



STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF GEOFFREY WARD

DATED THIS DAY OF 2006

1. I, GEOFFREY WARD, of an address known to the Robert Hamill Inquiry, 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.
2. I have made statements dated 10 May 1997, 13 May 1997 (x2) and 7 February 2001, copies of which have been produced and shown to me marked "GW1"
3. In 1997 I was a Constable in the Tactical Support Group stationed at Mahon Road station, Portadown. My first involvement in this matter was 10 May 1997, when I was a member of the team which searched Marc Hobson's premises. Prior to the search we were briefed by DI Michael Irwin who I assumed to be the senior investigating officer. I remember there was a whiteboard with the diagram of the Land Rover and some details of the incident on the wall. I can't remember now what else we were told but he explained what job he wanted us to do and that it was related to the Hamill murder. I believe in that case we were told to look for outer clothing and I think they did describe those particular items they were after.
4. The way a search team is organised is that we usually have two search pairs, a log-keeper and a person in charge, a total of six. The searches I was involved in had us moving from room to room, searching for specified items and keeping the log-keeper apprised of our movements and of anything found. When you do find something, you point it out to both the log-keeper and the person in charge who look at it and if we have a detective present they will say yes, seize that, or not as the case may be. Usually one team starts downstairs, another starts upstairs, and whenever all the rooms are completed the search would be terminated. The items seized, which are listed in the search record

include trousers, coat and shoes, were bagged and labelled and then they were forwarded to the detectives, along with my statement so I don't think there was a de-briefing as such afterwards.

5. In the past there has been trouble when a search team went beyond the remit of the search warrant and therefore the team would only have searched for what was listed on the warrant. While I personally did not search every room I was satisfied that the search carried out was thorough and in accordance with our briefing.
6. We were also briefed on 13 May 1997 to search Allister Hanvey's premises. This briefing was DC Paul McCrumlish and I performed the same role as in the previous search. The other members of the search team were Constables Murphy and Ward, Reserve Constable Ritchie, DC P5 and DC McCrumlish. I do not recall the details of the briefing for that search but I believe, having read Constable Ritchie's statement that we were asked to look for a grey or silver jacket but I don't believe we were asked to look for burnt clothing. A copy of PC Ritchie's is now produced and shown to me marked "GW2".
7. On this search I believe was split. On the Hobson search there were two teams whereas on this search there was only one team. The crews may have been involved in something else and they could only spare one vehicle or the detectives only asked for three members. I'm not aware now, but that would be the usual situation, where either there wasn't enough manpower to provide six officers, or the detectives asked for only three officers.
8. The main time was spent on bedrooms, where clothing may be found and the rest of the time was spent searching the other rooms. It is normal practice to also search around the gardens in case the item has been left there or is lying in the garden and one would expect to see that recorded on the Form 29. On this particular Form 29 the exterior of the house is not mentioned so I'm unsure what happened as it is normal practice to search outside the buildings. I note from the record that there were 3 people present at the house including Elizabeth Hanvey. There was nothing seized as a result of this search. A copy of the Form 29 is now produced and shown to me marked "GW3".

9. We then went to search Thomas Hanvey's premises, which is the other address Allister Hanvey sometimes lived at. I believe it was a case of having searched one house we'd move to the next house. The journey between the two was 25 to 30 minutes. Again we were asked to look for a grey or silver jacket. I don't recall being asked to search for burnt clothing [REDACTED] and Thomas Hanvey were present during the search. There was nothing seized as a result of this search.

10. Save for what is set out above I played no other part in any aspect of the case or the investigations.

SIGNED:

effy Ward

DATED:

3/6/06