



STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF PAULINE ROGERS (nee Newell)

DATED THIS DAY OF 2008

I, PAULINE ROGERS, 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 previously made a statement to the police dated 20 May 1997 containing pages **9128-9130** regarding the death of Robert Hamill. That statement has been produced to me and I believe the contents of that statement to be true.
3. I lived in Portadown from the age of about two or three and attended school and college in the town. In April 1997 I was 17 years of age and working full time at a fruit and vegetable shop called Day Fresh in the Magowan Buildings on West Street, Portadown. I was living with my mother, [REDACTED] and brother, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on the Brownstown Estate. My mother is now [REDACTED] as she remarried. Lisa Hobson is my step-sister.
4. My older sister Tracy McAlpine also lived on the Brownstown Estate and there were occasions when I stayed at her house, usually at the weekends. It would take me about ten minutes to walk from the town centre to my sister's house.
5. I was best friends at that time with Kelly Lavery and had been close with Tracey Clarke. Tracey worked in a travel shop which was close to where I worked and we met because we both went to the same bakery in between our two shops. Everybody knew that you don't go near Tracey you don't even try to flirt with her because she

was Allister Hanvey's girlfriend. It wasn't as much that they were scared of him, it was more because of male friendship, that's Allister's girl, nobody messes. Tracey and I had a falling out at some stage; I cannot remember now what it was about but I think it was before April 1997 because she did not come over and get ready with us before going to the Coach. I was also friends with Shelley Liggett.

6. My memory of this time is not very good. I have read the statement which I gave to the police in 1997 and whilst I remember some of it, other parts are a bit alien. I could not put my hand on my heart and say "Now I remember a lot about it". My statement was the truth as far as I was concerned when I gave it to the police in 1997.
7. On 26 April 1997 I went to the Coach Inn at Banbridge with my sister Tracy and Kelly Lavery. The Coach was a regular place for us to go on a Saturday, depending if we had enough money. We always caught the bus from Portadown and returned in the same way. It was mainly Protestants who went to the Coach and got the bus there and back.
8. I always went to the Coach with my sister and the girls. We were also quite close with some of the guys from the Brownstown Estate that I had grown up with; they looked after us, we all sort of met up and sat together when we were out. They were; Dean Forbes, who lived two doors away from my mum, Stacey Bridgett, who lived just around the corner; Andrew Osborne, who was the boyfriend of my friend Judith Holland. Others I knew, but not so well, were P46 and Stephen Bloomer.
9. It was the same people who went to the Coach Inn most weekends. There was a disco at the Coach and we would be drinking. We usually had one or two drinks before we went out because it was fairly expensive to drink in the Coach. I was most likely drinking cider and blackcurrant because it was a cheap drink and I probably drank about eight pints. I suppose I was a bit worse for drink but I knew what was going on around me.
10. I think the Coach shut at 1.00am. I believe that I was on the first bus back to Portadown on the morning of 27 April 1997 because it gets cold waiting around and I am not one to hang around. I sat with my sister and Kelly on the bus. There was rarely

any trouble on the bus coming back because some people would have been passed out and everyone was drunk and tired. It was normally pretty subdued.

11. The bus would have stopped at Z Cabs at the bottom of the town where the barriers would have been. I then went into Boss Hoggs for a super chip, a portion of chips with special spicy gravy. I went in there every Saturday night because I needed food. Other people coming back from the Coach may have gone to Herron's Country Fried Chicken, which was close to Boss Hoggs.
12. I think I was on my own when I went into Boss Hoggs. I recall that my sister and Kelly did not want to eat so they walked on slowly. It did not bother me because there were lots of people about. I think I queued for a minute or two before I was served and I recall the queue behind me was very big because I remember thinking 'I've got here okay.'
13. When I came out of Boss Hoggs I could see my sister and Kelly walking slowly up the town. I think they were just before the junction of High Street with Woodhouse Street. I crossed over from Boss Hoggs to the Woodhouse Street side of High Street and walked up the road to catch up with them.
14. When I walked past Woodhouse Street I saw a Police Land Rover at the top of that street about 10 feet behind the give way sign, which was in the middle of the road. The Land Rover was facing down towards High Street in the direction from which I had walked. I had to walk off the pavement into the road a bit to walk around the front of the vehicle. As I walked past the Land Rover I remember seeing Dean Forbes and Stacey Bridgett by the passenger door of the police vehicle. The door of the vehicle was open and I knew they were talking to someone, so I assumed that they were talking to the police in the vehicle, but I did not see any of the police officers. As far as I can remember there was no one else with them. As I walked past I said, 'Hello' to Dean and Stacey but did not stop, I just wanted to catch up to my sister and get home.
15. I must have looked down Woodhouse Street when I spoke to Dean and Stacey and I saw an older man walking down Woodhouse Street away from the High Street. I

described him to the police in my statement as being elderly. I have a memory of him being hunched over or having a walking stick.

16. In my statement I refer to seeing Rory Robinson. I did not know him personally but would have recognised him. I also would have recognised Davy Woods and 'Fonzie' because they were friends with the boys we knew. I have been asked if 'Fonzie' is the nickname of Andrew Allen; it could be. I remember seeing these three boys as I was walking up the High Street; Davy was walking on his own. They had been on the bus back from the Coach I believe and were walking on the opposite side of the road from me.
17. The noise level was typical of a Saturday night: the odd shout or laugh. I remember as I passed the junction of Thomas Street/Woodhouse Street I heard little muffles of bickering but nothing that drew my attention to think 'what's going on?' and I just continued. I saw no fighting or anything like that. I do not remember seeing or hearing anyone banging on the police Land Rover or any glass breaking. I have no memory of looking up Thomas Street as I walked towards the church. I would probably have been near Clarks Shoe Shop and the First Trust bank when I heard the bickering. I cannot now remember anything specific that was said. There was noise on the street from people walking home and I would hear boys arguing amongst themselves all the time. I did not turn around; I just wanted to get home.
18. I caught my sister and Kelly up and when I reached the summer seats outside of the church I saw Lisa Hobson, my stepsister. She was with P51, my best friend's mum's son. We just passed a few words between us and I walked off in the direction of West Street with Tracey and Kelly. I cannot remember seeing anyone else with Lisa. I do know of Wayne Lunt, Michelle Jamieson, Heidi Reaney and Joanne Bradley but I cannot recall seeing any of them when I stopped to talk to Lisa. There were other people in the vicinity but Lisa and P51 were the only two I remember seeing.
19. I continued to walk along West Street and could still hear the bickering but did not pay it any attention. It was only light bickering and I do not now recall hearing any sectarian shouts. I did not turn around and look back towards the town centre. I have

been told that Tracey Clarke said that I was with her in West Street and that I ran back into the town centre after hearing the shouting. I did not see Tracey Clarke whilst I was walking up through the town; I believe the last time I saw her was on the bus with Shelley Liggett. I did not go back into the town centre having walked through High Street into Market Street and I do not remember if anyone else was walking back into town. I just walked to my sister's house where I spent the night. Kelly was originally supposed to stay with me at my mum's house but we all stayed at my sister's instead. I did not see any other police cars but as we got closer to the Brownstown Estate I remember hearing sirens.

20. When we got to my sister's house we all went to bed because Tracey was not feeling very well. I remember that Shelley Liggett called at the house to collect her clothes. I also remember letting Judith Holland and Andrew Osborne into the house not long after we arrived. I spoke with Judith for a while I think but Andrew dozed off. I was shattered and just wanted to go back to bed.
21. I cannot remember whether Judith and Andrew left before or after I went to bed but I believe I slept until about 5.00am. Kelly, Tracey and I were sleeping in the same bed because it was cold. I got up at some stage and got some water from the kitchen before going back to bed. When I went downstairs I saw Dean Forbes, Allister Hanvey, P46, 'Fonzie', and Christopher Henderson in the living room. I knew Allister as Tracey Clarke's boyfriend. Shelley Liggett was there and Tracey may have been with her. I think my sister was still in bed and Kelly was downstairs but I'm not 100% sure. I do not recall hearing anyone talking about a fight.
22. I do not know why people came back to my sister's house that night. I cannot recall inviting anyone back. Tracey normally had people round when we went out and sometimes we had a party, nothing big, as Tracey was a bit of a clean freak. She just had her friend's back. I do remember that Kelly had her face painted with lipstick. She had fallen asleep on an armchair downstairs and when she woke up she threw everyone out.
23. I remember hearing about the fight in the town centre but I cannot remember whether it was that night at my sister's house or later. I heard on the news that Robert Hamill

had died on the TV news. The Hamill name is known. Everyone knew that the Hamills were a big Catholic family.

24. I remember talking to my mum about the death because Dean and Stacey were arrested and I did not think that they were capable of doing something like that having known them most of my life.
25. I have been told that there was a suggestion of a girl called Pauline who worked in the fruit shop in the Magowan Buildings saying that she'd heard that the fight started when someone used the term 'black bastard' and someone hit Rory Robinson. In Portadown 'black bastard' means the RUC. I do not recall this but if I had passed on this information I would have heard or been told it because I did not see Rory Robinson get struck and I did not see a fight.
26. After the arrests had been made I learnt that Tracey Clarke had made a statement and was a witness. I thought it was strange that we found out that Tracey had made a statement because I thought there was witness protection. I still saw her in the bakery when she was working at the travel agents but because we had fallen out, over her not coming to get ready at my sister's house we did not really speak. I would not have made the first move to say what we had fallen out over was stupid but there was no animosity.
27. Tracey claimed at one stage that I had given her hassle at work but I didn't and I do not know why she said that. I may have looked in the window at Going Places but that was only to look at holidays because that was the shop I always used to book my holidays. I was shocked that she had given evidence to the police against her boyfriend because she loved him. I thought it seemed odd when I learnt much later that they had got married and had children after she had claimed he was involved in the death of someone.
28. I know Timothy Jameson through his father Bobby Jameson because I used to work at the post office across from the Brownstown Business Centre where he worked. The Jamesons are also my mother's cousins. Timothy did not go to the Coach regularly

like I did; he may have been there on the night of 26 April 1997 but I'm not 100% sure. I do not know Jonathan Wright.

29. I made a statement to the police on 20 May 1997 and they came back to talk to me again sometime later. In my statement at page **9130** I refer in the last sentence to hearing that Davy Woods had been hit and the fight had escalated from there. I do not remember when I heard that but it was probably a rumour going around the estate. It was something I was told, I did not see anyone hit Davy. On the second occasion I told the police that I had made my statement and everything I knew was in my statement. I thought that they wanted me to remember things that I had not seen; I could not tell them anything else.
30. I do not remember if I got a letter from the police asking me to make a statement following a complaint made against the police.
31. My stepfather had been badly beaten as a victim of sectarian violence and my family did not believe that the police did enough to find the offenders. However, I would have told the police anything that I could remember about the incident on 27 April 1997 because I was brought up that way.
32. I grew up in Portadown and had seen the police trying to stop the Catholic and Protestant sides coming together when there were Orange parades going on. The pubs in Woodhouse Street used to be for Catholics only, and Catholics and Protestants didn't mix in them. I also remember Woodhouse Street being blocked with a metal barrier that was manned by the army and police to prevent people going down to the Catholic area. I walked along Market Street and High Street on a regular basis because it was the direct route to my home. The junction of High Street and Woodhouse Street was a bit of a flashpoint area but there were always police in Land Rovers there throughout the years I have known. I do not remember fights being a regular thing on a Saturday night.
33. Thomas Street I always thought was a quiet area. Even though there was Jameson's Bar, which is predominantly Protestant, and St Patrick's Hall which is Catholic, I've never known anything to take place there.

34. It was not unusual for me to see a police Land Rover in High Street when I walked home. I cannot remember seeing any police officers out of the vehicle or on the street when I walked through the town centre and neither can I recall seeing any police as I walked home.
35. I still lived in Portadown when Marc Hobson was convicted. I did not know him very well and I thought he was not very sociable because he did not come out very much.
36. I do not know any police officers; in particular I do not know a Reserve Constable Atkinson.

SIGNED: 

PAULINE ROGERS

DATED: 