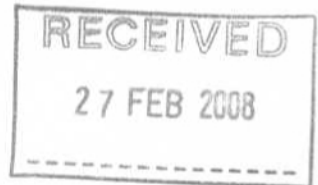


STATEMENT OF WITNESS



STATEMENT OF PAUL McCRUMMLISH

DATED THIS 19th DAY OF February 2008

I, PAUL McCRUMMLISH 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 in the Royal Ulster Constabulary for 26 years until I retired in April 2001. In April 1997 I was a member of the Crime Squad attached to Gough Barracks in Armagh. I had been stationed there for four to five years.
4. I spent the first 18 months of my career as a uniformed officer and I then moved into the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Portadown. Apart from the two years I spent in the Cambridgeshire Constabulary, I spent the rest of my career working in CID or the Regional Crime Squad in Armagh. I never received training in using the HOLMES systems but I did receive training in interview techniques and forensic scene preservation.
5. I first became involved in the Robert Hamill murder investigation on the 9 May 1997. We received morning briefings but I cannot recall who carried them out. It was usual practice for the Inspector to do them so it may have been Detective

Inspector (DI) Irwin but they were overseen by both Detective Chief Inspector (DCI) **P39** and Detective Chief Superintendent (DCS) McBurney. I did not normally make a detailed note of the briefings. The detail of what had been discussed at the meetings and how the inquiry was to proceed would be recorded by the senior officers. It was our job to get out onto the street and get as much information as we could.

6. I cannot recall what the strategy was for the identification and arrest of suspects but all I can say is that if there were suspects, and we had grounds for arrest, they would have been arrested immediately and we would have pulled out all the stops to get them into the police station to be questioned. I was not privy to any strategic discussion, I was simply allocated particular tasks or 'actions' which I would then complete. I was not necessarily told the source of the information or the reason for any particular action. I was given an Action Sheet which set out my task for that day and when I had completed that task I recorded the result on the Action Sheet and submitted it back to the inquiry team.

7. On 10 May 1997, I interviewed Allister Hanvey with DC **P24** at Lurgan Police Station. The transcript of this interview is contained at pages **10018** to **10096**. My own memory of the briefing and the interview is very vague but I have refreshed my memory from my notebook entry contained at pages **69349** to **69350** and from DCI **K**'s journal entry following his interview with me on 10 November 2000 contained at pages **53643** to **53648**. The journal entry states that DI Irwin held a conference on 10 May 1997 and at it I was detailed to go to Lurgan with DC **P24** to interview Allister Hanvey. The journal entry also states that I recalled going into DI Irwin's room straight after the conference to be briefed about the interview. At the time of my interview with DCI **K** I could remember some details about the briefing. I recalled being handed several witness statements which referred to Allister Hanvey being present at the attack on Robert Hamill and I was also made aware of the content of a statement which suggested that a policeman had contacted Allister shortly after the incident and had advised him to dispose of his clothing. I did not know the identity of the police officer but I was told that he was a member of, or trainer

at, the Brownstown Tae Kwon Do Club. I do not think I became aware of the identity of that officer until DCI K interviewed me in November 2000. I was also instructed at the briefing to make enquires as to the clothing that Allister was wearing on the night of the incident. A dark grey jacket with grey sleeves was mentioned.

8. I have been asked specifically about the line of questioning taken during the interview as recorded in the transcript contained at pages **10084** to **10085**. I asked Allister Hanvey if he had been speaking to any police officers about his actions that night. He said that the only policeman he knew was Jim Murphy and he had not spoken to him about his actions.
9. I accept that by pursuing that line of questioning it is possible I alerted Allister Hanvey to the fact that the police had information on his involvement in the assault and that an officer had been involved in assisting him avoid detection. I did not think of this at the time of the interview. I had been made aware at the briefing of a statement which suggested that a policeman had contacted Allister Hanvey and the purpose of the questions asked in the interview was to establish which policeman had contacted him. I was not briefed to avoid that line of questioning.
10. During the interview, I recall that Allister Hanvey adopted a 'couldn't care less' attitude. At one stage of the interview he was laughing. He just did not care.
11. After the interview I would have been debriefed by a senior officer but I cannot recall who it was.
12. On 11 May 1997 I attended the home of Allister Hanvey's parents, Kenneth and Elizabeth Hanvey, with DC P24. This is dealt with in my statement dated 10 November 2000 containing pages **17361** to **17362**. I see from my notebook entry contained at page **69351** that Mr and Mrs Hanvey told me: "Allister left home after tea on 26 April and went into town. He was wearing blue jeans, trainers, and a Tee shirt (no colour available) and a black-coloured padded jacket all the one colour "CAT" type".

13. I cannot recall the briefing for this visit but the reference to the clothing in my notebook leads to think it is more than likely that the purpose was to establish exactly what Allister had been wearing when he left home on the night of 26 April 1997.
14. I do remember that the parents were being very guarded about their son. They were trying to defend him and said that he had no part in the murder. They made reference to the fact that Allister had told them that he had helped police on the night to keep the crowd back. Mr Kenneth Hanvey suggested that there was a policeman who would be giving evidence on behalf of Allister but he would not identify who this policeman was. He was somewhat cocky about this information and when we asked for the name of the police he said "Well, I'll not be giving you those details; I'll be giving evidence in court".
15. We thought it was very relevant that a policeman who was at the scene would be giving evidence for a possible suspect in the case. Therefore, when DC **P24** and I left we stopped the car about 100 yards down the road from the Hanvey's home and made detailed notes of the interview. I cannot recall who I talked to about the interview when I got back to the station but I think that it would have been DCS McBurney.
16. On the same day, DC **P24** and I attended the home of Thomas Hanvey, Allister Hanvey's uncle. I recorded the details of that visit in my statement of 20 May 1997 containing page **805**. We entered the property at 11:55am. DC **P24** recorded a statement from Thomas Hanvey, which is contained at pages **9193** to **9194**. I recall that Thomas Hanvey was also guarded about Allister Hanvey.
17. We searched Thomas Hanvey's home and garden. I cannot recall the briefing for the search but I have refreshed my memory from DCI **K**'s journal entry of my interview with him on 10 November 2000 contained at pages **53643** to **53648**. At the page **53645** he has written: "DC McCrumlish states that on Sunday 11/5/97 attended a conference chaired by DCI **P39** states that DC **P24** and himself were directed to search the home of Thomas Hanvey. DC McCrumlish states he was briefed that Hanvey had gone there after the fight and

the purpose of their search was to locate any clothing that was Allister Hanvey's and which may have been worn by him during the incident, he recalls that he was briefed to search for a dark jacket with grey sleeves, he states he was also told to look for any evidence of anything having been burnt on the home".

18. I cannot now recall exactly where we searched. DCI K's journal entry contained at page **53645** states with reference to me that "he looked in every room and particularly the room where Allister Hanvey had slept and also checked all coats that were in the hall. States that checked the fireplace, examined the bin and visually inspected the front and back garden for evidence of any recently burnt items – thing was found and nothing seized from the address".
19. The search started at 12.30pm and lasted for seven minutes until 12.37pm. I have been asked why the search was so short. It is because there was very little furniture in the house and the back garden was overgrown.
20. I remember that I was with DC P24 but I cannot recall who else was present at Thomas Hanvey's house. I do not recall whether I was the lead officer in charge of this search. All officers present would have searched the property and if something had been found it would have been brought to the attention of the log-keeper. As the detectives present, DC P24 and I would have had the ultimate decision on whether something was relevant to the inquiry and had to be seized. The search record contains page numbers **49881** to **49891**.
21. On 13 May 1997 I was involved in a second search of Thomas Hanvey's home as well as a search of Allister Hanvey's parents' house. It is stated in my notebook for that day contained at page **69353** that I "attended conference chaired by DI Irwin re Robert Hamill murder. Prepared documentation re searches as detailed in conference". I cannot recall the briefing. I have refreshed my memory from DCI K's journal entry contained at page **53647** which states in respect of the searches on 13 May 1997 that I said "the police were needed to locate the dark jacket with grey sleeves". I recall that we were looking for a black puffer jacket with grey sleeves and I believe the word "CAT" was on the jacket in yellow.

22. The search of Thomas Hanvey's house is recorded in my statement dated 20 May 1997 contained at page **805**. My notebook entry at page **69353** states that I was accompanied to Thomas Hanvey's house by Constables Murphy and Ward and Reserve Constable Ritchie, and that the search had a negative result i.e. nothing was seized. The search record contains pages **50121** to **50132**.
23. I recall that Thomas Hanvey was again very guarded during the second search. The whole of the Hanvey family was being very guarded in relation to Allister's involvement.
24. The search of Allister Hanvey's house is recorded in my statement dated the 20 May 1997 contained at page **798**. The search record is contained at pages **50023** to **50034**. I was part of a search team which included two uniformed officers, Detective Constable (DC) **P5** and me. The log keeper was Police Constable (PC) Murphy. She was responsible for recording all the details of the search on the log sheet such as the persons present and what was found.
25. I have recorded in my notebook entry containing page numbers **69349** to **69355** that the search produced a "negative result", so it seems that we did not seize anything that day.
26. On the 15 May 1997 I interviewed Andrew Allen as recorded in my statement dated 2 June 1997 contained at page **866**. I cannot recall the briefing for that interview or any details of the interview. I can only assume that Allen was called in for questioning because he had been named as being present at, or having had involvement in, the assault on Robert Hamill. The interview transcript contains page numbers **7300** to **7458**.
27. I recall that the general feeling of the whole investigation team was that Robert Hamill had been the author of his own misfortune. The general talk was that he left St Patrick's Hall with another male friend and two women and walked down Thomas Street until he reached the Queen's Bar at the corner of the Main Street, where he instigated a fight in the doorway of the bar. A gang of revellers who

were predominantly Loyalists had been dropped off the bus from the Coach Inn and they probably turned up and joined in the fighting that night. This is a general theory and not one mentioned to me by anyone in particular.

SIGNED: 

PAUL McCRUMLISH

DATED: 