

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

### STATEMENT OF P84

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2009

I, P84, 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 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 number of the relevant page.
2. I joined the Royal Ulster Constabulary in 1967 retiring from the Police Service for Northern Ireland in 2001. The bulk of my service was in Portadown and I retired from Portadown Police Station as a Detective Sergeant. I joined the CID at Portadown as a Detective Constable in 1972 and was promoted to the rank of D/Sergeant in 1976.
3. I had received training as a CID officer including an Advanced CID course as a Detective Sergeant. I did not receive formal training on Major Crime Investigation or HOLMES this was confined to on the job training.
4. Portadown was a sub division within 'J' Division and was managed divisionally for CID by a Detective Chief Inspector based at Portadown. The sub division had a Detective Inspector, two D/Sergeants and eight D/Constables.
5. I was on weekend leave on the 26/27 of April 1997 and I returned to duty on Monday morning 28 April 1997 at 09.00am. On 28 April 1997 I investigated a

robbery at shop premises in Portadown and was not involved in the investigation into a public order incident which had taken place in Portadown over the week end.

6. I refer to notes [page 53100] made by Detective Chief Inspector K who interviewed me in 2000 regarding my involvement in the investigation into the death of Robert Hamill. In the interview with DCI K I outlined my duties and I have used those notes to refresh my memory.
7. Late on the afternoon of 28 April 1997 I was given a task to trace and identify a person called or with the nickname of 'Rat' Gray. This action [page 14077] was submitted by me on the 30 April 1997 endorsed by me unable to ascertain the exact identity of 'Rat' Gray.
8. DCI K has recorded [page 53100] "*The action concerning Rat Gray was the only inquiry that he had given in relation to the Hamill investigation that day. DS P15 stated that he knew P61, who worked in the Portadown station and that he no dealings with him on that Monday, states that he never spoke to him at any point. On that day, DS P15 states that he was not aware of any details that P61 may have given, further states that he was not aware of the content of P61's statement or indeed whether he had made a statement"....."In making the inquiry about Gray DS P15 spoke with P61 on 30/4/97 regarding Gray. DS P15 could not recall whether this was in person or by phone."* I accept this to be a true record of the conversation I had with DCI K but I can't recall the details now of the investigation regarding Gray or speaking to P61.
9. I knew P61 as being a Reserve Constable who was stationed at Portadown but I cannot recall now talking to him about the Gray enquiry.
10. I have been shown an extract from a report [Page 60532] in which Detective Chief Superintendent P87 refers to my recording queries in note form from Constable P103, Reserve Constable P70 and P40. I remember meeting with Constable P103

but do not now today recall speaking to Reserve Constable **P70** or **P40** and recording notes. However, it would have been a standard procedure for a detective sergeant to have been instructed to debrief officers following a serious incident and to have recorded notes. I cannot recall who instructed me to debrief on this occasion. If I was debriefing an officer I would have made handwritten notes which would later have been typed into the HOLMES system and endorsed by whoever checked the handwritten document against the typed document as being a true copy. This would probably explain why D/Sergeant **P64**, who was the other Detective Sergeant at Portadown, has certified the typed notes of **P103** [page 9673], **P70** [page 9681], and **P40** [page 9688] when he did not write the original manuscripts.

11. I am unable to explain why I recorded notes from three of the officers who were in the Land Rover on public order duty on 27 April 1997 but not the fourth officer, Reserve Constable **P61**. I would have been detailed to have undertaken the work and I now cannot remember who it was that instructed me to interview the three officers, and not Reserve Constable **P61**.
12. I would like to explain the certification of notes and how the same process applies where manuscript statements are typed and checked. The officer who has checked the typed copy of a statement certifies that it is a true copy. This would explain why I have endorsed statements of **P103** [page 680]; **P70** [page 689]; **P108** [page 700]; **P56** [page 712]; **P104** [page 714] and Constable **A** [page 716] which are all dated the 27 April 1997 a date when I was on leave. Those officers would have made their statements on 27 April 1997. In those circumstances I would have endorsed the statements after they had been typed which could have been a day or days after they were made. This was a standard procedure within the PSNI.
13. I did brief officers to carry out the arrests of Bridgett, Forbes and Briggs on 6 May 1997 [page 763]. I cannot now remember doing so but I would have been

instructed to have briefed the officers about the arrests and the searches of their houses.

14. I was not involved in the investigation into the public order incident other than the recording of notes from officers; certification of statements. I recall that Robert Hamill died on 8 May 1997 and I was off duty for 8/9 May 1997 and the weekend of 10/11 May 1997. There would have been a full murder investigation team on my return to duty but I don't now know who was in charge of the investigation.
15. I was allocated an enquiry [page 3318 & 49897] to trace people who had been on a bus back from The Coach Inn, Banbridge to Portadown. I cannot now recall where the names were obtained which are included on the list of people on the bus. I now recall briefing uniform personnel to ascertain the names. I have previously said that I may have checked with that bus at a later date and, whilst I think that it is unlikely, I do not recall making the enquiry. The action was allocated on 9 May 1997 and the action is endorsed as being submitted on 15 May 1997. As I was on leave on 8, 9, 10, 11 May 1997 I can say I did not personally get the information from the bus on the weekend 8-11 May 1997. I cannot recall how those notes were taken.
16. Similarly I have no recollection of an enquiry [page 3292] regarding Lee Stockdale which again was allocated to me on 9 May 1997 and is endorsed that I saw him on 10 May 1997. I was definitely on leave on 8, 9, 10, 11 May 1997 and cannot explain why that date is given. I accept that if the action sheet has been endorsed that I saw Stockdale but if I did see him I have no recollection of doing so, nor on what date.
17. I have been shown an action [page 4228] which refers to my receiving a message from a person called Michael McKee. I do remember receiving a telephone call at Portadown Police Station from a Michael McKee and recording a message for DI P79. The action is endorsed "*Michael McKee rang on Saturday 23 September and*

asked to speak to DI P79. I informed him that the DI was not on duty, asked him can I leave a message and he said to tell him that Michael McKee rang. I then left a note on DI P79's desk, the message to ring Michael McKee." I did not know Michael McKee and did not know what the call was about.

18. I became aware that allegations had been made against Reserve Constable P61 when they came into the public domain. I did not learn of the allegations when the murder investigation commenced in 1997 neither do I recall now exactly what the allegations comprised of.
19. I had little to do with the investigation into the death of Robert Hamill other than those areas covered in my statement and whilst I was aware of the investigation and would have been briefed at various stages during the enquiry I now cannot remember who briefed me or what the briefings consisted of.

SIGNED: G. Raitt.....

P84  
DATED: 24th Nov 09.....