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12 SEP 2008

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF ELIZABETH IRENE McKEE

DATED THIS DAY 1ST OF SEPTEMBER 2008

I, Elizabeth Irene McKee, 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 shall 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 working at Call-a-Cab in West Street, Portadown as a telephone operator. I believe the office was then situated at either 38 or 40 West Street. The office has since moved to another address.
3. The Call-a-Cab office had a waiting room at the front of the premises and the operator's office was behind a partition off of that room and towards the back of the building.
4. The office would be closed to people coming in off the street on a Saturday at 11pm or 12 midnight. This was to stop drunks coming into the reception office and causing problems. At the front of the building we had a roller shutter and it was impossible for anyone to enter the building once that had been closed and working in the office you could not hear what was happening outside.
5. Once the reception was shut and shutters were down we only accepted customers who had phoned the office. We did not have accounts and although customers were regulars they either pre booked or called when they wanted a taxi.

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6. In preparation for an evenings work I would always pre prepare A4 sheets of paper drawn into five columns. These would include the time; location to be picked up; customer name; destination; and driver number.
7. All of the drivers were given numbers and because Call-a-Cab is a small company I knew each drivers number. On a Saturday night we would have up to twelve drivers working. We operated a radio system for maintaining contact with the drivers. Neither the radio or telephone system had a call monitoring system to record details of the call.
8. The Call-a-Cab office was situated just outside of the street barrier in West Street and taxis could stop outside of the office to collect customers. Once the office was closed customers would telephone the office and still be collected from outside of the office especially if they were in the town centre.
9. I made a statement [page 17365] to the police 15 November 2000 but I had previously been seen by the police in 1997. The police would regularly call at our offices at that time following any incident in the town centre.
10. I have been shown the statement [page 17368] of Detective Sergeant P10 in which he says that he returned taxi call log sheets [pages 21163 - 21171] for the 27 April 1997 to me 21 May 1997. I accept this as being true.
11. On 26 April 1997 I was working at Call-a-Cab with [REDACTED] Neill. I can recognise her writing on the log sheets. I can therefore say that pages ~~21164~~ and 21166 is the handwriting of [REDACTED] *JMK*
12. My handwriting is on pages 21167 and 21168. On page 21169 is a mixture of both our writing and on 21170 is mainly [REDACTED] *IS SAME, WITH [REDACTED] FOR FOUR ENTRIES.* *JMK*
13. On page 21168 in the time column is 2.00 this would have been 2.00am there is a name Lunt being picked up from the Buffs Club and taken to his address which is across the other side of town.

14. Again on page **21168** for 2.0am collected from base, which means outside of the office, in the name of Hanvey to an address at [REDACTED] The number 8 would be a driver called [REDACTED] I cannot say when this taxi would have been booked.
15. I know the name Hanvey because they were regular customers but I do not know them as individuals. The same applied with the name of Lunt again regular customers but I did not personally know them.
16. I have been asked if I was aware of a public disturbance in the town on the night of 26/27 April 1997. I honestly cannot remember. Drivers may have mentioned over the radio that there is a ruckus going on but now I cannot remember.
17. On page **21168** at 2.15am is the name [REDACTED] for collection, Craigavon to the town. The name does not ring a bell as a regular customer neither do I know the address. The driver number 9 was Alf Annesley. The reference to town could have been anywhere when the taxi is booked the customer doesn't necessarily say where in the town.
18. I finished work in the taxi office about 3.0am on Sunday 27 April 1997. My husband [REDACTED] could have been working in his taxi but I am not certain that he stayed on. I may have heard about the disturbance from [REDACTED] when he came home or I could have heard about it on the news.
19. I have been asked if I knew any of the people who were subsequently charged with the death of Robert Hamill. The only name I recognise is Stacey Bridgett because I believe his brother was a customer of ours. I have no other knowledge of the fighting in Portadown Town Centre on the night of 26/27 April 1997.

SIGNED: I. McKee

IRENE McKEE

DATED: 1-09-2008