

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF ANN SMYTH

DATED THIS 19th **DAY OF** March, 2008


I, ANN SMYTH, 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 have been asked about my movements on the night of 26/27 April 1997. On the night in question I was at the flat of Geoffrey Smyth, my boyfriend, with my sister Alison Bowles and my best friend [REDACTED]. Geoffrey Smyth is now my husband. If we did not go out on a Saturday night we would normally stay at Geoffrey's flat for a few drinks and then we would go down to Portadown town centre for something to eat.
3. At about 00.30, Alison, [REDACTED] and I left the flat to go to the town centre. We walked to the town centre via West Street. It would have taken us a good 20 minutes to walk from the flat to Boss Hoggs chip shop, which was next to the junction of Meadow Lane and High Street. I do not recall seeing a police Land Rover as I was walking to Boss Hoggs.
4. When we arrived at Boss Hoggs, I ordered a carry out. I cannot remember what we did when we left Boss Hoggs. However, I was interviewed by the police on 10 May 1997. A record of that interview is now produced and shown to me containing page

number 7776. According to the record of interview, Allison, [REDACTED] and I sat on the steps of the Ulster Bank, which was next to Boss Hoggs, and ate our chips. I cannot remember doing this but I have no reason to doubt that the record of my interview is correct. We sat there for 20 minutes to half an hour.

5. When we had finished eating our chips we walked back to the flat the way we came. We walked back on the Northern Bank side of the High Street. I saw a Police Land Rover sitting at the top of Woodhouse Street, next to the Halifax Bank.
6. I was interviewed by the police again on 07 June 1997. There is now produced and shown to me a record of that interview containing page number 7777. I have no reason to doubt that it is a true record of what I said at interview. In this interview I said that as I reached the Northern bank I noticed a crowd of people. I saw a large mob of about 40 or 50 people on the other side of the street in the bottom of Thomas Street area. I heard shouting but I could not see anyone's faces, as their backs were facing me. I do not recall if the shouting was sectarian in nature.
7. As I continued to walk up towards the Abbey National on Market Street I saw Dean Forbes standing on the central reservation. I knew Dean Forbes because he used to live on the estate behind my house. However, he was not one of my friends. I asked him what was going on and he said that a fight had broken out. After talking to Dean we just left and we walked straight home.
8. Finally, I have been asked if I recall whether Neil Ritchie stayed at my boyfriend's flat on the night of 26/27th April 1997. This is possible, because he would often stay at the flat on Saturday nights as he worked with me. However, I did not see him in town that night.
9. I have never heard of Marc Hobson. I know Rory Robinson, Wayne Lunt, Stacey Bridgett and Allister Hanvey by name and would be able to recognise them but I have never had a conversation with any of them.

10. It is common for there to be fights in Portadown on a Saturday night but I have never seen a crowd as large as the one I saw on the night of 26/27 April 1997.

SIGNED: 
ANN SMYTH

DATED: 19/3/08

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