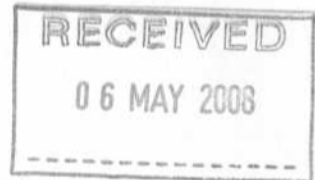


STATEMENT OF WITNESS



STATEMENT OF MARK ANTHONY ARDIS

DATED THIS DAY *1st* OF *MAY* 2008

I, Mark Anthony Ardis 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.

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 retired from the Police Service for Northern Ireland in April 2007. In April 1997 I was a police constable, scenes of crime officer, stationed at Mahon Road, Portadown.
3. I was trained as a scene of crime officer in 1985 and for sometime after that I did relief work covering for other officers who were absent and then I was posted to fill a vacancy at Portadown. The scene of crime office at Portadown was a mixture of police constables and civilian staff. We were supervised by the CID office at Portadown and were a J Division resource. When I retired the Mahon Road office at Portadown had six scenes of crime officers with a civilian principal crime scene investigator and the management of the department was then civilian.
4. As part of my training I had experience in scene examination, major crime scene examination, fingerprints and photography. I would take photographs of everyday scenes but serious crime scenes would be taken by someone from the photography department.


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5. On 27 April 1997 at 8am I received a call out to attend the scene of an assault at Market Street, Portadown. My normal duty hours would have been 9am to 5pm so I would have been called at home to attend the incident.
6. I was the duty scene of crime officer for the week end of 26/27<sup>th</sup> April 1997 and the only officer on duty. I attended my office at Mahon Road and then travelled to Portadown Police Station where I met Detective Constable Keys. DC Keys briefed me on the incident and told me that there had been a serious assault on the main street in Portadown and I was required to go and see what was there. I didn't know what the injuries were other than it was a serious assault.
7. I believe I accompanied him to the scene at the junction of Market Street/High Street in Portadown. I completed a scene of crime incident form [Page 13917] as part of my original notes and I recorded that I attended the scene at 10am. I have no recollection of being briefed about where the injured parties had been on the street other than the junction with Thomas Street and Woodhouse Street.
8. On my scene of crime incident form [Page 13917] I recorded a Mr. Nicholls as being the photographer at the scene. I cannot recall where I met him but it would be the norm that we would attend together.
9. Once at the scene I carried out an assessment and would have discussed it with the CID officer present as to what was required and what was required to be seized from the scene. Apart from my original notes I do not have a memory of the scene. I cannot recall if anything was pointed out to me as I carried out an assessment of the scene. I also cannot recall if DC Keys stayed at the scene whilst I conducted my examination.
10. On my incident form [Page 13917 and 13918] I drew a sketch of the crossroads and made a physical check of the scene marking potential exhibits with chalk. Mr. [REDACTED] would have photographed these exhibits in situ and taken general photographs of the scene. I would have marked the position of the exhibits on my sketch plan and then recovered the exhibits as I have recorded them on the incident form.

11. I have been shown a photograph [page 222] which is a photograph taken by Mr. [REDACTED] and is a view looking up High street into Market Street and across the street is police tape. The area taped covered the four way junction and was in place when I attended the scene and is a similar area to that shown on my sketch map on incident form [page 13917]. I do not know who placed the tape across the scene. I am unable to make any comment on how the scene was preserved as I do not have any memory or note to assist my memory.
12. I have been shown a photograph [page 230] where there are two chalk marks on the road surface in Market Street, these marks would have been made by me and refer to blood stains which I swabbed and seized as exhibits MAA/1 & 2. I have no idea what the large stain on the road surface surrounding the exhibit MAA/2 consisted of.
13. In photographs pages 232 & 234 are chalk squares made by me outside of the Alliance and Leicester Building Society. These are exhibits MAA/3 & 4 blood stains and MAA/6 & 7 broken pieces of wood.
14. From a traffic island in Market Street I recovered two wine bottles MAA/11 & 12 which appear in the photograph page 236.
15. I also collected broken glass from the road, they were in several pieces and I collected them together. MAA/8 was glass from the Thomas Street side of Market Street and MAA/9 was glass from the Woodhouse Street side of Market Street and a beer can MAA/10 from the same area.
16. Having completed my examination of the scene and seized the exhibits I cannot now recall whether I went back to Portadown Police Station or returned to my own office at Mahon road.
17. I am aware that Robert Hamill died on 8 May 1997 but apart from discussions with DC Keys regarding exhibits I cannot recall any further discussions with regard to any of the items from the original scene. On 8 May 1997 I handed DC Keys the pieces of wood MAA/6 & 7.

18. On the 12 May 1997 I took the blood samples I had found at the scene to the FSANI laboratory for analysis. [Page 38842]. On the form I have recorded DI Irwin as the investigating officer. I now cannot remember if I had any conversation with DI Irwin about the exhibits or the scene examination. I would have submitted the blood stains because there was something at the laboratory for comparison.
19. On the 14 May 1997 I completed my witness statement [page 9246] which detailed what I had examined at the scene on 27 April 1997 and the subsequent movements of the exhibits.
20. I had assessed that the beer can MAA/10 as being clean and suitable for fingerprinting with powders and didn't need specialist examination. The exhibits MAA/8, 9, 11, and 12 which were glass I would have assessed were more suitable for the fingerprint bureau and forwarded them to the bureau for examination.
21. Any fingerprint found by the bureau on exhibits submitted by me would have been notified to the investigating officer and I would also have been notified. It would have been for the investigating officer to have pursued any identification. I have been shown the fingerprint form [page 12508] in relation to the exhibit MAA/12 and Wayne Lunt. I would have received a copy of this form for my information.
22. I cannot now recall having any conversations regarding the scene or exhibits either with DC Keys or DI Irwin or attending any briefings. I would have liaised with the exhibits officer when I was returning items to the inquiry team. At that time, I'm not certain that the exhibits officer would have had a record of all the items that were out there involved in the investigation or whether he would just have had a record of what had come into the CID office. Before I retired from the force this had changed and everything went via the exhibits officer.
23. I had no involvement with any forensic strategy or liaison with the forensic scientist on the Robert Hamill murder inquiry. The work of the scene of crime

office changed in 2001/2002 when the crime scene manager role was developed. That person had responsibility through the SIO on major crime for liaison with forensic, the crime scene investigators, the investigation team and any other agencies involved.

**SIGNED:**   
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**MARK ANTHONY ARDIS**

**DATED:** ..... *115/08* .....