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05 JAN 2009

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF LISA MARIE HOBSON

DATED THIS 30<sup>th</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2008

I, LISA MARIE HOBSON, 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 have lived in Portadown all my life. In April 1997 I was 16 years old and I attended school. My parents had separated and I was moving around to live with different friends at that time. Tracey McAlpine and Pauline Newell are my step-sisters.
3. I remember completing a police questionnaire on 29 April 1997 about my movements on the night of 26 – 27 April 1997. The questionnaire is contained at pages **08107** to **08108**.
4. I am told that the police asked me to complete second questionnaire but I refused to answer any of the questions. This questionnaire is contained at pages **70973** to **70975**. I do not recall being seen by police and refusing to answers their questions.
5. I recall that DC **P6** coming to see me at my mother's house on 12 May 1997 to ask me questions. My mother is [REDACTED]. DC **P6**'s notes of that interview are

contained at page 3499. The notes state: "Lisa is currently staying with [REDACTED]". She is a friend of mine with whom I must have been staying at the time.

6. DC **P6**'s notes say at the end: "Refused to make a statement. Lisa further states her father was the subject of a beating". I may have been asked to make a statement but I cannot remember this. My father was beaten up and had been on a life-support machine. He warned me to stay out of the investigation because of what had happened to him.
  
7. When I completed the first questionnaire on 29 April 1997 some of the information I gave to the police was not correct. I said I had been at the Coach Inn in Banbridge on the night of 26 April 1997, got the bus back to Portadown and when I got off the bus I walked through town at around 1:30 – 1:40 am with **P53** and Pauline Newell. This is not correct. I did not go to the Coach Inn that night. I had, in fact, been drinking in Brownstown Park with Joanne Bradley, Heidi Reaney, Michelle Jamieson **P53** and Wayne Lunt. We then decided to go into the centre of Portadown.
  
8. Joanne Bradley gave a statement to the police which is dated 12 May 1997 and contained at pages 9608 to 9609. In this statement Joanne says she left the house at 9:30pm and met Heidi Reaney, Michelle Jamieson and Wayne Lunt in Connaught Park. Her statement says: "I should say that my friend Lisa Hobson was at my house and she left with me." Joanne also says that after being in Connaught Park: "We went to Michelle's house where we sat in the living room first of all before going upstairs to drink our carry outs." Joanne's statement then says: "...a while after getting to Michelle's house we went for a walk to the Brownstown area just to see who was around and then back to Michelle's house where we all sat around in the living room. I had been told by my mother to be home for 1am on the Sunday morning so I left Michelle's in time to get me home. I am not sure what time I left but Lisa Hobson and I left together, we were going the same way as she was going into town to meet the Coach bus."

9. DC **P6**'s notes state I said: "*She states that she was at Michelle Jamieson's house on the night of Sat 26 4 97 and that Michelle Jamieson, Joanne Bradley, Heidi Reaney and Wayne Lunt were there. They were drinking and listening to music. Hobson claims that at about 0035 hours on Sunday 27 4 97 all 5 left the house and walked Joanne Bradley to the footbridge to Union Street where they left her before going into Portadown town centre where they intended to meet the Coach Bus.*"
  
10. I cannot remember being at Michelle's house before we went to the town centre that night. If I said I was there, I must have been. The carry out drinks Joanne says we had at Michelle's house would have been Buckfast tonic wine. Although I told DC **P6** that we left Joanne at the footbridge to go home, and Joanne says in her statement that she went home, this is not what happened. I remember that Joanne came with us into the town centre. I did not tell DC **P6** this so that Joanne would not get into trouble with her parents.
  
11. We used to go into town to be nosey around the time when the bus from the Coach Inn came in. I think when we walked into town we were all together: me, Michelle, Joanne, Heidi, Andrew and Wayne. We would have walked down West Street. I cannot remember walking past, or going into, the Chinese takeaway. I do not recall seeing a lad called **P25**. I am told that he was Heidi's boyfriend but I do not recall knowing him.
  
12. DC **P6**'s notes continue: "*She states that on her way to meet the bus all four were still together when a row developed on the other side of the street and that at that time they were outside Thorntons shop.*" I have been shown a photograph which is contained at page **00231**. I can see Thorntons on the right-hand side of the photograph. I cannot remember exactly where I was when coming down the street, but I think it was on the far right down West Street.

13. I do not recall exactly when I saw the disturbance in the town centre. I just remember being in the middle of town, that people were hurling abuse at police and there was a person lying ground. I just saw a body on the ground and I could not see the person's face. I only saw one body on the ground. Looking down Market Street with the St Mark's Church behind me, I would say the body was lying on the right hand side of the street at the bottom of Thomas Street. I think I was standing in the middle of the road but I cannot remember exactly where I was.
14. When I looked over I saw a person who looked like Michelle kneeling beside the body. The girl had blond hair midway down her back, she was of medium build and she was just a wee bit shorter than I am, which is about 5 feet 7 inches. It looked as though the girl was trying to help the person. I did not see anyone kicking the body. I do not know if Michelle knew the person. Michelle and I were not close friends and I have not seen her since the incident so we have not spoken about what happened.
15. I remember there were a few police Land Rovers parked across the street. They were facing up towards the church. However, I do not remember seeing any police officers getting out. The person lying on the ground was between the police and crowd. I do not remember seeing an ambulance at any stage.
16. I cannot remember how many people were in the crowd but the street was full up with people, both male and female. People in the crowd were shouting at the police. I cannot remember what they were shouting, just that they were hurling abuse and throwing bottles. I did not see any fighting at all. I did see a lad I do not know throwing bottles at the Land Rovers and shouting things. I do not recall seeing any police out of the Land Rovers at that stage and I do not remember seeing the police pushing the crowd back.
17. DC P6's notes state: *"She is very vague about what happened at that time but states that they got separated. She did not recall seeing Lunt being put in the police*

*landrover and claimed he had not been involved in the fight but could not say he was in her view between the start of the fight and Lunt being placed in the Landrover”.*

18. Wayne Lunt was arrested for hurling abuse at the police. I did not see him get arrested but I did see him being let out of the back of the police Land Rover parked at the top of Woodhouse Street at the junction with High Street. The group of us who walked into town must have got separated at some point because Michelle was beside the person on the ground and Wayne was arrested.
19. I cannot remember how long I had been standing in the street when I saw Wayne get out of the Land Rover. I am not sure if I saw any police officers outside the Land Rovers at that stage but I accept that someone must have been out on the street to have arrested Wayne. I cannot remember what Wayne was wearing or whether he had a bottle with him. We probably each had a bottle with us if we had not finished them off. I cannot remember seeing Wayne running away from police officers or in the crowd. I cannot recall seeing an unmarked car with police officers in it either.
20. DC P6's notes say: *“She also recalls meet up again with Michelle who at the time was standing over one of the IPS”*. I am told that “IPS” is shorthand for “injured persons”. My last memory of her now is when she was kneeling by the person who was injured and I cannot remember talking to her afterwards.
21. I have been asked who else I saw at the scene that night. I saw my step-sister Pauline Newell and her sister Tracey. Pauline made a statement to the police which is contained at pages **9128** to **9130**. In this statement she says: *“As I passed the hoarding where they’re renovating an old restaurant (The Manella) I met Andrew Hill and Lisa Hobson. They were sort of stopped in the middle of the road.”* I remember seeing Pauline but I do not know exactly where it was. I do not know what “The Manella” is. Pauline also said in her statement that she saw Dean Forbes

and Stacey Bridgett at the scene. I know both Dean and Stacey but I cannot remember seeing them that night.

22. The notes made by DC **P6** say: *"She denies being at the party in McAlpines and claims to have wandered about and eventually fell in with Noelle Moore [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and then Mark Brown [REDACTED] Kenny Milligan of [REDACTED] and Lee Stockdale [REDACTED]. She states that they were in Jervis Street when moved on by police at about 6 am."*
23. I did not go back to Tracey McAlpine's house that night. I cannot remember where I did go but I was definitely not at a party after the incident. I know that several people have said that I did go to Tracey McAlpine's house but I was not there. I did not really get on with my step-sisters at the time.
24. PC Cooke recalls speaking to me, Noelle Moore and Kenneth Milligan in the town centre at about 5:50am. PC Cooke's statement dated 27 April 1997 is contained at pages **6363** to **6365**. I was friendly with Noelle at the time but I cannot remember being with her or being moved on by police that night. I thought I had gone home but I cannot remember. I may have been out all night but I definitely did not go to a party. I do not know PC Cooke but he describes me as having long, black, curly hair which is what my hair was like at the time. PC Cooke describes Kenneth as having black hair but I remember that his hair was ginger.
25. I am told that Tracey Clarke is one of the people who said I was at the party at Tracey McAlpine's house. I do not know Tracey Clarke, I have only heard people speaking about her.
26. I have been asked if I know various people and whether I saw them at the scene that night. I do not know Reserve Constable Robbie Atkinson. I do know Mark Brown and Lee Stockdale but I do not remember seeing them in town that night. Marc Hobson is not related to me but I do know him. I do not know Allister Hanvey. I

know Rory Robinson slightly but I cannot remember seeing him that night. I know David Woods but I did not see him either. I also know Andrew Allen but only as "Fonz" and I did not see him on that night either. They were all regulars of the Coach Inn. I know of Timothy Jameson as Michelle's cousin. Denis Hayes is my cousin and I do not recall seeing him at the scene.

27. I cannot remember seeing coverage about the death of Robert Hamill. I probably talked about it afterwards but I cannot remember who to. I have not had any contact with Joanne Bradley for years and I have only seen Heidi in passing.
28. In the summer of 1997 I moved to Belfast because I was pregnant. I was there less than a year and then moved back to Portadown. I stayed there until about 2001 when I moved to England for two years.
29. I am told that DC McCrumlish visited me on 21 December 2000 and that I refused to make any comment or to answer any questions. I was living at that address at that time but I know that I did not see any police officer there.

**SIGNED:**           *L. M. Hobson*            
**LISA MARIE HOBSON**

**DATED:**           30/12/08