

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF ANDREA LOUISE MCKEE

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2008

I, ANDREA LOUISE McKEE, 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 I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything 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 have been convicted of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice in relation to police enquiries into the death of Robert Hamill.
3. I have made previous statements to the Police in connection with the Hamill investigation. I made a statement to the police on 29 October 1997 [page 9200]. This statement is untrue and was the reason for my conviction. I made further statements to the police on 20 June 2000 [page 14956]; 25 October 2000 [page 14908]; and on 30 October 2002 [page 20297]. These statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
4. In April 1997 I was living with my then husband Michael McKee. Michael and I separated in 1999 and we are now divorced. Together we ran a gym and Tae Kwon Do Club at Brownston Business Centre in Portadown. I was responsible for the administration at the club. The landlord was Robert Jameson. I left Portadown in May 1999 and I believe the club was run by some members but I don't know what happened after that date.
5. Tracey Clarke was Michael's niece and she lived with her mother and stepfather. Michael and I had quite a close relationship with Tracey and she

spent quite a bit of time at our house and occasionally she stayed overnight. On at least two occasions she stayed with her boyfriend Allister Hanvey.

6. I got to know Allister from when he was about 13 years of age, he joined the Tae Kwon Do Club and over the years he developed as a Tae Kwon Do martial art exponent. As he got to 16/17 years of age his training began to drop away. He had however competed at the highest level and had won a lot of things competing with adult men.
7. Tracey attended Tae Kwon Do but messed around really.
8. On Sunday morning 27 April 1997 Tracey came to our house and told Michael and I about a fight in the town centre of Portadown the night previous. She was all excited by it and it was just like buzzing news for her.
9. Tracey told us that she had been to the Coach Inn at Banbridge and when they got back into town she was sitting outside one of the shops. I cannot remember the name of it now it was Poundsaver or Poundstretcher. She was just sitting on the floor watching some fighting going on and she said that Robbie Atkinson was there and he told her to get from there and get home.
10. I knew Robbie Atkinson as a Reserve Constable his daughter [REDACTED] attended Tae Kwon Do. Michael and I socialised with Robbie and his wife Eleanor.
11. As the week progressed Tracey started to tell Michael and me more about what she had seen and it appeared that a few more people got to know about what happened. She was able to recall a whole load of names that she knew had been fighting and this included Allister Hanvey. I didn't know the names of the other lads she was talking about.
12. It was difficult to keep up with the relationship between Tracey and Allister they were pretty much on/off, on/off all the time. Tracey started to say that Allister thought he was going to be alright regarding the fighting in the town because he was being kept up dated by Robbie Atkinson. She thought Allister

would be okay because he was getting the phone calls and that Robbie had told him to get rid of his clothes.

13. I remember Michael getting in contact with Robbie Atkinson and told him what Tracey was saying about the fighting and that he Robbie had been warning Allister. Michael and Robbie were very close at this time and would go out drinking together. Robbie would be at the Club dropping his daughter off and he would come to our house when he was off duty.
14. I know that Michael spoke to Robbie a couple of times about warning Allister Hanvey and I remember one phone conversation I can't remember the details now but in my statement page 14915 I said, "*Michael ringing Robert Atkinson from home and telling him what he heard from Tracey. I remember Michael telling him if he did do this he was an idiot.*"
15. I later heard on the radio whilst I was at the Club that Robert Hamill had died and then Tracey was in the club also saying he had died.
16. A Reserve Constable **P20** used to use the gym in the club and one day when he was in the gym Tracey was standing at the counter talking about the fighting and Robert HAMILL dying. **P20** obviously overheard what she had been saying because he came and asked me who she was. I told him that it was Michael's niece and he said he needed to make a phone call which he did.
17. As a result of that phone call **P20** asked me to go with him and meet some police officers. I went in his car to a car park not far from the Club. I can't remember exactly where now. There I met two police officers, Inspector IRWIN and DC McAteer. I told these officers exactly what Tracey had been telling Michael and I about the fighting and who was involved. I was able to remember the names of those involved then because it was fresh in my mind. I cannot recall any notes being made by any of the officers about what I had told them.

18. When I went home Michael was of the opinion that Tracey should make a statement and I know that [REDACTED] was of the same view because she just wanted her to tell the truth about what she knew.
19. I remember it was Friday night and Irene phoned the gym and said that Tracey had to go to the police station could we pick her up from her evening job and take her. This is what we did. We met Tracey at the Chinese after she finished work and drove her to Portadown Police station.
20. I sat with Tracey in the interview room whilst De McAteer and a woman officer called **P39** spoke to her. Tracey agreed to make a statement from the outset. That statement is at page **17327**, it includes the general details of the incident as she told them to me, as I have stated at paragraphs 9, 11 and 12 of this statement. It also includes some more specific details that Tracey told the police. Tracey was a bit nervous about being in the Police station and I told her 'just tell them what you know'.
21. Tracey was 17 at the time and I was a little bit older at 25 years of age. I did quite a lot for her as her mum was disabled so she wanted me there for support.
22. During her interview she told the police that she had met Allister the day after for some food or something and he told her that he was going to be okay because he had received a phone call and it would be all right. The statement was completed I wasn't asked to make a statement and as Michael had gone home the police woman took us back to [REDACTED] Clarke's house. I cannot remember if the police offered Tracey any protection but I do remember the police woman saying to Tracey that she'd be in contact again and if Tracey had any problems to ring her.
23. Tracey had told the police about a jacket Allister Hanvey had been wearing on 26/27 April 1997. It was quite a distinctive jacket as I recall with a high waistband, it was orange and black in colour with silver lining and a zip front. Tracey was making a fuss about the jacket because she had bought it for Allister

for Christmas and had paid a lot of money for it. She got the jacket from a shop called Paranoid and had paid for it on instalments as it was over £100.

24. She had also told the police about seeing one of the injured men being loaded into an ambulance and she said that she had asked Robbie Atkinson if he was okay. Robbie had shaken his head and told her to get home.
25. I was not contacted again by the police after Tracey made her statement and I wasn't aware if they had been to see her. I know she said that people were starting to ignore her in town and not talking to her. She didn't mention that she was being threatened.
26. Michael and I and two members of the Tae Kwon Do Club went to see Allister when he was on remand in the Maze. It was his birthday and the club had got a card for him and a present. We didn't discuss the Hamill case and Allister seemed to be fine with me. I don't know if Tracey visited him at all. Certainly by 1998 when the Tae Kwon Do Club visited Lanzarote for a training camp she was going out with a different boy.
27. I made a statement to the police on 29 October 1997 [page **9200**]. As I have indicated, it was untrue.
28. I'd had nothing to do with creating an alibi for Robbie Atkinson at first. Robbie had approached Michael and I about covering for him for a telephone call made from his house to the Hanvey house. He'd said he had done something stupid and was in a lot of trouble. Michael reluctantly agreed to say that we had stayed the night and that he had made the phone call looking for Tracey. We discussed this no more than a week before Michael and Eleanor Atkinson went to the police station to make their statements. When they came back from the police station they told me that I had to corroborate their story and that an appointment would be made for me to see a solicitor.
29. On 29 October 1997 I went to the offices of Sean Hagan and I saw it was Mr. Irwin and I thought I was in trouble. We ran through what I was going to say

with Mr. Hagan present then he left the room whilst I made the statement. Mr. Irwin didn't raise with me the contradictions in what I had told him previously about what Tracey had said about Robbie Atkinson making the call. I was expecting him to do so. He just looked at me as if to say "this is going to be interesting." Although his body language inferred that he thought I was lying, he never said anything to me.

30. I heard no more about it and after Michael and I split up because of his drinking and relationship with another woman. I returned to Wales to live. I thought everything had been forgotten until Mr. McBurney and Mr. Irwin came to see me in June 2000. I cannot recall if it was prearranged or they just turned up at my door. I went with them to Wrexham Police station where they told me it would be in my interest to tell the truth and that they had already spoken to Michael. I was not represented by a solicitor.
31. They indicated that the Inquiry into the death of Robert Hamill was still going on and knew that Michael and I had split up. I told them that the alibi statement I made on 29 October 1997 was false and made a statement [page 14956] to cover that fact. It was a short statement of two pages and just covered why I had provided an alibi for Robbie Atkinson. I was told that they would be in contact with me again
32. I was trying to get Michael to agree to a divorce and being frustrated in doing so. I wrote to him on 26 September 2000 [page 21441], in an effort to get him to agree on the divorce I also enclosed a letter [page 21445] addressed to Inspector Irwin purporting to say that I had information about a stolen CD player which Michael was involved with threatening to tell the police about this. I had made up this letter in an attempt to make Michael agree to the divorce. Michael phoned me upon receiving the letter ranting and raving but it had the desired effect and he agreed to a divorce. During this call he told me that the police had been to see him and he said he had told them the truth.
33. On 25 October 2000 DCI K and Inspector Irwin came to see me and Mr. K recorded a full statement [page 14908] from me about my marriage, association

with the Atkinsons and my involvement with Tracey Clarke. Again I was advised that the police would be in contact with me.

34. On 10 April 2001 I was interviewed under caution at Wrexham Police station by DC **P5** and DCI **K**. On this occasion I had a solicitor Ms Jagger and prior to being interviewed we went through all my previous statements. I told the truth in this interview and have been shown a copy of the transcript of the interview starting at page **21224**.
35. I was later charged with Michael with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and appeared at Craigavon Crown Court on 7 May 2002 where I pleaded guilty. The police had asked if I would give evidence once I was convicted to which I agreed and on 30 October 2002 I made a further statement [page **20297**] detailing my involvement in the Robert Hamill case.
36. I was due to give evidence in the case and I was seen by a barrister Christine Smith, DC **J** and a Mr. Morrison from the DPP'S office on 21 October 2003. I remember the lady but I can't really remember what was said during the meeting.
37. On 27 October 2003 the Police collected me from my home and took me to Craigavon Magistrates' Court. The case was put off and I did not give evidence. There was to be another date fixed and the police were to collect me again.
38. The next date for hearing was the 22 December 2003 and I was having trouble with my son who wasn't well. I needed to take him to see the Doctor on the morning of the 22 December and therefore I wasn't prepared to travel to Northern Ireland because of the concerns for my son's health. On the morning of Sunday 21 December, I left a message on an answer phone for DC **P29** and she returned my call and I explained to her that my son was not well. He had been unwell for some time: from about the age of 4 months, he had problems with his glands and infections. I had taken him to the doctor's on 1 December 2003 and Dr [REDACTED] had made a home visit on 11 December 2003. I had taken him to the Out of hours Doctor at Pendine Surgery over the weekend, I believe

that it was on the Friday night of 19/ 20 December 2003 at about 10 or 11pm but I am not completely sure and it could have been late Saturday night/ Sunday morning 20/ 21 December. I saw the duty doctor; he was a male who I can't now describe. He examined my son whose neck was swollen and running a high temperature. I wasn't given a prescription but told to continue to give him Calpol and to keep his temperature down.

39. I have been shown a record of a call log sheet relating to a call and subsequent call back to Pendine Surgery on 26 November 2003 [page 74260]. I recall making this phone call, but I did not attend the surgery. I have never attended Pendine on my own behalf. I have attended Pendine surgery twice, once with my mother and once with my son. I made a call to Pendine surgery on 25 October 2003 on behalf of my son, but I did not attend on this occasion.
40. On the 22 December 2003 I saw Dr. [REDACTED] a female Doctor at Strathmore Surgery my son had ongoing respiratory problems and I was given a prescription for penicillin or antibiotics. My son had not long had his MMR inoculation and initially it was thought to be a reaction to that but he is still under a consultant because of swelling in his glands.
41. I have been shown a redacted copy of my telephone records [page 34024] which shows a record of a call lasting 2 minutes 40 seconds from Strathmore surgery on 22 December at 10.00. I cannot recall this call; all I can recall is that I attended Strathmore surgery that morning.
42. The following day 23 December 2003 I received an anonymous letter telling me not to come and give evidence. I can't remember the full contents of the letter but it caused me concern and I was alarmed and upset, as I had never seen anything like it before. Because I was scared, I contacted the local police who collected the letter and told me that the postmark was Northern Ireland. I'd also been receiving silent phone calls but they weren't enough for me to be concerned.

43. On 9 January 2004 I was again seen by Counsel Christine Smith, Mr Morrison, Mr. K and Detective Sergeant H. I have been shown the note of that meeting page 33991 – 33997 and this reflects the discussion that took place. I was reminded that my commitment to give evidence was not binding. We discussed the threat and options for relocation. I wanted to change house for my safety following the threat. It was important for me to retain my support of friends and family so I had to be close to Wrexham. Also my husband was at University in Wrexham, I was due to start a course in the following September and my son was registered there for pre-school nursery.
44. I have been asked whether I wanted to use witness relocation to get a better house. This is not the case. I really liked the house that I was in. It was a good property with a safe garden, in a lovely desirable area just 50 metres from my mother's house. I did not want or need anything better. I have been asked whether I have ever received any inducement or benefit in relation to giving evidence and I have not.
45. I was concerned about my safety but I was adamant that I was still committed to giving evidence. I made it clear that I had gone so far and I was going to see it through. It was always my intention to go to Court.
46. I was later told by a telephone call from Detective Sergeant H that the case had folded and it was now finished.
47. It was made clear to be me by the police that my account of going to the out of hour's doctor was not borne out by their enquiries. I however am certain of what happened and what I told the police about my son and visiting the doctor was the truth.

SIGNED:

AMcKee
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ANDREA LOUISE MCKEE

DATED:

07/01/09
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