

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF ELEANOR ATKINSON

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2007

I, ELEANOR ATKINSON, 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 was arrested by the police on 10 April 2001 for allegedly being involved in a conspiracy to pervert the course of justice in connection with the Robert Hamill murder investigation.
3. I am the wife of Robert Atkinson and we have been married for 31 years. We have two children. In 1997 Robert was a Reserve Constable in the RUC and I was working for the Northern Ireland Electricity [NIE]. I had worked there for about twenty years.
4. I made a statement to the police on 9 October 1997 which is at pages **9195** to **9197**. I remember that my husband Robert had been interviewed by the police about phone calls which had been made from my house. I only learned to whom the calls were supposed to have been made when my husband told me after he had been interviewed in September 1997.
5. On 27 April 1997 Robert was late home from his shift and he got a telephone call asking him to go back to the police station. When he returned home I asked him why he was so late and why he had to go back to work.

6. I had gone to bed after midnight that evening. Michael and Andrea McKee had stayed the night because both had consumed drink and could not drive and I wasn't going to drive them to where they lived. I don't know why they didn't get a taxi. They just asked if they could stay.
7. I heard the phone ring during the night. Robert answered it and told me he had to go back to work. At about 8am he returned home and he told me about a fight in the town centre involving people from the Coach Inn bus. Robert then went to bed.
8. I woke Andrea and Michael McKee and they came downstairs. We probably had a cup of tea and I told them what Robert had said about a riot in the town and something to do with the Coach Inn bus. Michael talked about his niece Tracey Clarke and that she had probably been at the Coach Inn. He also mentioned Allister Hanvey; because Tracey and he were engaged at that time. He asked if he could make a phone call.
9. This was the second or third time the McKee's had stayed the night at our house. We had got to know the McKee's through Tae Kwon Do which was held at different locations. It started off in Hamill Street, then it went to Killycomain and Farely Street and then finally it was held at the Brownstown Business Centre. My daughter was a pupil at the club run by Michael. He would come around our house two or three times a week. My husband assisted Michael McKee with the financial of the club as Michael was useless with money.
10. I got to know Andrea because she was always at the club with Michael. After a period of time they would both call at my house 2 or 3 times a week. Very occasionally we would go out socially together and we also went away on competitions including a training trip to Lanzarote in 1998 when about 30 members of the club went away.
11. When I was asked to make a statement on 9 October 1997 I was asked about two telephone calls and I was shown a copy of the itemised billing for our telephone number at page 9350. I was able to say that the telephone number I

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was referred to was that of Elizabeth Hanvey. I believe a call made at 08.37am on 27 April 1997 to that number was made by Michael McKee after I had told him about the disturbance in the town centre.

12. A telephone call at 16.27hrs on 2 May 1997 to the Hanvey telephone was, I believe, made by me. I spoke to Kenneth Hanvey about some books and kit for my daughter preparing for an exam towards her black belt in Tae Kwon Do. I knew that the Hanvey children did Tae Kwon Do and that they might be able to assist me in obtaining the equipment.
13. I knew Kenneth Hanvey as he worked as a foreman at the NIE and we worked closely together. I knew Elizabeth Hanvey through school and also at Tae Kwon Do Club because at that stage my daughter was attending Tae Kwon Do every night.
14. I also knew their son Allister Hanvey through Tae Kwon Do, and that he was going out with Tracey Clarke who was the niece of Michael McKee. Tracey attended Tae Kwon Do and she went on the trip to Lanzarote in 1998 but Allister did not.
15. On 10 April 2001 I was arrested and interviewed by the Police regarding allegations that I had conspired with Andrea and Michael McKee and my husband Robert regarding the telephone calls made to the Hanvey house on 27 April 1997 in an attempt to pervert the course of justice. A copy of the transcript of that interview, provided by the PSNI, is now produced and shown to me containing page numbers **21295 to 21353**. It is a true transcript of the interview to the best of my knowledge and belief.
16. On 31 May 2001 I was again interviewed by the Police on three occasions a copy of the transcript of those interviews, provided by the PSNI, is now produced and shown to me containing the page numbers **21354 to 21411**. It is a true transcript of the interview to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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17. I did not know that Andrea McKee had changed her statement until I was arrested in April 2001. I was made aware that Andrea McKee had made another statement to the police, which is now produced and shown to me containing page numbers **14887 to 14895**.
18. We had ceased being friends with the McKee's approximately two years earlier. Michael McKee had run away with a pupil's mother, he and Andrea had split up, and Andrea had returned to Wales. The Club had closed. I've had no further contact with them.
19. I do not know why Andrea and Michael would be saying something different about where they were on night of 26/27 April 1997 and that Michael had not made the telephone call at 0837hrs on 27 April 1997 from our telephone to the Hanvey home.
20. The only difference of opinion we had was with Michael McKee when he said that my daughter was not good enough to go the Tae Kwon Do World Championships.
21. I have been asked if Robert knows Bobby Jameson. I cannot really say if Robert had a good relationship with him as he did not discuss his work.
22. Robert and I have not paid any money towards legal representation for Andrea and Michael McKee in connection with their arrest and court appearances for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

SIGNED:

ELEANOR ATKINSON

DATE: