

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF GLYNNIS FINNEGAN

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2009

I, GLYNNIS FINNEGAN, 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. In April 1997, I was living in Craigavon with my then partner [REDACTED] and my son. [REDACTED] and I were in a relationship for 24 years, but this ended in 2003. I moved to Portadown on 4th September 2003.
3. I have known Michael and Andrea McKee for about 16 years. When my son was 5 years old he joined Michael's Tae Kwon Do club. My son had to go to training every night, which kept him off the streets. I had a good relationship with Michael so far as my son's training was concerned, but I saw him very little outside of my son's training. Every now and then we went to the odd barbecue with Michael's father, but it would more or less have been a family thing.
4. My friendship with Andrea built up as my son got more into his training and went to different clubs and entered competitions. This brought us to the Portadown Club. Andrea and I got closer through these trips. My son also began to learn Korean. He was dyslexic so he needed a little help with his Korean language and Andrea was good at this. Most of my contact with Andrea was based at the club,

but I visited her at home on occasions. My mother lived near the McKees so I used to call in for a cup of coffee with Andrea and perhaps go onto the gym, but this did not happen very often. We confided in each other about our relationships to some extent, but I would only discuss very important things with my partner. I would say that we became close friends.

5. I also met Andrea's sister who lived in Wrexham. She has four girls. When Andrea's sister visited Portadown, they would all go down to the gym. That is where I met them. My son got friendly with the eldest girl.
6. In 1997 Andrea and I had very little contact. Robert and Eleanor Atkinson's daughter began to train at the Tae Kwon Do club, and they sort of moved in on Michael and Andrea. They had a very close friendship. Michael had a lot of respect for the police and the military because his father was a lovely man who had been very high up, so he highly respected Robert's position and his job. Robert was very overpowering with Michael, taking the lead in both their friendship and ideas for the gym. I do not know whether this closeness extended outside of the club, I was never really around them. This was going on at about the time Andrea's marriage was beginning to break down. I get the impression that Andrea only tolerated the Atkinsons, but I was just pushed out at that time. My friendship with Andrea fizzled out a little. She was going to the gym less and less, which meant I didn't go either. It seemed to me that when she wasn't there, there was no reason to stay. It was very hard personally.
7. I did not really like the Atkinsons. I felt intimidated by Robert's strong personality. Eleanor had quite a strong personality as well – she was a lively one. I only got on with her when I had to. I have been shown document **53634** which is the first page of the rough notes of an interview with the police. It records, *"I know Andrea Mckee for about 10 years. Got to know her through the TWD club. Knew Michael McKee as well. Knew Robert and Eleanor Atkinson a lot better."* This could create the impression that I knew the Atkinsons better than the McKees which is not

correct for the reasons I have explained. I did not see Eleanor much at the Tae Kwon Do club. She lived just up the road from the business centre so she probably let her daughter go down to the club on her own. I did not go out with the McKees and the Atkinsons together, unless we were travelling to Dublin or to London with the Tae Kwon Do club. I used to drive alone with my son on the trips, but if we were staying in a hotel together then I would have to spend time with the Atkinsons; there was nothing else I could do. I was probably a bit quieter than all of them. I just did not know what to say.

8. I have been asked whether I knew Allister Hanvey. I first met Allister at the Tae Kwon Do club in 1992 or 1993, when he was about 13 or 14 years old. My son was 6 or 7 years old at the time. Allister and my son would sometimes have trained together because they were both top of their art for their age groups. But the class had to be broken up into an under-16s group and an adults group because it became too big. The younger boys were not allowed to watch the older boys because they were getting very aggressive. It is not really fair to say that Allister was particularly aggressive, but he liked to win as all the boys did. He won some world championships. I cannot remember exactly when, but Allister's Tae Kwon Do rather fizzled out. My son began to train to teach the younger boys where normally, as the more senior member, Allister would have been asked. From my contact with him, I thought that Allister was a very lively and intelligent boy. [REDACTED] also liked Allister. [REDACTED] would not go down to the club to watch my son unless I was sick because he thought he did not fit in, but he got to know Allister a little through the competitions and the Christmas parties. To my knowledge [REDACTED] and Allister did not socialise outside of the club.
9. I vaguely knew Allister Hanvey's family, but I didn't really have much contact with them. His parents were occasionally at the club when there were competitions, but I did not mix with them much; they always felt out of my league.

10. I knew Thomas Hanvey. On rare occasions he used to attend training sessions at the club to watch his nephew. Thomas sponsored some trophies, which gave him a great feeling of importance. He sponsored the Fighter of the Night trophy one year, which my son won. Sometimes we would talk and it was all really a one track conversation. He was such a strange person. He was mentally unstable. The poor man has been in and out of hospital lots of times. I felt sorry for Thomas. There did not seem to be much family support for him. He would just appear and was like a leech if anybody had shown any sort of friendship or compassion at all. He used to ring us constantly. Thomas was always somebody I tried to shake off.

11. Tracey Clarke is Michael McKee's niece. Michael was quite close to her. She used to turn up here and there. I talked to her when Andrea was there but the conversations were trivial. She was interested in 'girly' things: she was always going on about her hair, nails and clothes. I think Andrea was trying to help her. Andrea lived across the road from Tracey and gave her money. I am aware that Tracey went out with Allister, but it was no big deal at the time. Andrea never spoke of it to me.

12. I was living in Craigavon at the time of Robert Hamill's murder. The particular area in which I lived was an awfully bad place to live. I think I was just surviving, living there. My relationship with [REDACTED] was bad then and I was afraid because it was not safe for my son to even walk from home to the shop, which was 200 yards away. Robert Hamill's murder was just one of those things that happened. I would avoid turning on the news because I had more important things to worry about.

13. I cannot remember when I first became aware that Allister Hanvey had been arrested for the murder of Robert Hamill. I do recall that I did not get to know the full story until I saw a documentary about it on television. Perhaps people in Portadown were all talking about it, but they were not in Craigavon. I was shocked when I found out that Allister had been arrested. But you hear about people being arrested for things and then they are released. It was not the most important thing at

that time in my life. I know that sounds cold. I do not mean it to be because I know it is very serious, but I was going through an awfully bad time in my personal life. Andrea did not really talk to me about Allister's arrest because it was at this stage that things between us seemed to have dwindled and there was not much contact. I did not hear Thomas Hanvey mention anything about Allister's arrest either. He had this great pride about Allister and just used to grumble about the death of Allister's grandmother.

14. In 1997 I did not visit Portadown apart from to go the Tae Kwon Do club, which by then was based at the Brownstown Club. There was no discussion whatsoever of the murder of Robert Hamill at the club. People were coming and going for training, and as soon as the training was over I usually had to take my son home. I did sit in on classes sometimes and have a little bit of a chat, but I was probably the only one there from Craigavon. Portadown people and Craigavon people do not really mix. My son was accepted and treated as a hero because he was the youngest black belt, but I do not mix well with others. I did not really bother much with people apart from Andrea, and she did not talk to me about the Robert Hamill murder at that time.
15. I cannot remember hearing any gossip about Robert Atkinson or anyone else then. But looking back Robert did not seem like himself after the incident. He was quiet, I thought.
16. Andrea left Portadown because she separated from Michael. I cannot remember the date. I kept in contact with her by telephone when she moved away. We spoke nearly once a week. We had a land line, and I also used my son's and/or [REDACTED]'s mobile phone. My son's phone was pay as you talk, and [REDACTED]'s probably was too. We also sent Christmas and birthday cards.
17. After Andrea left, our telephone conversations mainly involved complaining about Michael and [REDACTED]. Andrea was very interested to know if I had seen Michael. I

know it is very important, but the issue with Robert Hamill and the Atkinsons was not a big topic of conversation.

18. Andrea told me on the phone that she was involved in a court case. I understood to a certain extent that the charges were for perverting the course of justice. Andrea just mentioned to me that Robert Atkinson had said that she was in his house when she had not been there and that she had ended up in court. Andrea said that she had told lies, but she did not want to go into any detail. It had something to do with phone calls I think. I cannot remember if she mentioned anyone else's name. I am not sure because I am confused between what I know from Andrea and what was in the documentary that was on the television. Nothing was ever really deeply discussed; it was more general than that. She told me how stressed she was getting. At one point Andrea said something to me about a silent phone call she had received. I think she was very distressed about having to leave her baby with her new partner in Wales to come to Portadown for a court case, and she felt scared for herself. I suppose she felt she was only going to have to appear once, but she did not know what was happening. I did not really give Andrea any advice. I just said to her, "*Look, do what you have to do to get it sorted out and get home again*". That was really all that was said.
19. The only thing I remember Andrea saying about Allister Hanvey is that she thought it was a shame. He had good career prospects in front of him with the club. She wondered why he would he ruin them. I do not remember Andrea telling me that she had been threatened by the LVF and told to keep quiet and not to testify at court. Nor do I recall that she talked to me about any other threats to her life or that the police were offering her any form of protection. It is possible that she did tell me these things. At the time I was going through a very difficult time in my life and I was taking medication which had quite a considerable affect on me.
20. I think Andrea knew to be careful with what she said to me because she realised I lived round the corner from Allister Hanvey on my own, and there were things that

I did not want to know. She lived in Portadown and knows what type of place it is. She could not even have visited me here. My attitude was that if I did not know something, then I could not say it and could not be blamed. Andrea also knew I was in pieces because of the awful time I was having with my ex-partner, and there was only so much that I could handle.

21. In 2001 I knew that Andrea was coming to Portadown and was involved in discussions with the police. Once I met Andrea along the road somewhere in Moria on her way back to Belfast International Airport. I am not exactly sure when this took place. We did not arrange it in advance. She gave me a ring to say she was on her way back to the airport. I was in Lurgan at the time, which is the town 10 minutes from Moria. I said "*Brilliant, is it all right if we can meet up even for a minute?*" I drove to Moria and she jumped into my car for 2 minutes. There was no time to talk properly. We just said "*hello*" really. It was hardly worthwhile, but it was nice to see her.
22. Absolutely nobody knew I was in contact with Andrea except [REDACTED]. I could not let anyone know it. I think [REDACTED] knew we were in contact up until the point when my relationship with him utterly broke down in 2003. [REDACTED] liked Andrea. I think he preferred me to have a friend, but he was a possessive person. He did not like me talking to anybody. He did not like me going anywhere. I had absolutely no life that he did not know about. But I do not think that he really cared about the phone calls to Andrea, probably because she lived so far away at that stage. [REDACTED] would not wish me any harm, so I do not think that he would not let this information out.
23. I do not know if the Atkinsons tried to contact Andrea after she moved away; Andrea never said anything about this to me.
24. I think at about the time Michael McKee went to jail in 2002, Andrea's new address in Wales was printed all over the newspaper and on the internet. All and sundry

could have got hold of it. I think Michael's address featured too. I could not believe it.

25. I have been asked to give my view about Robert Atkinson, Andrea and the Hanveys. My attitude was that it could have been my child walking down the street that night. It could have been Robert Atkinson's child. It could have been Andrea's child. If that was my son, you would want someone to react. I think it must have been absolutely horrendous for him to be lying there with all those guys around him. As for [REDACTED], he generally had a mind-your-own-business attitude; he just let them get on with it. I do not think he could have cared less. He was interested in motorbikes at the time and used to go on trips with his motorbike club, and he cared very little for anything else.
26. I have also been asked whether I remember when the Tae Kwon Do club closed down. My son had quit Tae Kwon Do by then. He packed it in because he narrowly lost two championships in England and Dublin.
27. I have been asked about the police records of a number of phone calls made in 2000 – 2001.
28. I am told that there is a record of a telephone call made in 2000 from my land line to Tracey Clarke's address. I did not see Tracey Clarke once Andrea had left Portadown, and did not speak to her. Once my son stopped training I did not see any of the people from the club unless perhaps I bumped into them in town. Tracey Clarke could not have known I was still in contact with Andrea once she left, so if I did make this phone call it would not have been to Tracey to ask her about Andrea. I may have rung Tracey Clarke's mum, [REDACTED] I did not phone her a lot. It may have been something to do with [REDACTED] waiting to get her leg removed. There was a whole fuss about it – she had been through counselling and then a religious friend tried to put her off having it done. It is possible that I was trying to find Andrea, or

perhaps [REDACTED], who was a step son of [REDACTED] was looking for Michael or my son. I am not sure.

29. In 2001 I can confirm that I did phone Andrea's land line or mobile using [REDACTED]'s mobile phone. I do not think [REDACTED] would have called her. At this time Andrea may have called me to say that she was going down to the police station to speak to the police, but I am not really sure.
30. I do not recall phoning the Hanveys in 2001. I did not have any contact with them once Andrea left, apart from if I bumped into them into casually in Portadown. I may have had Thomas Hanvey's telephone number. I had no reason to have the other Hanveys' numbers. [REDACTED] also felt sorry for Thomas and it is possible that [REDACTED] called him. Thomas occasionally popped to the house to see [REDACTED] about motorbikes, I would say maybe about once a month. My son and I would make our escape on the day we knew that he was coming. It is possible that the phone call was about one of these visits.
31. I only saw Michael once after Andrea left. Andrea offered me a writing bureau that belonged to Michael's father and was of great sentimental value. I personally did not want it, but I would have hated anything to happen to it so Michael came down in a trailer to collect it. I cannot remember how that was arranged. Andrea was the only person he talked about.
32. After Andrea left Portadown I had very little contact with Allister Hanvey. We used to see him in the local shop and would say "hello". He works on road works for the Electricity Board. If we saw him he would wave and we were always pleasant enough to him. I do not think he would have been so happy if he knew I was contacting Andrea. I live there. My greatest fear is all of this getting out. My son had no more contact with Allister Hanvey than I did. If my son saw him Allister would say, "hello, have you seen Tom?" and my son would say "no". I

think my son was very wary of him because of the authority Allister used to have at the club.

33. I remember seeing Robert Atkinson once in recent years. He worked in a little shop that sells stationery and inks for computers. I was shopping so I said "hello" and "how are you keeping?" I was very, very surprised to see him working in there. I have not seen Robert since then and there have been no discussions between us.

34. I have had no other contact with the Hanveys or the Atkinsons. To my knowledge [REDACTED] did not have any contact with them either. Andrea has not said whether she was still in contact with the Atkinsons.

35. I can confirm that I did not know any of these people: Dean Forbes; Marc Hobson; Rory Robinson; Wayne Lunt and Stacey Bridgett. I do not think [REDACTED] knew them either. I knew Bobby Jameson as the landlord of the gym. We had a cup of coffee once. I might have met his son Timothy, who may have trained at the club. I have no idea whether the McKees were friends with Bobby Jameson.

SIGNED:
GLYNNIS FINNEGAN

DATED: