



STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF EDWARD HONEYFORD

DATED THIS 12th DAY OF FEB 2008

I, EDWARD HONEYFORD 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 documents which have been produced and disclosed to me for the purpose of making this Witness Statement are listed below together with their page numbers in the Inquiry materials. Where I refer to a particular page of a document the Inquiry page number will be given for ease of reference.
2. 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.
3. I served with the PSNI and the RUC for approximately 26 years and retired in September 2002. Between 1979 and my retirement I served with CID. I served in Portadown in April 1997 and for most of my career.
4. I cannot remember exactly when I became involved in the Robert Hamill investigation but I think it was a few days before Robert Hamill died, when it was still a GBH investigation. Detective Chief Inspector P39 was the investigating officer on the GBH investigation. Once Robert Hamill died, it became a murder investigation and Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney became Senior Investigating Officer. Detective Inspector Irwin was the Office Manager and I believe Detective Chief Inspector P39 was the Deputy Senior Investigating Officer.

E. Honeyford.

5. During the murder investigation I was still responsible for my regular detective duties but became involved in the investigation as and when I was needed. The investigation team held briefings most mornings and most evenings at 7.00pm. I attended some of those briefings when I was required to do so. Usually, the briefings would be an opportunity to update the detectives and the investigation team. If I was required to carry out a particular task, the usual practice was that Detective Inspector Irwin would hand out Action Sheets, which contained details of my specific task.
6. While this meant I had an active role in certain aspects of the investigation I was not involved in, and not privy to, strategic decisions or to all of the information available to the investigation team. I was briefed for specific tasks and was given whatever information deemed necessary or appropriate for that task.
7. I was directed to interview a number of people during the investigation. I think the first formal interview I was involved in was with [REDACTED]. I see that from the summary of the tape recorded interview, which contains page numbers **07555 to 07556**. I do not remember anything about that interview but I must have been briefed, probably by Detective Inspector Irwin and Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney, in advance of the interview. There would have been an action sheet stating what intelligence there was about [REDACTED] believed involvement. The interview summary records that he was interviewed in Lurgan Police Station on 6 May 1997 and that Detective Constable McAteer was the lead interviewer.
8. I also interviewed Timothy Jameson but before conducting the more formal interview I spoke with him on 29 April 1997 and completed a pro forma questionnaire, which contains page numbers **70865 to 70867**. Once a pro forma questionnaire was completed it was returned to the investigating team and if something arose from the answers given then it would be followed up. I see from the questionnaire that Timothy Jameson said he had not been in the town that night. He was then interviewed on 9 May 1997. There is a statement, which was completed after interview dated 9 May 1997, containing page numbers **17653 to 17656**.

9. I had received an Action Sheet stating that information had been received that Timothy Jameson had in fact been in the town at the material time and had seen what had happened. I was allocated the interview and was privately briefed for the interview by Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney and Detective Chief Inspector P39 I think the briefing was in Detective Inspector Irwin's room. I recall being told to conduct the interview in Lurgan Police Station as a priority.

10. I was not given copies of any witness statements before the interview and was unaware of the source of the information about Timothy Jameson. A transcript of my Interview with the Police Ombudsman dated the 5th December 2001 has been produced and shown to me at page **27082** and I recall visiting Timothy Jameson's home. I spoke to his mother and told her that I wished to interview Timothy that night. She was very pleasant towards me and informed me that he was at college in Armagh and that she would get him to ring me when he came home. I told her that I was happy for her and/or her husband to attend the interview with Timothy although he was of age and sensible to handle himself. There is no taped record of that interview because it was not our practice to tape record witness interviews. We only tape recorded suspect interviews.

11. Timothy Jameson attended Portadown Police Station that night at a time between 7.45pm and 8pm. He was alone. He did not appear to be nervous and did not voice any concern over the interview. I was very conscious of that fact that he had spoken to the police previously and denied being in the town centre but had subsequently admitted being there and witnessing the assault. I was naturally suspicious and wondered to myself if he was in fact involved in the assault. I interviewed Timothy Jameson in the interview room, which is next to the cells in Portadown police station. I have been asked whether I saw or was aware of another witness called Tracey Clarke being interviewed that night. I am quite sure there was no other witness being interviewed while I was with Timothy Jameson. The station is extremely small and it would have been obvious to me if another interview was being conducted.

12. Although Timothy Jameson was interviewed as a witness, I was absolutely clear in my mind that if he admitted to kicking Robert Hamill or being involved in

any way in the assault, I would have arrested him then and there. I interviewed Timothy Jameson on my own as resources were stretched to the limits at this stage and there was no one else available. I cannot remember exactly what I asked him but I recall that he was extremely concerned about his identity being known. I did not have the authority to offer him any real reassurance on that so I went immediately to Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney. I explained the situation and he agreed that Timothy's name could be redacted and his identity remain confidential. I went back to Timothy and told him that from then on he could be referred to as Witness B. On that basis, and understanding that he may have to give evidence at trial, he was content to carry on with the statement.

13. I spent a lot of time with him as I had to satisfy myself that he was telling the truth and that he understood the implications of his evidence. I told him in no uncertain terms that should he be found to have lied he would be arrested and brought back.
14. I have been referred to the statement of Reserve Constable G dated 23 March 2001 at **pages 14351 to 14352**, in which he records that Timothy Jameson told him that he had been at the scene of the assault and "put the boot in" as he ran past. I was definitely not aware of that when I interviewed Timothy. Timothy certainly did not make any such admission to me. If he had, I would have arrested him immediately. It was quite a lengthy meeting with Timothy and I think it was about 10pm when he left the station. After the interview, I went back up to Detective Inspector Irwin and Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney. I gave them the statement and left to go home. It was obvious to me that there would be arrests but it was the responsibility of Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney and Michael Irwin to decide strategy.
15. I had two further contacts with Timothy Jameson. On one occasion I went to his home, on behalf of the Coroner, to ask if Timothy would agree to attend a Coroner's hearing if one was convened. I do not recall the outcome of that visit. The second was at a consultation with Gordon Kerr QC, Roger Davison of the DPP, Detective Inspector Irwin and Superintendent Cooke from Crime branch. Robert 'Bobby' Jameson attended with his son. A copy of Roger Davison's

notes of consultation dated 21 October 1997 is attached containing page numbers **17591 to 17592**.

16. At the consultation, Timothy retracted his statement. He said he had been drunk on the night of the assault, did not remember anything about what happened and had simply signed a statement which had been compiled by the police. As I was the officer who took that statement it was obvious he was alleging that I had puts the words into his mouth. That did not happen and would never happen. I would not contemplate such a course of action and it was obvious to me that Timothy was making this up to avoid having to give evidence. That was a very common tactic in Northern Ireland. I do not believe anyone else in the room took it seriously either. In fact, I saw Mr Davison roll his eyes as Timothy Jameson said that.
17. I believe everyone had treated it as simply the method he chose to get out of the situation. It was a tactic which I think everyone recognised. I believe that Timothy was put under pressure from the other Protestant boys he was running with at the scene to retract his evidence. Gordon Kerr QC really grilled him during the consultation but he stood his ground albeit he seemed a bit intimidated. I was not involved in the consultation but was merely an observer. I think I was asked to attend because Timothy knew me from the previous interview. The police always tried to get a familiar face to attend consultations with witnesses.
18. After that consultation I had no further contact with Timothy Jameson. The suggestion that I had put words into his mouth was not raised again. I am sure that had he or someone on his behalf made a formal complaint, the matter would have been referred to Complaints and Discipline and I would have been questioned. In the event, nobody raised any issue on that because I believe we all knew what had happened.
19. I was also involved in a number of search and arrest operations. On 10 May 1997, I was briefed by Detective Inspector Irwin for a search and arrest of Marc Hobson. My Notebook entry for that date contains page numbers **50234 to**

50237. I believe that was a verbal briefing. I was not given any statements but I would have been handed an action sheet setting out the specific items for which we were to search. I cannot remember what my role was during this search but it was usually the responsibility of the uniformed search team to do the actual searching. The detectives present were there to advise, to seize items and bag them and to effect the arrest. I see that we were instructed to look for clothing at Marc Hobson's home and that there was a specific instruction to look for a grey coloured sweater, a pair of blue jeans, a grey Nike sweatshirt and a black leather jacket. I note there is no reference to footwear, which seems unusual as this was a case where the suspects were alleged to have kicked the victim. I cannot say anymore about that, however, without the relevant action sheets. I do remember that Detective Constable McDowell was the Exhibits Officer at the time so we would have handed over all seized items to him.

20. In the afternoon that same day, I interviewed Marc Hobson. I cannot recall the briefing for that interview but I think I read some statements in advance which I had printed off as I couldn't read them on the HOLMES system. I don't think any disclosure of statements was made to Marc Hobson although he was interviewed under caution for four hours. He was very clear that he was not involved and he had not seen anything. After the interview, I went to Detective Inspector Irwin and Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney and summarised the interview for them. The interview was probably discussed at the next team briefing and if there was anything further arising that would have been dealt with.
21. On 11 May 1997, I was also involved in the search and arrest operation for Rory Robinson. My Statement of 10 June 1997 containing page numbers **852 to 853** deals with that. It is recorded that I was briefed that morning by Detective Inspector Irwin to search Rory Robinson's home for clothing and footwear. Detective Constable **P7** and I were the detectives present and the uniformed team conducted the actual search. After the search the seized and bagged items were handed over to Detective Constable McDowell.

22. On 15 May 1997, I was briefed to search Andrew Allen's home for clothing. My statement which refers to that search contains page number **00864 to 00865**. I was briefed for the search by Detective Sergeant Bradley and I was accompanied by Detective Constable [REDACTED]. The search only lasted 20 minutes but the length of any search depends on the lay-out of the house and nature of the items being searched for. As a matter of practice, if a police officer is briefed to search for clothing that is all the officer should search for. I stick to that principle; a search is not a licence to snoop in someone's private belongings.
23. Later that day, I interviewed Andrew Allen. Detective Constable [REDACTED] accompanied me. Andrew Allen was interviewed as a suspect and the interview was tape recorded. A copy of my statement which resulted from that interview contains page number **00868**. The transcript of the interview contains page numbers **7390 to 7458**.
24. I see from the transcript that Andrew Allen said he was out with Allister Hanvey, Rory Robinson and David Woods on the night in question. He said that "Wee Davy" was attacked and that Allister Hanvey and Rory Robinson were involved in the fighting. I also note that he said he would not give evidence and that if anybody found out he had done so he would "end up in a dark alley". He went on to say, however, that he had not been threatened. There is no reference to him being offered protection or anonymity but if he had requested it I would have gone straight to Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney. I must conclude that he did not request any protection or seek any reassurance from me about his identity.
25. I also interviewed Jonathan Wright. A number of statements were taken from him and I believe I recorded two of them. Jonathan Wright's first statement was dated 11 May 1997, containing page numbers **564 to 567**. On 15 May 1997, Jonathan Wright was interviewed again by me and made a second statement containing page numbers **568 to 569**.

26. I remember very little about Jonathan Wright and rely entirely on the record contained in the documents. I can speculate based on my experience of police practice that I re-interviewed him because new issues had arisen and I was given an action sheet to that effect. Looking at Jonathan's second statement I can see that he admitted to seeing the assault on Robert Hamill and that he saw Stacey Bridgett and Marc Hobson involved in fighting. That is in contrast to his first statement, in which he denied seeing any fighting at all. Based on that apparent conflict, I am sure that I would have questioned him hard and really pressed him on his evidence to establish which version was true. It certainly seems to be clear that there was no evidence to link him to the actual assault but if there had been I know I would have cautioned and arrested him immediately and transferred him to Lurgan Police Station for a taped interview. After that second interview, I am sure I would have noted on the action sheet the result of the interview and taken it back to be processed in the HOLMES system and also spoken to Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney. Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney was a very 'hands-on' investigator. I cannot remember if I told Jonathan Wright on 15 May 1997 that Marc Hobson denied being at the scene and that another witness placed both Hobson and Allister Hanvey at the scene and involved in the assault.
27. On 13 March 1998, Jonathan Wright appears to have made a third and final statement containing page number **17295**. That statement was recorded by Detective Sergeant Bradley. I was not involved in that interview but have now read the statement and understand that Jonathan Wright refused to let his second statement be put forward. I have no idea why he did that but I am sure that if he had raised a concern over his identity when I spoke to him in May 1997 I would have raised it with Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney and there would be a record of that somewhere.
28. On 29 April 1997 I took a pro-forma questionnaire from Thomas Mallon. He said essentially that he "*had approached the police as he was leaving St Patrick's Hall and going up Woodhouse Street going home and [he] told the police that there were people coming up from St Patrick's Hall.*"

29. I was also involved in the reconstruction of the position of the Land Rover which had been patrolling the junction on the night that Robert Hamill was attacked. I simply organised the transport of the vehicle to the junction and sat behind the wheel carrying out various instructions such as turning on the fan, turning off the engine and such like. It had been a long time since I had driven a Land Rover and have been asked to describe the inside of the vehicle. The RUC Land Rover in 1997 was a big, clumsy vehicle with very limited interior space. I am aware that Diane Hamill made a formal complaint about the conduct of the Police Officers in the Land Rover stationed in town that night but beyond my involvement in the Land Rover reconstruction, I had no contact personally with any of the Land Rover crew.
30. I have been asked to give my personal view of the murder investigation but all I can really say is comment on the generalities and the context of the investigation. I think that the people involved in the attack on Robert Hamill were trying to cover their tracks from the very beginning and the witnesses were reluctant to become involved. 1996 and 1997 in Portadown was a particularly vicious and wicked time. The Protestant community was very close knit and an attack on a Catholic man would have been seen by many of that crowd as unremarkable. In this case, however, when Robert Hamill died from his injuries I believe some people took it more seriously decided to approach the police. That would have been made very difficult for them however and they would have been frightened.
31. It must be remembered that was the time of the Drumcree saga which started in 1996 and caused a lot of tension in Portadown generally where both sides hated the police. It particularly engendered hatred in the Protestant community towards the Police. Any support or information that people may have given to the police in the past stopped after the Drumcree troubles.
32. I have been asked whether I knew at the time of the allegations against Reserve Constable Robert Atkinson. It is only recently that I have become aware of those allegations. At the time of the Inquiry, I would not have believed that a police officer would have assisted an offender and now that I know of the

allegation I am greatly saddened by it and can only hope that it is now dealt with. I must say that my experience of the investigation at the time was that the CID officers I came in contact with were working very hard to solve the case. I accept that looking now at the papers that some mistakes may have been made but I would say that the investigation team worked very hard in very difficult circumstances to solve the murder.

33. In respect of the misconduct investigation by the Police Ombudsman in 2001, in which it was alleged that I failed in my duty to deal correctly with the information concerning Timothy Jameson; I can only say that I was shocked that after many years of doing my duty I found myself being interviewed as a suspect under caution by the Police Ombudsman. I know now that I was cleared categorically by the Ombudsman and was found to have acted properly at all times but I was not informed of that until I was interviewed by the Robert Hamill Inquiry.
34. I had no other involvement in the Robert Hamill investigations. I dealt with specific tasks and have given what information I can remember about those tasks bearing in mind the passage of time since the incident and since my involvement in the investigation.
35. I am asked what training I had received before April 1997. In 1980 or '81 I began a four-month course with CID. The trouble was so bad in the province at the time that all training was cancelled and we all had to return to our stations. I had not by April 1997 received formal training in the HOLMES system or PACE interviewing methods. We had no formal training but instead hands on experience in dealing with major incidents.

SIGNED:


EDWARD HONEYFORD

DATED: 17-2-08 ,