

# DRAFT

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

### STATEMENT OF DAVID THOMAS MARK GRAY

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2008

I, DAVID THOMAS MARK GRAY, 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 a specific reference to a document in my statement I have given the number of the relevant page.
2. On 30 May 1997 I made a statement to the Police which is now produced and shown to me containing page numbers **09135-09136**. I confirm the contents of that statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
3. I confirm I am sometimes known by my nickname, 'Rat'. I have lived in Portadown all of my life.
4. On 26 April 1997 I had been watching a football match at Hanover, Brownstown Park, Portadown with Philip Curran. I had known Philip for years. We stayed drinking at the football club until around 11.00pm. I was drinking vodka and coke. You used to take you own drinks to the football. I don't think that I drank too much because I didn't want to get drunk. After leaving the football club we made our way by taxi to the Buff's Club and stayed there drinking until 1am or shortly after that time. I was on crutches at the time as I had been injured at work but I left my crutches at the Buffs as it was wet and slippery. We walked to the Chinese carry out in West Street and it could have taken 20 – 30 minutes because of my injury.

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5. I recall that, on the way there, a young fellow told Philip and me that people were killing each other in town. I don't know who this fellow was. Philip in his statement [page 9630] referred to this young fellow as being called Paul Currie, I did not the man. At that time Philip knew more people from that part of town.
6. We bought a carry out and walked down the town out of curiosity to see what was happening. In my statement [page 9135] I said, "*As we went down the town I seen an ambulance parked on the street somewhere adjacent to Woodhouse Street. I seen a person lying in the middle of the street close to the ambulance.*" I didn't recognise the person lying on the ground. He was just lying at the back of the ambulance. That is all I can say.
7. I did see a man I knew from work at the back of the ambulance. Dermot McNeice was standing by the ambulance door and I said "*That's a fucking joke something like that to happen.*" [Page 9135]. I can't remember now what Dermot said but I meant it was a shame for anybody to get a hiding and end up in an ambulance after a night out. I haven't seen Dermot probably since this happened so I have not discussed the incident with him.
8. I remember seeing an ambulance man there but I don't remember seeing anyone kicking anybody. I don't think there were many people around at that time. I was the worse for drink and can't really remember the man on the ground going into the ambulance.
9. I recall seeing a police Land Rover and recognising one of the police officers at the scene. I saw Robert Atkinson halfway up the street by the church. In my statement [page 9135] it says, "*I also spoke briefly to Constable Robert Atkinson and had a short general chat with him.*" I must have vaguely bumped into the officer because I would not have got on well with Mr. Atkinson as he used to give us grief where I lived. I cannot now remember any conversation.

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10. I have been referred to a document [page 9521] where Robert Atkinson says, *“There was the lad Gray, right, he wasn’t involved in the thing at all. He seemed to have come out of the Queens Bar or something like that.”* I had not come from the Queens Bar but accept that Robert Atkinson saw me in the town centre on 27 April 1997. Atkinson went onto to say [Page 9521] *“He came out and says, ‘what’s going on Robert? And he says to these boys, ‘For God’s sake catch yourselves on.’ And he’s the sort of boy he knew them like, all like, every one of them, and he wasn’t a bit afraid of them.” “And he told them would youse bloody clear off and wise up like he was, he was doing a grand job to be honest.”* I don’t know if that’s what I said to Robert Atkinson but the only person I saw when I was in the town centre was Dermot McNeice. I cannot remember telling others to go home. When I was in the town centre, it was all over.
11. I do remember leaving the town centre with Philip Curran and walking up West Street.
12. I heard later on the news that the fellow involved in the fight that night had died. I do not know Allister Hanvey, Rory Robinson, Wayne Lunt, Stacey Bridgett, Dean Forbes or Marc Hobson.

**SIGNED:** .....  
**DAVID THOMAS MARK GRAY**

**DATED:** .....

**80336**