

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

### STATEMENT OF SIMON MARC GODLY

DATED THIS 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2008

I, SIMON MARC GODLY, 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 am a former member of the RUC, which is now the PSNI. I was a Police Constable (PC) for 27 years in total and during my career I worked in various different departments. In April 1997 I worked in Portadown as a beat officer and as a communications officer.
3. On the night of 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April 1997 I was on public order duties in a Land Rover until midnight. I think I started at 20:00. At midnight I commenced the night shift and I took up duty as the Communications Officer in the Communications Room at Portadown Police Station. My shift in this position was eight hours long and so due to finish at 08:00.
4. The police station had a permanent Communications Officer and I was second to him. It was normal for a shift as a Communications Officer to last 8 hours but sometimes it was necessary to work a double shift of 16 hours. The reason why I did my 8-hour shift in the Communications Room that night after being out in the Land Rover was because the permanent Communications Officer had taken the night off.

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5. At the start of my shift as Communications Officer I would have been briefed by whoever I was taking over from about what was going on out on the streets. I do not remember who it was that night. The Communications Officer did not attend the regular briefing of the Section. It was usual for the person who was in charge of the Section, Sergeant P89 or Inspector McCrum, to come and update the Communications Officer once the regular briefing had finished.
6. I would have attended a briefing at Portadown station before starting my public order duties at 20:00. This would have involved speaking to the duty Sergeant. The brief for public order duty was more or less to remain in the town centre just to show a presence. I cannot recall being briefed on anything particular that evening.
7. I have been asked to explain how the radio system in the Communications Room worked. Messages were sent over two channels, channel 19 and channel 37. The vehicle-mounted radios transmitted over channel 19 and the pocket 'phones worn by officers transmitted over Channel 37. Both channels were used in the Communications Room simultaneously. When an officer radioed a message in they would use a call-sign and so, if the officer used the wrong call-sign, it was not immediately possible to tell whether the call was from a vehicle or someone on the beat.
8. An officer on the beat would not have been able to hear a conversation transmitted on channel 19. Only vehicles with vehicle-mounted radios in the area tuned to that channel, and possibly MSU vehicles in the area would have been able to hear conversations using that channel too. Channel 19 was used by J Division and other areas would use different frequencies to avoid overcrowding.
9. The only people who could hear channel 37 would be those with a pocket 'phone tuned to that frequency and who were within a couple of kilometres of the base station. These 'phones would have weak spots where they simply did not work, as is the case with mobile telephones.

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10. I first became aware of the fight that was happening in Portadown town centre when I heard screaming coming over the radio at about 01:45. The transcript of channel 37 is contained at pages **10521** to **10532** and the transcript of channel 19 is at pages **10532** to **10541**. At 01:45.37 I heard over channel 19 "we need back-up, over, in the town". This is on the transcript contained at page **10536**.
11. My recollection of the message was hearing Reserve Constable Cornett literally screaming over the network. I knew it was Reserve Constable Cornett because I recognised her voice. She was screaming something like "they're killing one another". At that stage we realised that there was something horribly wrong in the town centre. With hindsight, it was perhaps unfortunate for her to use the phrase "they're killing one another" because she simply meant there was a bad fracas in the town centre. It took a few seconds to finally get clearly from Reserve Constable Cornett that she needed backup. I was confused because Reserve Constable Cornett was using the call-signs 80 and 81 which would in theory have been on Channel 19. There was a different call-sign for the pocket 'phone. So I was responding on one channel while she was getting very confused trying to reply to me on the other.
12. Reserve Constable Cornett was wrong to use the call-sign 80 at all. Vehicles with call signs in the 80's were Land Rovers and those in the 70's were patrol cars. 70 would have been the number one response vehicle and 80 would have been the duty section's Land Rover. If there was a supplementary Land Rover for back-up, it was 81. The call-sign therefore does not refer to a specific vehicle but to a crew in a particular role. I was in 81 until midnight and I think Reserve Constable Cornett was in 80 which was the duty Land Rover. At midnight we swapped over and so Reserve Constable Cornett was now in the supplementary section, working for a four further hours as backup. Her call-sign would therefore have become 81. It was because we recognised her voice and knew she had been 80 earlier that we realised she was in fact 81 and in the town centre.
13. As can be seen on the transcript contained at page **10522**, at 01:46.15 Reserve Constable Cornett came in on channel 37 finally saying "Juliet Delta from eight

one, we need backup urgently in the town". I was in a position to respond "there are other vehicles they are already on their way". Vehicles had already been dispatched because they had heard Reserve Constable Cornett panicking over the radio. At 01:46.15, just before Reserve Constable Cornett requested backup, Reserve Constable Warnock had transmitted "en route, en route...be with you shortly".

14. At 01:48 Reserve Constable Cornett came back on and said "JD from 81, we need a couple of ambulances, over". I see the transcript at page **10524** states that I replied "Roger, ambulances, two victims, over". Looking at the transcript again I think I actually just said "Roger" and then either PC Neill or Reserve Constable Silcock came on their pocket phone and said "two ambulances, two victims". I must have got that wrong on the transcription because I would have not known that there were two victims.
15. I cannot say exactly when the request for an ambulance went out to Ambulance Control. My recollection is that it was fairly obvious from the noise and what was happening on the street that there was a good possibility that we were going to have casualties, so I would have dialled through to Ambulance Control which would have taken a few seconds. I am in a position to say that the ambulances were on their way by 01:49 because I transmitted "Roger, they're on route, over". At the moment when I called Ambulance Control I would not have been able to talk to people on the radio for a few moments but that was the norm. It was just a case of prioritising the tasks. It is clear from the transcripts that I was not told at any stage about the nature of the injuries that had been sustained.
16. At 01:49.18 Reserve Constable Silcock came on channel 37 and asked "have you tasked the ambulance, over?" Reserve Constable Silcock was in the same vehicle as PC Orr and was giving the call sign "Juliet Bravo 70" which would have been a patrol car. Reserve Constable Warnock then said "See can you get some more, over". Reserve Constable Warnock was giving the call sign "Juliet Bravo 80" which was a different vehicle.

17. I am reasonably certain that Reserve Constable Silcock's crew was the first to arrive at the scene as backup but there were a number of people talking over each other so it was difficult to work out who got there first. At 01:46.15, in the transcript at page **15023**, Reserve Constable Warnock transmitted "we're at Gilford Road roundabout and we're going as quick as we can" but I do not know exactly when his vehicle arrived.
18. It is clear from the transcript that both crews were there at 01:49, some four minutes after Reserve Constable Cornett initially asked for assistance. Portadown town centre had barriers at that time and so it was not possible to drive straight up the street. Crews had to drive around the town and get into the town centre via the police station.
19. Just before 01:55 I received a transmission from Constable A. As can be seen at page **10525** of the transcript she said at 01:55 "Roger will you check your electoral register for a Wayne Lunt [address redacted]". I knew of Wayne Lunt and his family because I had had some dealings with him relating to public order, family rows and incidents on the estates. I have been asked whether I was aware that Wayne Lunt had been arrested a few weeks before at the ESSO garage. I did not know anything about that incident.
20. When I had checked the register for the address Constable A had give me I replied "there is nobody listed at No. 9, over". At 02:00.54 Constable A asked me "Roger any luck on [address redacted]". I replied "Sounds about right wait one" and then I said "...they used to live on [address redacted] but I am under the impression that they have moved out the [address redacted] or somewhere, John in Bravo 70 might be able to help you on that over". I was referring to John Adams who was a member of another crew. He had had more recent dealings with Wayne Lunt than I had. Constable A then transmitted "Roger, that's okay; John has cleared it with me". John Adams was obviously at the scene and confirmed Wayne's identity for her.
21. In the statement I gave on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2001 contained at page **17268** I said, "I was aware that Constable [A] from my own station at one time detained Wayne

Lunt because I'd carried out an address check for her". I knew this from the exchange I had with Constable A on the radio.

22. Later that night, Inspector McCrum directed me to get the officers who had been on duty at the scene to come back to the station because the situation had become a lot more serious. Sergeant **P89** or Inspector McCrum had found out that Robert Hamill was in a far more serious condition than was originally thought. I believe they had either been to the hospital or been in contact with it. Because the incident seemed a lot more serious we requested CID, and we needed more information about what had happened because Headquarters would have to be informed.
23. When the crews went off duty they would have come into the station, signed their radios in and in doing so they probably would have talked a little bit about the incident to me. They then would have gone upstairs to write up the accounts book to make sure that the full details were there, and they would have talked to the Inspector and the Sergeant. I do not remember having any conversation with anyone about what had happened.
24. I know that PC Neill says that I spoke to him at about 08:00 and that I passed the telephone to Reserve Constable Atkinson during the call. I was asked about this in my interview with DCI K and I refer to it in my statement of 23 August 2001 at page numbers **17268** to **17270**. By 08:00 I was back in civilian clothes and was in the process of leaving at the end of my shift. I had telephoned PC Neill earlier to call him back in but he had not arrived. I said I would telephone him again before I left because I had the number to hand. I do not know exactly why PC Neill had not come in when asked to but I will give him the benefit of the doubt and say that he had just fallen asleep. I cannot remember him being reluctant to come in for any reason. I do remember that Reserve Constable Atkinson was the first officer to come back into the station but I do not remember passing the telephone to him to speak to PC Neill. However, if PC Neill says that I did, then all I can say is that I did. I assume that calling PC Neill was the last thing I did before leaving the station.

25. I am sure I must have spoken to Reserve Constable Atkinson about the incident when he came into the station but we would not have had a great deal of information. He would have known more about it than I did. I have been asked whether I socialised with Reserve Constable Atkinson outside work. I did not and I was not a member of the Tae Kwon Do Club in Portadown.
26. I have been asked about what further involvement I had with the Robert Hamill investigation. I would have written up what are called "occurrence sheets" which are a summary of the previous 24 hours' events within the Division. This was part of my duties. Copies of the occurrence sheet were sent to Headquarters and neighbouring Divisions so they were aware of what was going on.
27. I also gave evidence at the trial of Marc Hobson. A transcript of my evidence is contained at page numbers **8645 to 8650**.

SIGNED: *Simon Mark Godley*  
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SIMON MARK GODLEY

DATED: *20 mar' 2008*  
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