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STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF G

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2008

I, G, 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 joined the RUC, which is now known as PSNI, in November 1987 as a full-time Reserve Constable. I was stationed in Edward Street, Portadown from January 1993 to May 2002, when I retired on medical grounds. By the time of the incident in 1997 I had been a Reserve Constable for 9½ or 10 years.
3. There were regular Constables, full-time Reserve Constables and part-time Reserve Constables. As a full-time Reserve Constable I was trained for a slightly longer period of time than those working part-time, but we all had similar duties. In 1997 I was on normal police beat duties on foot, and patrol duties in a vehicle.
4. I had been on patrol many times in Market Street, Thomas Street, High Street and Woodhouse Street. In 1997, this was known as a flashpoint interface for sectarian violence in the centre of town. Woodhouse Street is a predominantly Roman Catholic area; Thomas Street is predominantly a Protestant area, and the two streets emerge onto the main street of Portadown, facing each other. Generally Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights were policed more heavily than usual. Usually, there were two Mobile Support Units, J1 and J2, stationed in Portadown at Mahon Road, but we would not have known their standby

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arrangements or how to contact them. Officers did not really walk the streets at night because it was too dangerous, so Portadown was usually patrolled by vehicles at night.

5. At the time of the incident involving Robert Hamill I was part of a 4-man builders' protection team responsible for protecting Robert Jameson. Mr Jameson was a local businessman involved in the construction of police stations, who had offices at his builder's yard. Detective Superintendent H's notebook entry recording an interview with me on 29th November 2000 containing pages **15944** to **15946** reminds me that I worked on protection duties for Mr Jameson from 1996 to November 1997. I am not 100% sure, but I think that in April 1997 I had been performing protection duties for Mr Jameson for about 18 months.
6. The team was split into 2 pairs and worked on a rota system. We always worked in pairs to protect ourselves as well as Mr Jameson. Reserve Constable P20 was my partner and we always worked together. Prior to this, I knew him by sight but we had never worked together before. Reserve Constables Paul Adamson and Robert Atkinson were the other 2 men in the team at that time; I could not tell you for how long they had worked together, because I joined Portadown police station after Reserve Constable Atkinson. Reserve Constable [REDACTED] replaced Paul Adamson at some stage, but I do not know when. I was never paired with Reserve Constable Atkinson. Each pair worked on alternate days and my pair did not have any direct contact with the other pair; our paths would not have crossed. We simply kept each other informed by notes left in the police vehicle and by mobile phone.
7. Reserve Constable P20 and I shared a mobile phone between us. When I started duty, neither of us had a mobile phone and the duty involved long hours. We never had a set finish time; it could have been 17:00 or 02.00, depending on Mr Jameson's diary. So to keep in touch with our families, we decided to buy a mobile phone. The monthly phone bill was in Reserve Constable P20's name but we shared the cost. He used to just show me the bill and I would give him half of whatever the cost was that month.

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8. We reported to the Duty Sergeant at Portadown Police Station at the beginning of each shift to sign out a radio and a weapon. We did not receive formal briefings from the Duty Sergeant. Our days were organised on the basis that Robert Jameson would request a pick up at a particular time and place on the previous day, depending on his appointments or his work that he had to do. If we had been coming back on to duty after rest days or days off, the team before us would leave a note of what we were to do that day; if there was going to be an unusual start then they would ring us the day before.
9. The job involved ferrying Mr Jameson to various sites and jobs that his company was undertaking. So we would take him to various police stations that his workers were building and to various meetings. If, for example, Mr Jameson had a meeting in Belfast City Centre, the officer in the passenger seat would get out and accompany him, while the driver would stay with the vehicle. It was close protection, so we would then remain with Mr Jameson for the whole day. If he had business or social events in the evening we accompanied him on those as well. If Mr Jameson had been attending an engagement or a dinner function, he would contact us by telephone or pre-arrange a time for us to return.
10. I did not know Robert Jameson's family at all. We were only detailed to protect Robert Jameson and no one else. Only Mr Jameson was allowed to be in the police vehicle and his family were not insured to be there. We did meet his wife and children in passing, but we had no connection with them. Mr Jameson had 3 children: Timothy, and also a smaller boy and a girl. Initially Mr Jameson lived with his wife, but at some point during the time in which I was on protection duty Mr Jameson and his wife separated. Mrs Jameson stayed in the family home, and Mr Jameson moved out. His new house was only a matter of 150 yards from the family home. Timothy was quite close to his father so he saw him quite regularly and used to pop round to his father's house. Timothy also used to work for his father during the school breaks.
11. I had never met Mr Jameson before I was assigned to protect him. My relationship with Mr Jameson was purely professional, and he only ever

confided in me on that basis. I am aware that there has been a suggestion that Mr Jameson and Reserve Constable **P20** were quite friendly, but I could not comment on that. From my observations on duty, Reserve Constable **P20** had the same contact with Mr Jameson as I did and, to my knowledge, they did not socialise together.

12. There is one conversation during the course of our duties that I can readily remember, without needing to be reminded. I cannot remember the date of this conversation, but I am now informed that it was on 9 May 1997. Reserve Constable **P20** and I were at Mr Jameson's house, the one to which he had moved after splitting-up from his wife. We had brought him back to change for an event that he was attending that evening. I cannot remember the time of day, but I would guess that it was after lunch. Timothy was staying with his father at that time. While Mr Jameson was changing upstairs, Reserve Constable **P20** and I went out through the back kitchen for a cigarette because, Mr Jameson being a non-smoker, we were not allowed to smoke in the house. Out of the back door there was a covered area like an outhouse.
13. While we were smoking, Timothy came out the back and we had a chat about general things. During that chat the subject of the assault on Robert Hamill came up. Timothy told us that he had been in the town centre that night. We asked him what had happened and he told us that he had been coming up from the bottom of town and had see a bit of a fracas going on. He said that he heard someone shout the word "Fenian". He said to us that he then ran up the town and saw that there was a fight going on, and he "put the boot in" on his way past and ran off.
14. Timothy was quite calm and matter-of-fact when he was told us about that. He did not appear to be frivolous or bragging; he seemed to be serious. Although brief, it was a credible and coherent account, and I believed what he told us. I can confirm that there was no smell of alcohol on his breath, he was not unsteady on his feet and his speech was not slurred; there was no indication that he had consumed alcohol at that time. He was fully aware that we were police officers and probably knew that we might report it, so I have no idea why he

mentioned it to us. If Timothy were around he would talk, but we did not really talk very often. That day he came out with us to have a chat. I was surprised by what he told us. He did not say who was fighting or if he recognised anyone in the crowd. We did not question him or ask him to explain what he meant by “Fenian” or his comment that “he put the boot in”. With the investigation into Robert Hamill’s murder going on, I recognised the importance of the information. I took Reserve Constable **P20** to one side and told him that we had to do something about it. Reserve Constable **P20** agreed, so we both decided to go down to the CID office in Portadown.

15. I did not make a note of the conversation with Timothy Jameson as I felt the best thing to do was to go straight to CID. We dropped off Mr Jameson at his office and told him that we were just heading down to the station for a few minutes. Mr Jameson had been upstairs in the bedroom changing during our conversation with Timothy. The bedroom is to the front of the house and we were at the rear so I doubt he could have heard what Timothy told us. We certainly did not tell him why we were going to the station.
16. We went immediately to Portadown Police Station and met Detective Inspector Irwin in the corridor of the station. I did not know Detective Inspector Irwin at that point, but Reserve Constable **P20** already knew him, from where I do not know, so asked him if he could have a word. Detective Inspector Irwin took us to his office and we told him what Timothy Jameson had told us. We were in his office for five or ten minutes, and he then took us into the Chief Superintendent’s office for a further 15 – 20 minutes. I did not know the Chief Superintendent’s name at the time, but I now told that it was McBurney. Reserve Constable **P20** relayed our conversation with Timothy Jameson to Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney. I let Reserve Constable **P20** do all the talking as he appeared to have a rapport Detective Inspector Irwin but I was present throughout; I had heard the same thing that Reserve Constable **P20** had heard, so I was there if they wanted to ask me anything. I believe that Reserve Constable **P20** told them in clear terms that Timothy Jameson had said that he had “put the boot in”.

17. I cannot recall Detective Inspector Irwin and Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney taking any notes. They did not ask us any questions or give us any instructions, nor were we told to make a statement. I do not know whether they took us seriously, but I would like to think that they did. I was not familiar with the normal procedure in these circumstances because CID was much further up the chain than we were; we would not have known what to say in these matters. We had passed on all the information that we had and they knew where we were if they had wanted to contact us, and we certainly would have given them a statement had they asked. I recall asking Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney if we should make notebook entries to record the conversation but my recollection is that he said, "Don't bother, boys, we'll deal with it". We therefore left the station and returned to Mr Jameson's house to continue our duties. Timothy had already left the house when we got back.
18. We had no further involvement in the investigation into the attack on Robert Hamill after that meeting. CID has a separate office within the police station and works very separately, so I assumed that CID would deal with the matter. I did not tell anyone else about it. We did not tell Mr Jameson about passing this information on, so I am not aware if he knew about it. If Mr Jameson did know about it, he did not get it from us. Our protection duties continued as before, without any problems.
19. On 7 December 2000, I made a statement about the conversation with Timothy Jameson which contains page numbers **19483 to 19485**. I have been referred to my later statement dated 23rd March 2001 containing pages **14351** and **14352** where I said, "*I did have further contact with Timothy Jameson again but the incident concerning the death of Robert Hamill was never mentioned*". By this I meant that I would have seen Timothy again in passing about Mr Jameson's house while I was on duty and would have said "Hello, how are you?", but the subject was never revisited.
20. I am informed that Timothy Jameson made a statement to the police on 9 May 1997 containing page numbers **266 to 269**. The contents of this statement were never made known to me. I was not aware of the fact that Timothy Jameson

was considered to be 1 of the 2 crucial prosecution witnesses. Nor was I aware that he was known as “witness B”. As a prosecution witness, he could well have been vulnerable because there was a lot of Loyalist violence around at that time at Portadown; I am sure that anonymity would have applied to a lot of prosecution witnesses. I was not informed of the decision to treat Timothy Jameson as a witness but I would have expected that, in light of the information passed on by Reserve Constable P20 and myself to Detective Inspector Irwin and Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney, he would have been treated as a suspect.

21. I have now been shown a file report entitled Police Service of Northern Ireland containing pages **15868** to **15875**. I have been asked to comment about the fifth on page **15871**, which reads: *“Timothy Jameson attended Lurgan Police station, by arrangement, on 19 November 2002. He was arrested by Detective Sergeant [REDACTED] at 19.40 hours and interviewed in the presence of his solicitor, Mr [REDACTED] by Detective Sergeant McDowell and Detective Constable J. He denied having made any such remarks to Reserve Constables G and P20 and stated he had nothing to do with the disturbance or assaults”*. The report further states that Timothy Jameson claimed that he was rarely at his father’s house and also, *“The fact that the police escort were there meant that his father had to be present in the house at that time”*. I am certain Timothy Jameson did state that he had “put the boot in” to us. Also Timothy was at his father’s house more than rarely and Mr Jameson was not present during that conversation for the reasons I have already explained.
22. On 29 November 2000, Detective Sergeant H contacted me to make enquiries about a phone call to a particular mobile phone number. He had some information or had seen it on a record somewhere that had linked the call to the mobile phone number that I shared with Reserve Constable P20, but he did not realise that I was a police officer. He did not mention the murder investigation or the investigation into the conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. He said that he was investigating a case and that this had come up in their investigations. I am now told that billing records show that on 27 April 1997 at 12.30pm a phone call was made from the Tae Kwon Do club to the mobile phone I shared

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with Reserve Constable **P20**. The records also show that Mr Jameson called the mobile phone at 12.14pm.

23. The Tae Kwon Do club was located in the gymnasium owned by Michael and Andrea McKee. Mr Jameson owned the Brownstown Business Centre which was a large office block and various garages and storage units. He rented out offices to the Tae Kwon Do Club. There was a central doorway into the main offices which then branched off: to the left was Jameson's Building offices and to the right was the Tae Kwon Do Club. I have never used that gymnasium but Reserve Constable **P20** had used the facilities. In fits and starts he would go to the gymnasium. He would get the notion into his head and exercise hard for a while but then lay off again. But he was always up and down talking to and drinking tea with the McKees. I knew Andrea and Michael McKee just because they ran the gymnasium and because I was often present at the Brownstown Centre on duty. I knew they were quite friendly with Reserve Constable **P20**. I also knew that Reserve Constable Atkinson went to the gymnasium, but I never met him there. Reserve Constable Atkinson and Reserve Constable **P20** knew each other well because they had served together previously.
24. As far as I am aware nobody at the Tae Kwon Do club other than Mr Jameson had my mobile phone number, but this was a mobile phone that I shared with Reserve Constable **P20**.
25. I can confirm that at no stage did Reserve Constable **P20** tell me what he had overheard at the Tae Kwon Do club regarding the assaults of Robert Hamill and **D**.

SIGNED:

G

DATED: