

**STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

**STATEMENT OF ANTHONY LANGDON**

**DATED THIS DAY** 21<sup>st</sup> **SEPTEMBER 2009**

I, Anthony LANGDON, 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. My memory of the events is now limited and I rely upon my notes and the report I submitted in August 2000 to assist my evidence. I do not hold any other papers from those disclosed to me by the Inquiry.
3. I retired from the Civil Service in 1995 having in the previous six years been a Deputy Secretary in the Home Office in charge of the Immigration and Nationality Department and the Constitutional and General Department. For four years before that, I had been in the Cabinet Secretariat where I was an Under Secretary.

4. I note from page **39674** that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland had approved my appointment on 16 June 2000. I believe that I was asked to report to the Secretary of State because the Northern Ireland Office did not have the in-house staff time to do so. My appointment was to prepare a report for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland giving an account of the case and raising the significant points of the case.
  
5. I believe that I started work looking at the Hamill case at around the end of June 2000. I refer to a copy of an e-mail [Page **39691**] which I sent on the 13 July 2000. In that e-mail to the NIO I refer to having read all the documents sent to me, with the exception of the full transcript of the Hobson trial. I refer in the document to a new witness statement dated 20 June 2000 which had been drawn to my attention and I was asking for more information on this statement and other issues arising from my reading of the papers.
  
6. On 24 July 2000 I reported to the NIO [Page **39692**] following separate meetings I had held with the Chief Constable of the RUC and the Chairman of the Independent Commission for Police Complaints on the 21 July 2000. This was by way of a progress report.
  
7. At paragraphs 3 - 8 [page **39692**] I reported on my meeting with the Chief Constable. As to my reference to the Chief Constable being in a pretty defensive and critical mood, my recollection of that meeting is that the Chief Constable was


expressing his view that his force was being unfairly pilloried. I did not regard him as being unhelpful to me.

8. The meeting I had with Mr. Donnelly the Chairman of the ICPC, is recorded in paragraphs 9 – 14 [Page 39693 – 39694]. I have been asked if I can now recall whether the ICPC had explained why they had not supervised the allegation made against the Reserve Constable. I believe that I cover this issue in paragraph 46 of my report [Page 39714]. I cannot recall anything more about this matter than what I recorded in my note of 24 July 2000 and in my report.
9. On 15 August 2000 I submitted a note [Page 39697] to accompany my report [Pages 39699 – 39729]. In paragraph 3 of the note I refer to speaking with Mr. McBurney and Mr. Irwin. I recall that this meeting lasted for about two or three hours during which time we spent a considerable amount of time discussing the allegation against Reserve Constable Atkinson. Mr. McBurney explained to me that he had been waiting for the McKees to separate, giving him the opportunity to expose the false alibi statement.
10. From my reading of the papers, the Permanent Secretary saw the Chief Constable on 9 June 2000; on or before 16 June 2000 the Secretary of State had approved my appointment to carry out a review; and on the 20 June 2000 a witness statement was taken from Mrs McKee. I do not know precisely when the investigation was re-opened.

11. In my note [Page 39693] paragraph 6 I refer to the Chief Constable saying that he had made the decision to treat Andrea McKee as a witness. My note of the meeting with the Chief Constable was made immediately after our discussion and I rely on it. I have been asked if I had a similar discussion with Mr. McBurney. My general recollection is that Mr McBurney presented himself as being in charge of the investigation, and I cannot now remember whether he said anything about the Chief Constable's involvement.
12. In the same paragraph 6 I note that the Chief Constable told me that he had not suspended the Reserve Constable. I have no further recollection of how the issue of suspension was covered by the Chief Constable or whether I discussed this with Mr. McBurney.
13. I completed my report [Pages 39699 – 39729] and submitted it to the NIO in August 2000. In paragraph 61 of the report I expressed some surprise regarding the length of time taken to put allegations to the Reserve Constable. I cannot comment on policing investigative practices. I am not an investigator. My task was to prepare a briefing report for the Secretary of State, identifying the main issues for his attention.
14. In the same paragraph 61 I refer to the ICPC's decision to detach itself from the allegation against the Reserve Constable. I had no particular knowledge of the powers and procedures of the ICPC in 1997. The Chairman of the ICPC, however, had raised some reservations with me about this aspect of the ICPC involvement in the case.

15. In September 2000 I recall attending a meeting with the Secretary of State [Mr. Mandelson]. It was not a decision-making meeting but a briefing meeting to afford the Secretary of State the opportunity to clarify whatever issues he wished. I have had no further involvement in the Hamill case.

**SIGNED**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. J. Langdon".

**Dated this day** 21<sup>st</sup> **September 2009**