



STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF DAVID MORROW

DATED THIS 29<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2008

1. I, DAVID MORROW, 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 Robert Hamill 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.
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. I made a statement [page 9186 – 9187] to the police on 1 May 1997 and I later gave evidence at the trial of Marc Hobson a transcript [Page 8423 – 8446] of my evidence has been shown to me. I have used these documents to assist my memory when interviewed by the Inquiry.
3. I am a leading ambulance man who is employed by the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service. On the night of 26/27<sup>th</sup> April 1997, I was part of the 2 man ambulance crew that attended the incident involving Robert Hamill with my colleague Glen Stewart. On that occasion I drove the ambulance. To the best of my recollection that shift ran from 12 midnight to 08.00 hours and it was a busy night.
4. The details of this call out were recorded by Ambulance Control on Form AS1. I have been shown a copy of this Ambulance Control Form AS1 [page 08153 to 08514]. The call sign for our ambulance was 322. A code was punched into the mobile phone by the crew in the ambulance which records the time automatically at Ambulance Control. There were different codes for when the ambulance went mobile, arrived at the scene, left the scene and arrived at the hospital. If we wished

to speak to Ambulance Control there was a button which could be pressed to place a speech request, which was used in this case to request a second ambulance.

5. There were no records kept in the ambulance station other than the record of the phone message from Ambulance Control to the station and the log book. The log book was kept in the ambulance and a record was made manually of the time that the ambulance went mobile on all journeys. The times in the log book were taken from ambulance control, as were the patient details which would have been radioed in to Ambulance Control.
6. I am not sure whether patient report forms were being used at that time but there was less emphasis on recording patient details then. However, if there was a patient report it would have been filled out by the crew member who was not driving either during the journey to hospital or soon arrival, depending on when the opportunity arose. It would have the incident number and the time of various actions which would correspond with the AS1. The form would have had a carbon copy with one copy being given to the nurse in the Accident and Emergency Department and a second kept in the ambulance.
7. There was a direct line from Ambulance Control to the Ambulance Station restroom and the Control simply pressed a button to call in. Glen Stewart took the call from Ambulance Control and the initials 'GS' appear in the AS1. We only got the one call relating to that particular request. I cannot recall what information we had at the time about the incident or number of casualties. Immediately after receipt of the call we went mobile at 01.52 hours to attend the incident at the junction of Market Street and Thomas Street in Portadown on the night of 26/27<sup>th</sup> April 1997. It was about one and a half miles from the ambulance station to the centre of Portadown.
8. We approached the scene via Edward Street and parked on the High Street just past Thomas Street, arriving at 01.58 hours. I recall that as we came from Bridge Street

we had to take a detour down Bridge Street South as the metal barrier was down across the road at the bottom of town. It was always closed at night as a security measure. We drove down Meadow Lane and turned up Edward Street past the Police Station where there were two barriers which were lifted for us to pass through. We didn't even stop. We then turned left onto the High Street/Market Street.

9. I have been shown a map of central Portadown [73918]. Looking at this map I have marked in green biro the route we took to reach the Market Street/Thomas Street junction. I have drawn a cross to mark the Police Station and also drawn dotted lines to show the location of the barrier at the bottom of the High Street and the barriers on Edward Street.
10. We had to approach the scene slowly due to a hostile crowd of roughly 30 to 50 lads near Thomas Street on Market Street. There appeared to be 2 rival factions in the crowd who were shouting, taunting and throwing missiles. Some members of the crowd were thumping the side of the ambulance and maybe kicking it as we approached. My recollection is that we called for a back up ambulance on arrival at the scene but we were told that none was available.
11. I know that there were police at the scene when we arrived but I did not pay much attention to them as we were focused on treating the casualties and taking them to hospital as soon as possible. We were keen to leave as quickly as possible since we were a little afraid for our safety as well as for the safety of the injured. I think there was a police vehicle there but I cannot now recall whether it was a Landrover or car. I was not approached by any police officer while I was at the scene.
12. We stopped the ambulance about 10-15 feet from the 2 injured men lying on the road with the ambulance facing St Mark's Church. I have drawn a cross on the map to show the location of the church. As far as I recall no one in the crowd was targeting the injured men. The man I now know to be Robert Hamill was lying

close to the central reservation in the middle of Market Street on the Thomas Street side just past the entrance to Thomas Street and towards St Mark's Church. I have marked on the map [73918] a black dot with the letters "RH" where I believe Robert Hamill was laying. There were 2 ladies with him just sort of comforting him. The man I now know to be D was lying near to the pavement on the Thomas Street side of Market Street just past the entrance to Thomas Street in the direction of St Mark's Church. I have marked on the map a black dot with the letters "D" where I believe Mr. D was laying.

13. Following our usual practice Glen Stewart would have gone to one of the injured first and I to the other but I can't recall who went to Robert Hamill first. Neither can I say whether Robert Hamill had been given first aid before we attended him nor whether he was in the recovery position.
14. Robert Hamill had an abrasion to the side of his head in the area of his temple and this is the only injury that I recall. I thought that he had been hit by a bottle as there was a bottle lying nearby and there was wetness in the general area which could have been the contents of the bottle and his head was a little damp near the abrasion. I don't recall anyone telling me about him being hit by a bottle. Robert Hamill was unconscious but breathing with a good pulse. I do not recall any great blood loss and I would have recalled a large wound because that would have required dressing. I took a stretcher from the ambulance and he was placed inside the ambulance and oxygen therapy was commenced.
15. As far as I am aware the only treatment that was required was to keep him oxygenated by putting him on oxygen. He did not have any difficulty breathing but an unconscious patient will breathe more slowly and so it is standard procedure to give them oxygen. Glen and I agreed at the time that he had a good strong pulse and a good colour which shows that he was receiving adequate oxygen. Glen checked the patient's airway and it was clear.

16. We were able to do a quick check for pulse and breathing at the scene. I can't say if the back of Robert Hamill's head or his back was examined. We wanted to get away to the hospital as quickly as possible because the crowd was very hostile. I think there were names being shouted, curses and swearing.
17. We were told Robert Hamill's name from someone at the scene but I am not sure whether it was one of the 2 ladies with him or one of the other people standing nearby. D got himself up and climbed into the ambulance. We took one other person called Mr. Hull who had very minor injuries and turned up at the back of the ambulance. I recall only 3 injured persons but it is possible that a further person may have got into the ambulance after I went to the driver's seat. We have would record the names of the injured in the ambulance log book. I cannot say whether any of those who were with the injured came in the ambulance as I was driving and Glenn Stewart was in the back.
18. I do recall the ambulance was quite full and we usually like to take an unconscious person alone. I have been shown a copy of the Emergency Call Receipt [page **8154**]. Looking at this document, I can see that it shows a call at 2.02 hours for a second ambulance; with confirmation that none was available at the time we were leaving. I think I was told that the nearest ambulance was in Newry.
19. I drove the ambulance to Craigavon area Hospital which was about 1 ½ miles from the scene and we arrived at 02.09 hours. On arrival at the hospital we would have given a verbal handover to the casualty staff in relation to the patients. I recall that Robert Hamill was taken into the Accident and Emergency Department on a stretcher. I cannot recall how the others went in. We left the hospital at 02.10 hours
20. I cannot recall if Glen or I provided Ambulance Control with the names of the patients. We would not have radioed across with that information as it could have been intercepted. We may have made a phone call from casualty.

21. At around 5.30 am that same morning I assisted in transferring Robert Hamill to the intensive care unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast. As far as I recall he was being transferred because of a head injury. A doctor and nurse from intensive care would have travelled with him.

SIGNED: D.S. Morrow.  
DAVID MORROW

DATED: 29/03/08