced by Dr Marjorie Mowlam. They were quite different people with different styles. Patrick Mayhew was a barrister by training and he operated like a barrister. He read the papers, did the consultation and he did the business in a very able way. Mo Mowlam was a more an instinctive politician. She was impatient with papers and liked to do things orally. She had her own way of doing things and it varied from time to time. Of course the civil service was there to advise the Secretary of State. As part of Mo's instinctive personality she had immediate likes and dislikes. I was in the happy or unhappy position that she liked me and trusted me.