

a carry-out of alcohol and went down to the Pleasure Gardens, which is a place where a lot of teenagers often met up and drank alcohol, usually before going on to the Coach Inn in Banbridge. We went to the Pleasure Gardens most weekends. I bought a bottle of cider before I got there.

5. Marc and I got to the Pleasure Gardens at about 19:10 and Allister Hanvey joined us sometime later, maybe around 21:30 or 22:00, but I cannot be sure now after all this time. I think he came from home. I knew Allister through school although I would not say that I was really good friends with him. I would go out with him on weekends sometimes if he was in the same pub or at the Coach Inn.
6. As I said in my first statement dated 11 May 1997 at page **9139**, Allister was wearing jeans and a tracksuit top that was mainly grey with orange stripes half-way down the arms. I have not seen that jacket since. We also met Gregory Blevins and Philip Leckey at the Pleasure Gardens. They came down together. However, apart from Marc, I had not planned to meet up with anyone else that evening, the others just came down by chance.
7. We stayed socialising, talking, and drinking at the Pleasure Gardens until about 22:00 when Allister, Marc and I went to Dean Johnston's flat. Dean's girlfriend at the time, Leanne Hobson, was Marc's sister. I don't know if they expected us, we just called round. We arrived there at around 22:30 and stayed until about 01.30. We were just socialising, drinking and talking with Dean and Leanne and listening to music.
8. By the time we left Dean's flat I was a happy medium level of drunk: neither sober nor legless. I don't believe that Marc and Allister were drunk either. As I was hungry we headed to the Chinese takeaway at the top of Jervis Street and West Street in Portadown. I have marked this Chinese takeaway on the map at page **72904** with a "C".

9. We intended to meet people coming off the bus from the Coach Inn. There are some people on that bus we would have known because they were our friends. For example, I believe that Stacey Bridgett would have been at the Coach Inn that night. Nothing was planned; we were just going to meet people off the bus and then if there was a party or gathering later that evening then we would take it from there. The people coming off the bus wouldn't have been expecting to see us.
10. I have marked on the map at page **72903** where the bus would stop with a "B".
11. The Coach Inn finished around 01:15 and then there was the length of time it took to drive from Banbrigde down to Portadown. It would have been around 01:30 or 01:40 when the bus would arrive.
12. We left the Chinese at around 01.40 and started walking towards the town. I remember that between Jervis Street and Mandeville Street opposite the Call-a-Cab on West Street we stopped to talk to an old man who asked me for cigarettes. Allister decided to walk on ahead of us slowly and he told us to follow him down towards St Mark's Church in the centre of town. He didn't mention any plans to meet anyone. We got separated from him by a grocery shop or around there somewhere. I did not see him again for the rest of the evening.
13. It would have taken Marc and me ten to twenty minutes to walk down to the Church after we left the Chinese restaurant, so we arrived there around 02:00. The bus would have already arrived in town by 02:00. Marc and I arrived at the summer seats at the front of the church and there was no one else there, it was just the 2 of us. No one joined us.
14. From the Church we could see that there was something going on downtown. There were a lot of people, maybe about twenty or so, halfway between the Church and Woodhouse Street and there were police trying to control the crowd. I couldn't say how many police there were. The crowd was shouting at the police but I could not

hear clearly what they were shouting. The crowd was not too far from us and we had a clear view. However, I did not recognise anyone in the crowd. By the time we saw them, the police had the crowd already under control.

15. I have marked with an "X" on the map at page **72903** where the crowd was in relation to us when we were sitting at the Church summer seats. It was a fair distance but we had a clear view.
16. Stacey Bridgett was not in the crowd. However, we did see Stacey Bridgett pass by the crowd and the Church and then walk up West Street in order to get from where the Coach Inn bus stopped to his home in Brownstown.
17. If Stacey Bridgett was on the bus and the bus had been early enough, he would have been up past us before we even got downtown. It depends on what time the bus arrived in.
18. As I said in my first statement, Marc and I decided to go home at around 02.05. We saw two ambulances and someone being taken to the ambulance on a stretcher. However, we did not see any fighting and we did not get involved in any fighting.
19. When I was interviewed by the Police initially I told them exactly what happened and these facts were recorded in my first statement dated 11 May 1997 (page **9137**). However, subsequently, I was called down to the police station again and was forced to produce the second statement dated 15 May 1997 (page **9141**). The contents of that statement are not true. The information in that second statement does not come from me.
20. I got called down to the Police station the second time from my dad's house. When I went for questioning, the police put words into my mouth. I felt that the officer taking the statement Mr. Honeyford, got out of hand and I was very intimidated at the time. When I felt that the questioning was getting out of hand, I said, "look, I

have told you all that I know and I would like to speak to a solicitor.” Basically I was told that this was not possible. I was told that they had a solicitor but he was at Lurgan Police station. That was their solicitor, it wasn’t mine, and I wanted to speak to my own solicitor.

21. I was at the Police station on a Thursday and was due to go away on holiday that Saturday with my girlfriend. The Police basically threatened me by saying that there was no way I would be going away; I wouldn’t be getting on the plane things like this, and all because of what I said in my first statement. They said “You are supposed to be going on holidays on Saturday morning, imagine how your girlfriend is going to feel; she is going to wake up in the morning and she is supposed to be laying on a sunny beach sunbathing herself and imagine how humiliated she is going to be. She will have to tell her workmates what has happened.” It was just pressure, pressure, pressure.
22. They said that my two friends that I had been with that night had been charged, and that I was going to be charged as well. They never actually said what I would be charged with but I assumed that it would be the same charges as Marc Hobson and Allister Hanvey as I had been with them on the night of 26 April 1997. They were basically saying, “Are you going to change your first statement or are you going to go up for charge?”
23. They said things about my father, who worked for the Church of Ireland, like “imagine how your father would feel going into church on Sunday morning knowing that his son’s name was splashed across the newspaper or on the news. Imagine how humiliated your dad’s going to feel about this.”
24. At the start, there was only this guy Honeyford but then when he realised that he had broken me down or worn me out, then he went and got someone else to come in. Eventually the police wore me down and I made the second statement. I was very naïve back then, I was 18 and scared witless.

25. In the second statement (at page 9142), I name a number of people including Stacey Bridgett, Rory Robinson and Marc Hobson as being in the crowd. None of that is correct; it was the Police's words. They definitely wanted that. The statement was made under pressure.
26. I have been asked whether I complained to anyone about the treatment by the police after I was forced to make this second statement. I spoke to my brother about the way I was treated but I did not seek any legal advice. I did not want to say anything about the second statement to anyone, even those such as Stacey Bridgett, Marc Hobson, or Rory Robinson whom I had named and implicated. I was frightened by what the police had done. I just wanted to get on with my life.
27. It has been pointed out to me that Detective Constable Honeyford was the same officer who recorded my first statement on 11 May 1997 and that he did not place any duress on me at that stage. I remember that Detective Constable Honeyford was pretty nice on that first occasion but at the second interview he put me under a lot of pressure. I thought it was strange but cannot explain why his attitude changed. I have no idea why.
28. From around June 1997, after I returned from the holiday with my girlfriend, I tried to contact the police in order to get my statement retracted because it was made under duress and was not true. I rang the police station loads of times saying I wanted my statement retracted. I asked to speak to CID, Mr. Honeyford in particular and left messages but he would never get back to me.
29. I think I got through to Mr. Honeyford sometime after Christmas 1997 and it was arranged that I would retract the second statement. I can't remember whether he rang me or I got through to him. I said "Look, I want to retract the second statement" I said it was made under police duress and it was not the full facts and I wanted it withdrawn as soon as possible.

30. I have been reminded that on 16 October 1997 I actually had a consultation with the Director of Public Prosecutions, Gordon Kerr QC, Detective Superintendent Cooke, and Detective Sergeant Bradley in relation to the evidence contained in my second witness statement. There is a note of that consultation, (page **17591**). I remember having the consultation but cannot remember whether I mentioned to them that I had made the second statement under duress. I did not know that I could discuss that with them. I did not know what their role was. I thought I had to deal with Detective Constable Honeyford directly because I had made the statements to him. Again, I had no legal representative with me during that consultation.
31. In fact, I believe that it was Detective Constable Honeyford who took me down to the consultation and in the car he said “do you remember what you said in your second statement, do you? Do you understand what you said?” I do not think I said to him then that I made the statement under duress. I was still very frightened to death, very naïve. However, on the other hand, maybe I am mistaken about this. I cannot remember now for certain whether it was in fact Detective Constable Honeyford who took me to the consultation.
32. When I made the third statement dated 13 March 1998 (page **17295**) it was made to Detective Sergeant Bradley. I told him that Detective Constable Honeyford had placed me under duress in order to obtain the second statement. I was pretty headstrong about it; no, I was pretty angry about it. I had had enough of it all. I just wanted it sorted out. It had all gone on too long. However, Detective Sergeant Bradley did not say that he would take any action against Detective Constable Honeyford or investigate my complaint. Again, I did not have any legal representation when I made that third statement.
33. I have been asked why there was a gap between my second and third statements May 1997 and March 1998. When I eventually got through to Honeyford and I think it was arranged over the phone that I would go to Craigavon Court to retract

the statement. I didn't know what this sort of thing was. If they had provided us with a legal representative, maybe it would have been handled quicker.

34. In my third statement at page 17295 I talk about my second statement. It reads, "At the time, I made it up because I was afraid and now I know that it is known by others in Portadown what I said in the second statement and because of that fact I am not prepared to give evidence in court regarding the second statement."
35. It has been suggested to me that the reason I was not prepared to give evidence is because people in Portadown found out what I said in my second statement. I did not actually know that others knew about my second statement until I was informed of that by the police. No one encouraged me or forced me to retract that second statement. I have not been threatened by anyone at any stage and I have not been put under pressure not to give evidence. I did not refuse to give evidence to protect Allister, Stacey or Marc. The reason that I retracted the second statement was because it was untrue.
36. I have been asked if I knew of Robert Atkinson in 1997. I do not know the name
37. I did visit Marc Hobson when he was in prison and was charged in relation to the Robert Hamill murder. Marc may have phoned me to see if I was coming down to see him, but he would have informed his parents that I wanted to go down to see him.
38. I felt that Marc being in prison was unfair because I was with him on that evening. However, we would not have talked about the incident on the evening of 26 April 1997. We would not have discussed why he was in prison or whether he felt he was unfairly charged. We might have discussed what it was like to be in prison. We would have talked about football and girls, the usual stuff that teenagers chat about. We would not have discussed my second statement.

39. Following my third statement I did not have any further involvement with the police or the investigation except a few years ago when they questioned me, on 29 May 2001, about a telephone call that was supposed to have been made to my house from Thomas Hanvey's house on the morning of 27 April 1997 at 09.46. I never received any telephone call from Thomas Hanvey and I told the police this. There were never any phone calls made.
40. The police also asked my father about the telephone call and he confirmed that he did not receive any such telephone call. He would have been up around that time to get ready for church. I have been asked whether I received any telephone calls from Allister Hanvey or Thomas Hanvey or concerning Allister Hanvey after the evening of 26 April 1997. I am certain that I did not.

SIGNED: .....
JONATHAN WRIGHT

DATED: 28 Nov 2008.....