

# DRAFT

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

### STATEMENT OF ANDREW GEORGE ALLEN

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2008

I, ANDREW GEORGE ALLEN, 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 I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

2. 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.
3. This is the first witness statement that I have made in connection with the Robert Hamill incident.
4. I attended the Coach Inn at Banbridge on 26 April 1997 and was in Portadown Town Centre during the early hours of 27 April 1997. I later attended a party in the Brownstown Estate the home of a Tracey McAlpine.
5. I was arrested by the Police on 15 May 1997 and interviewed under caution. There is produced and shown to me a copy of the transcript of interview which contains page numbers **7300 to 7483**. It is a true transcript of the interview to the best of my knowledge and belief although it does not refresh my memory at all in relation to the incident.
6. I lived in Portadown all of my life and had the nickname 'Fonz', which I got at school. That nickname is never used any more.

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7. I went to the Coach Inn at Banbridge but it wouldn't have been a regular occurrence for me. I cannot now remember the events of nine years ago and therefore I rely on what I said when questioned by the police on 15 May 1997.
8. I did attend the Coach Inn on 26 April 1997 and had a few drinks. When interviewed by the police I said that I had drunk four or five pints that night which is at page 7332 of the transcript.
9. I was arrested on 15 May 1997 and although you cannot forget something like that as far as I'm concerned I blew that all out of my mind, it was all forgotten about. I had never been in trouble before with the police.
10. I told the police that I was with Rory Robinson and David Woods and that I had been to the Coach Inn. Page 7302 of the transcript says: "*Rory Robinson was there and David Woods. I could hear shouting down Thomas Street but I just thought it was somebody from the Legion or Jamesons's.*" "*Then there were a crowd of boys and girls coming down. I thought they were going to walk on past. I paid no attention. One of the boys hit David Woods on the face and another boy started fighting with Rory Robinson. Another boy came at me and I backed off into the middle of the road. He kept coming at me trying to, swinging punches; trying to hit me, so I turned and ran up Thomas Street and another boy was standing up there. The next thing there was three or four other boys from the crowd that was on the street.*" I truthfully now cannot remember this incident.
11. I continued by describing the incident at page 7305 of the transcript "*Whenever I went up Thomas Street the boy took a swing at me. All I could do was put my hands up. I was falling back. That was it. Well he was trying to knock my head off you know, and just then three or four boys came running in and knocked him to the ground and that was it he got up and ran away. I didn't want anything to do with it.*" I accept the story that I told the police, that I was at the bottom of Thomas Street with Rory Robinson and David Woods and that people came down and fighting started. I cannot describe the person who was trying to assault me.

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12. I did not know that David Woods' sister lived above the No.7 Bakery on the corner of Thomas Street and High Street and have no memory of her coming down to assist her brother after he had been assaulted.
13. All I can say now is that unfortunately I was there on that night and I just wanted to get out of the road. I cannot now remember saying what I did in the interviews. I have no recollection of others fighting.
14. I was asked who I knew of the people involved in the disturbance. I know Allister Hanvey because we were at the Boys Brigade together. Stacey Bridgett and Dean Forbes are two I knew from around town. I have no memory of them fighting.
15. During my interview under caution it was put to me that I had been seen kicking one of the people on the ground page at page **7332** of the transcript and I replied "*I never done it*". I did tell the police that I was injured at page **7377** "*I had a lump on my ankle. It was there for a week.*" I do not remember now but in interview I said, "*I either got kicked or thumped or something.*" Whatever the injury was I did not seek medical assistance and cannot remember which ankle was injured.
16. I do not know Pauline Newell or Tracey McAlpine although at page **7352** of the transcript I refer to going to a party after the fighting in the town centre, "*And we went to Tracey's. I don't know her other name.*" "*I was there for about 20 minutes, half an hour.*" "*There was myself there obviously, the girl that owned the house, I believe Sinny was there. Tracey Clarke was there. Hanvey... Dean Forbes.*" I have no recollection of hearing that Allister Hanvey had hit somebody with a bottle which I mention at page **7532** of transcript.
17. There has been produced and shown to me a statement of Pauline Newell dated 20 May at pages **09128 to 09129**. I know in her statement she says that I was present at the house. Ian Carville is someone I knew years ago, also in his statement page **9185** he says "*It must have been after 03.00am. At the house I*

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*recall seeing Pauline, Tracey's sister, Shelley Liggett, Kelly Lavery, Allister Hanvey, Dean Forbes, Jason Woods, Marc Hobson, Stephen Bloomer, P46 [redacted] Christopher Henderson and Andrew Allen."*

- 18. There has now been produced and shown to me the statement of Tracey McAlpine at pages 09616 to 09617. In her statement at page 9617 she refers to 'Fonzy' being present. While at the party, I heard that Allister Hanvey hit someone with a bottle. I never saw that happen I just heard it being said.
  
- 19. I said that I went to the party in my police interview on 15 May 1997 and I accept that others said that I was present but I have no memory of it now.
  
- 20. I did not know Robert Hamill or D.
  
- 21. I have no memory of seeing police officers or a police Land Rover in the town centre on the night of 26/27 April 1997. I cannot recall how I got to the party or at what time I went home.

**SIGNED:** .....  
**ANDREW GEORGE ALLEN**

**DATED:** .....