



## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

### STATEMENT OF IAN RITCHIE

DATED THIS                      DAY OF                      2008

I, IAN RITCHIE, 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 am presently serving as a Reserve Constable (RC) with the Tactical Support Group in Mahon Road, Portadown. In 1997 I was a RC in the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and I was attached to J1 Mobile Support Unit (MSU) based in Mahon Road, Portadown.
3. At some stage I had been trained to carry out searches, but I cannot recall the date. Carrying out searches was a role that I performed quite often.
4. I made a statement on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1997 concerning a search conducted at [REDACTED]. A copy of the statement is contained at page 795. I first became involved in the Robert Hamill investigation on that day. From my notebook entry, a typed copy of which is contained at page 50018, I can see that this was Allister Hanvey's house.
5. I am reminded from my notebook entry that I was detailed at 8:00am by Sergeant [REDACTED] to carry out the search. My statement dated 30<sup>th</sup> January 2001, a copy of

which is contained at page **17538**, says I was briefed for the search by Detective Constable (DC) McCrumlish. DC McCrumlish was the investigating officer for part of the Robert Hamill investigation.

6. The rest of the search team would have been present at that briefing. My statement dated 30<sup>th</sup> January 2001 says that I was part of Search Team A with Constable Ward. I remember him being at the premises for the search. Constable Murphy was the log keeper.
7. I recall that we were briefed to search for items of clothing in connection with the murder of Robert Hamill, specifically a silver or grey jacket. We were also instructed to search for signs of burnt clothing. I should have taken a note of these instructions in my notebook, but I just took a mental note of them. Sometimes I do not put these details down in my notebook, but I am definitely sure that I was told this. The period of time between being briefed and going out on the search was not very long, so I can be sure that these were the instructions.
8. I am not aware whether previous searches had been made for a silver or grey jacket. I cannot recall whether we were made aware of the fact that there had been a previous search of the property a few days earlier. I may have been told, or I may not. If it were relevant, I would expect to have been told this. I do not know why there would need to be a search of the same property three days later.
9. The usual procedure is that the CID provides a search pack during the briefing. This normally contains a written list of items to search for and the Form 29 search log so that a record is made. The log keeper or person in charge of the search would then provide us with additional instructions or information. My notebook entry would be my written record of what I had been briefed to do. During the search I would probably have the list of what was being searched for to hand. I would then point out an item to the search leader or log keeper and they would then say, "yes, that is what we are looking for" or "no".

10. In this instance DC McCrumlish would probably have provided the search pack. I was not personally provided with a list, but it could have been provided to the log keeper or search leader as part of the search pack.
11. I recorded in my statement dated 13<sup>th</sup> May 1997 that the search started at 11.07am and terminated at 11.35am. I think Mr Hanvey was there. He may have been a little bit obstructive to start with, but it did not hinder the search in any way. It is quite a long time ago so I cannot recall which areas of the property were searched, or whether or not a search was conducted outside of the premises. I did not seize anything. There should be a record of this fact on the Form 29 search log. I was satisfied at the end that the search was thorough and in accordance with our briefing.
12. I made a further statement on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1997 which concerns a search carried out at the home of Thomas Hanvey. A copy of the statement is contained at page **802**. I assume that I was also with Constable Ward for this search, and presumably the log keeper. The same instructions were provided to us by DC McCrumlish, so I assume we were looking for the same items of clothing as before, and any burnt items.
13. I can see from the statement that the search commenced at 11.50am and terminated at 12.02pm. I am sure there could have been an occupier present during the search, but I cannot recall offhand whether there was. As far as I am aware the whole house was to be searched, so all the rooms would have been searched. But if there was just a very detailed search of one room to be carried out, then only one room would have been searched. I cannot recall now. If there was a garden at the premises I assume the garden would have been searched too, as is normal. I did not seize anything. I was satisfied that the search was thorough and in accordance with our briefing.

14. It was usual for a debriefing to occur after conducting searches. By this I mean that we would write a statement and if anything was found we would hand it over to the investigating officer. I cannot recall whether we had a debriefing after we carried out these searches. There is nothing in my notebook entry in relation to a debriefing. I would not usually make a note of what was said at a debriefing though. I am not aware of what action, if any, was taken following these searches.
15. I have been asked to comment on why I made a long statement in 2001 about these searches when I had already made two statements in 1997 about the same topic. The two statements in 1997 were very brief because we did not find anything. I just wrote in the statements that the searches were "*re items of clothing*". I cannot explain why I did not write down that I had been told to look for a silver grey jacket. We would normally write this down. I knew in my own mind what I was looking for, and obviously I would have mentioned in my statement if I had uncovered a silver jacket.
16. The 2001 statement is more detailed. I cannot recall why I was asked to make a third statement, or who requested me to do so. All I can think is that the first ones were not very long statements and my superiors made me think in more detail about something in particular. I am not sure what this would have been.
17. Other than the statements I made in 1997 and 2001, I was not tasked to carry out any further duties in relation to the Robert Hamill investigation.
18. At the time I had no knowledge of the arrest strategy in relation to potential suspects. I did not come into contact with Detective Inspector (DI) Irwin, DI **P39** or Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney in relation to the investigation. I did not have any concerns as to how the investigation was carried out. I just did my job and that was it. I did what I was told to do.

19. I cannot recall whether I was involved with investigation by Detective Chief Inspector K.
20. I have been asked whether I belonged to the Tae Kwon Do club in Portadown. I did not.
21. There is no other information that I have which could assist the inquiry in meeting its terms of reference.

SIGNED: ..... *I. Ritchie* .....

IAN RITCHIE

DATED: ..... *7<sup>th</sup> MAY 2008.* .....

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