

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF DERECK BRADLEY

DATED THIS 8th DAY OF December 2008

I, DERECK BRADLEY, 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 served with the RUC between 1970 and 2001. I retired in May 2001. In 1997, I was a Detective Sergeant attached to CID in Portadown. I had been stationed in Portadown for five years by then. In terms of training, I went on a ten week course at Hendon in 1982 in criminal investigations and I attended a refresher course in 1985. I also attended a tape recording training course in 1992 and an interview technique course in 1999 or 2000.
3. My first involvement in the Robert Hamill investigation was on Monday 28 April 1997. I had been off work for a few days and it was my first day back.
4. It was a very busy period. There had been three major incidents in the area. There was a very serious assault in Banbridge, a bomb scare/riot in Lurgan and the serious assault on Robert Hamill. Detective Inspector Michael Irwin had left to deal with the investigation in Banbridge and Detective Chief Inspector **P39** stayed in Portadown and took charge of the Hamill investigation. I took directions from her in the initial stages, certainly while it remained a GBH investigation.

5. When I arrived in to the station on Monday morning Detective Chief Inspector **P39** instructed me to read the statements that had been made by the uniformed officers and brief myself on what had happened. In particular, she asked me to go through the statements of the Land Rover crew. I read them with a view to seeing if they could give any further information. I do not remember a lot about the investigation after all these years but I made a statement on 13 November 2001. That statement has now been produced and shown to me and contains page numbers **17572 to 17575** and is an accurate record of what happened. In this statement, therefore, I am drawing on my previous statement, not my independent recollection.

6. We were based in the main CID office and at 9.00am we had our daily office meeting. This could be described as a briefing. Under normal circumstances I took this meeting but on the 28 April it was conducted by DI Irwin or DCI **P39**. At that meeting I think it was decided that DI Irwin would go to Banbridge and DCI **P39** would deal with the Robert Hamill investigation. DCI **P39** left shortly afterwards to go and see her bosses. In the absence of DI Irwin and DCI **P39** I would have been seen as the most senior officer present.

7. I cannot now recall which officers were present at the meeting. There were two members of the team who had been present all weekend and DC Keys and DC McDowell, together with some others who would have been back on Monday morning having being off over the weekend. I cannot recall what tasks each member of the team was allocated but once they had dealt with the task they would complete the notebook entry or an action sheet and inform DCI **P39** of the outcome.

8. I was instructed to read all of the uniform officer's statements that had been present at the scene. I was also instructed to speak to the crew present in the Land Rover, Constable Neill, Reserve Constable **P40**, Reserve Constable Cornett and Reserve Constable Atkinson. I waited for all four officers to assemble in Detective Inspector

Irwin's office. Detective Chief Inspector **P39** was not present during this meeting. Shortly after the officers had assembled, I commenced going through the statements. I do not recall anything that I specifically needed to address with each of the witnesses apart from Reserve Constable Atkinson. He said something about his statement not being complete so I told him to go away and finish it. He provided his statement some time later that day.

9. The statement of Reserve Constable Atkinson dated 27 April 1997 has been produced and shown to me containing page numbers **692 to 694**. I note that in my statement dated 13 November 2001 at page **17572** I recorded that I pointed out to Reserve Constable Atkinson that he had only identified two persons at the scene, Rory Robinson and Wayne Lunt. My statement goes on to say that Reserve Constable Atkinson had served in Portadown for many years and lived locally and that he was bound to be able to identify more persons who were possibly involved. I cannot recall how Reserve Constable Atkinson reacted when I said that to him but, in reply, Reserve Constable Atkinson gave me two further pieces of information.
10. Having received this information, I recorded the names on the message form and put them into the system. The copy message forms have been produced and shown to me and contain page numbers **20288 & 20289**. They record that Reserve Constable Atkinson saw Victoria Clayton wiping blood off Stacey Bridgett and saw a man known as 'Rat' Gray in the crowd.
11. This information was received when the investigation was pre HOLMES and it went onto lever arch files as part of the MIRIAM system. Fifty or sixty actions were raised prior to the death of Robert Hamill. These would be handed out during the course of a conference or a briefing. When the actions were handed out an explanation would be given. When Robert Hamill died the information went on to the HOLMES system.

12. I do not recall if I went back to DCI **P39** and discussed this information with her but there would have been a briefing that day or early morning. I would have probably made an entry in my notebook. I have no recollection of this and my notebook has not been in my possession in years having been handed in to my authorities on completion of the notebook.
13. As far as I can recall, I was back on duty the following day 29 April. The normal duty hours were 9 to 5 for three days and the fourth day I did 15:00 to 23:00. I was not involved in scene preservation and I do not recall being tasked to obtain the clothing of injured persons, Robert Hamill or **D**. I was not involved in any forensic matters, taking blood from suspects, as far as I can recall. That would have been carried out in the custody suite.
14. On 8 May 1997, when Robert Hamill died, the investigation became one of murder and was converted to HOLMES. I think I was appointed as a receiver for the investigation which meant that all statements were delivered to me. I read the statements, entered them onto HOLMES and generated the actions which resulted from the statements. For example, if a statement made reference to a potential witness I would generate an action to interview that witness. If the statement contained anything really significant I made sure that senior officers were alerted at the next conference.
15. I would hand over the actions to a HOLMES operator. That person would check the system. For example, it could be the case that every one of the actions I raised was already in the system but it was to ensure that nothing is missed. In terms of the allocation of actions, it depended on the manpower for the situation. If the DI was present they would allocate actions but I have taken the decision to allocate actions myself.
16. There has now been produced and shown to me my statement dated 13 November 2001 containing page numbers **17570 to 17571** which records that on a day prior to

10 May 1997, I was approached by Reserve Constable **P20** in the back yard of the station and as he wanted to speak to a senior CID officer as he had possible information about a possible witness. I took him to see DI Irwin but I did not remain with them.

17. Later that evening I recall that I accompanied Detective Constable McAteer to an interview of Tracey Clarke at her home in Craigavon.
18. Detective Constable John McAteer had the action sheet, although I would have known what the briefing was. I have no specific recollection of who gave the briefing; although it could have been DI Irwin but I am sure that I was present when the action sheet was handed to us.
19. I was present at the interview which would have been conducted in the living room of the Clarke home. I can picture myself in the room in the evening and Tracey coming downstairs, or from another part of the house, after maybe a couple of minutes. I recall that Tracey Clarke's mother was also present. She was a big woman and as I recall, appeared to have a problem with one of her legs.
20. The interview was recorded as a pro forma questionnaire, which I believe DI Irwin had drawn up for us to use during the investigation of the murder. I cannot now recall exactly what was in the questionnaire given that it was nine years ago since I saw it. Nothing stands out in my mind from that interview. I had no further direct contact with Tracey but I do remember seeing her in the station the night before the arrests on 10 May 1997.
21. On Friday 9 May, before the searches were carried out on the 10 May, I recall that Tracey Clarke came into the CID's part of the station. A statement was taken from her. John McAteer was there and my vague recollection is that DCI **P39** was also present. I am not sure if Tracey's mother was present. I do not recall if there were any briefings the next morning saying that there had been an interview with

this particular witness. DCI **P39** did not have to tell me as I knew what was going on. After that night, Tracey's name was not known to anyone other than me, John McAteer and senior officers; she became 'Witness A'.

22. That night, or possibly the early hours of the Saturday 10 May, DCI **P39** asked me to stay on late. She told me to get the search pro formas prepared and the search warrants. I was also asked to arrange manpower for the searches. I cannot now recall the fine detail. Arranging the manpower would have involved getting in touch with our operational sergeant in J Division. To get the number of men required would have meant pulling in 50 or 60 uniformed men. Several Mobile Support Units were contacted. There was a system in place so that if men were required each MSU had a callout system, but some senior officers decided "Right we'll use this MSU, that MSU and so on". But it was not my responsibility and I let someone else arrange that.
23. I can't recall who I contacted but certainly senior uniformed officers would have been involved.
24. I think it was in the early hours of the morning when we got the warrants because I had a Justice of the Peace on standby for quite a while and at 02.00 in the morning he signed the forms. At about 06.30 Detective Inspector Irwin briefed the search teams.
25. I also put together a package for each search team in the early hours of the morning. Those were handed to DI Irwin who would have handed them over at the briefing.
26. There has been produced and shown to me my statement dated 30 June 1997 containing page number **9792** which states that on 10 May 1997, I was briefed by Detective Inspector Irwin to conduct a search and arrest of Wayne Lunt. I have no recollection of that briefing. My statement records that I accompanied members of J2 MSU which stands for J division, of which there were two divisions. I did not

get involved in the actual search but was there to offer advice if needed and also to effect arrest upon completion of the search.

27. The normal procedure would have been that after the search any exhibits would be entered into a search log sheet and bagged at the scene and probably sealed or labelled. The officer who finds the items is responsible for bagging them. If items were seized then I would come back with the uniformed personnel to Portadown station and the exhibits would be handed over. I cannot now recall if any items were seized but if they were it would be recorded in the search log. There would also be a statement from the officer who found the particular items to exhibit them.
28. My statement records that I carried out the arrest and conveyed Lunt to Lurgan custody suite. Later on that day, I returned to the station and Detective Inspector Irwin briefed a number of officers who were nominated to interview the suspects. All of the officers present would have been split into teams of 2 or 4. DCI **P39** may have been present at the briefing.
29. I do not recall the exact nature of the briefing but I know that Tracey Clarke's name was not mentioned. Detective Inspector Irwin gave the interviewers an interview pack each, which contained photocopies of extracts from statements and anything that DI Irwin considered would be helpful. Each interviewer got the statements, or part of a statement that related to their suspect. Tracey Clarke's statement would almost certainly have been given to the interview team but they would not have known who she was.
30. There has now been produced and shown to me my statement dated 29 May 1997 containing page number **9790**. It records that on 15 May 1997, I was briefed by Detective Inspector Irwin to arrange a search of the home of Andrew Allen, who was in custody at the time. I tasked Detective Constable Honeyford and Detective Constable [REDACTED] to search the premises to look for a pair of dark blue jeans and a

blue crew necked jumper. I have no independent recollection of this briefing or search.

31. My next involvement in the investigation, I see from my statement dated 30 June 1997 containing page number **9263**, is when I visited the home of Carol Anne Woods accompanied by a photographer called Peter Maile. I have a very vague recollection that we went to see her because her brother had been the first person assaulted in Portadown on the night of the incident. I believe his name was David Woods and he had gone to his sister's flat after the assault. Also, I think people in the flat had witnessed the incident while looking out of Carol Anne's window. I do not recall if I interviewed her on that occasion but I think that she was probably interviewed long before that time by other officers.
32. In October 1997 I was instructed to attend consultations in Belfast with the DPP and Gordon Kerr Q.C. On 17 October 1997, I sat in on a consultation with Tracey Clarke but played no part in the consultation itself. I also sat in on the consultation with Jonathan Wright. DC Honeyford and I picked up Jonathan in Portadown and drove him to the DPP offices. I think DC McAteer brought Tracey Clarke.
33. I had no further dealings with either Tracey Clarke or Jonathan Wright save that I took a statement from Jonathan on 13 March 1998. That statement has been produced and shown to me and contains page number **581**. I do not recall that statement but I accept that I recorded it. I note that he said he was frightened and refused to give evidence in court. It looks to me like Jonathan Wright had been advised to withdraw his statement.
34. On 14 November 2000, I was interviewed by Detective Chief Inspector **K**. He had been appointed to review the investigation. My statement of 13 November 2001, which refers to that and contains page numbers **17570 to 17571**. During that interview I said, *"I had no knowledge at that time [9 May 1997] of any allegation about a police officer making a phone call to a suspect. I did not become aware of*

this for some time. I was not involved at any time in the investigation of Atkinson and the specific allegations against him.” It remains the case that I did not know of the specific allegation until some time later but I cannot remember exactly when I became aware of it. I recall it was while I was sitting in Detective Chief Inspector **P39** ’s office and I had picked up a file which referred to telephone calls. Detective Chief Inspector **P39** was on the telephone and when she rang off she told me about it. I do not recall whether Reserve Constable Atkinson’s name was in the file or whether she told me that herself. I am unsure, however, whether I knew this was a separate investigation or whether it was simply part of the investigation into the Land Rover crew’s actions at the scene.

35. I accept now that I must have known something about the allegations before November 2000 but not that there was a separate investigation into Reserve Constable Atkinson. Furthermore, I do not think that I knew of the specific allegation that he had tipped off a suspect until very much later.
36. I have been shown a number of statements which I either received or recorded during the course of my involvement in the Robert Hamill investigation. I deal with them below in date order.
37. I have been shown a copy of a statement of Constable Gordon Cooke dated 27 April 1997 containing page numbers **9225 to 9227**. That statement is signed by me as the person receiving it. It looks to me like he completed that statement by himself before he finished duty at 07.00 or 08.00 in the morning. It may have been in the folder I was asked to read by DCI **P39** on the Monday morning.
38. There has now been produced and shown to me the statement of Reserve Constable **P40** dated 28 April 1997, containing page numbers **695 to 696**. I cannot remember if I recorded it for him. I think he simply handed it in.

39. I also appear to have received a statement from Reserve Constable James Murphy dated 27 April 1997, which is now produced and shown to me containing page numbers **9231 to 9232**. I was not on duty until the 28 April so it could have been one of the statements that I was asked to initially look at by DCIP**39**
40. On 7 May 1997, I took a statement from Allister Hanvey. That statement is at page numbers **9190 to 9192**. I recall that DC McAteer and I had called at Hanvey's house, which must have been as a result of an action that was allocated to me. At this point the HOLMES system was not in use. I am not sure what day it was but I think it was some day prior to the 7 May 1997. He was not at home and we left a message with his father that we wished to speak to him. It is my recollection that as a result of that he came to Portadown Police Station and I recorded his statement. At the time of making this statement Allister Hanvey had not been cautioned for anything so he would not have had a tape recorded interview. He was simply responding to the request that the police wanted to speak to him.
41. I have been shown a statement by Police Constable Mark Ardis dated 14 May 1997, containing page numbers **9246 to 9247**. He was the Scenes of Crime Officer. I believe he completed that statement and then handed it to me so I signed it as the receiving officer.
42. On 28 May 1997, I recorded a statement from Reserve Constable Wilfred Burrows, which is now produced and shown to me containing page numbers **9242 to 9244**. Reserve Constable Burrows was a part-time officer, who worked only one night per week. I believe that was the first opportunity we had to take a statement from him as he used to do security duties. There must have been an action sheet but what it said, I do not now recall.
43. There is now produced and shown to me a further statement dated 10 June 1997 containing page number **9791** which states that I received a map marked 'JRH3'

from Detective Sergeant **P10** on 20 May 1997. I have no recollection of that whatsoever but accept what is in the statement.

44. I also took a statement from Jason McClure on 26 June 1997, which has been produced and shown to me containing page numbers **695 to 696**.

SIGNED: 

DERECK BRADLEY

DATED: *8th December 2008*