

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF RODNEY STEPHEN SMYTH

DATED THIS DAY OF 2008

I, RODNEY STEPHEN SMYTH, 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 been asked how I came to make a statement [Page 17380 – 17381] signed by me and dated 4 November 2000. I recall that the police came to my home on one occasion to speak with me about my movements on 26/27 April 1997. The document at page 4325 states that this occurred on 28 October 2000.
3. I recall the police later came to see me again at my home, at which time I was asked to write down what was said, and sign at the bottom. At the time of writing down what was discussed, it was not made clear to me that the document I was signing was a statement. However, I can confirm that the contents of that statement [Page 17380 – 17381] are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
4. I note the document [page 4325] states that I made the statement on 4 November 2000. I refer to the document where it says, *“Interviewed Rodney Smyth on 4th November 2000 with D/C [P28] we had previously been with Smyth on 28.10.00 & since then he has checked his duty pattern in Ulster Carpets Portadown & was able*

to state he had been off work the weekend of 27th April 1997.” I believe that I did go to Personnel Department at work to check to see if I was off that weekend.

5. In April 1997 I knew Andrea and Michael McKee through taking Tae Kwon Do classes at a gym which the McKees ran. Michael McKee was my teacher. I joined the Club around 1991-1992. By the end of April 1997, Joy Kitchen and I had been going out for a few weeks. Joy is now my wife and is known as Joy Smyth. I was living in a flat in the town centre.
6. Around that time, we went to the McKee’s house a few times but I cannot recall particular dates. I would normally drive to and from the McKee’s house if I was not drinking, or get a taxi if I was. I did not have a preferred taxi company which I used. If I booked a taxi myself, I would order it under my surname, Smyth. I do remember that the police showed me a taxi log with the name Smith written on it I could not confirm that this referred to me.
7. I cannot now recall whether I went to the McKee’s house on the night of 26/27 April 1997, but it is possible. It is also possible that I watched a boxing match on TV at the McKee’s house that night. I was very keen on martial arts at the time so, if there was a fight on, it is possible I watched it at their house with them.
8. At no time did I have access to the McKee’s house when they were not at home, and I do not recall ever being in their home without Andrea or Michael being present.
9. I have not had contact with the McKees now since 1999 - 2000. Joy and I had a falling out with the McKees. However, this did not have anything to do with the incident involving Robert Hamill it was to do with my own classes which I wished to run at the Tae Kwon Do Club.

10. In April 1997 I also knew Robert and Eleanor Atkinson through Tae Kwon Do. I would not say I knew them socially, aside from Club activities and competitions. I knew their daughter to be a student at the Club.
11. I also knew the Hanvey family at the time but, again, not socially and only through Club activities.
12. Some time after I spoke with the Police on 4 November 2000, I was told that a story had gone around a pub that I had given the police a 10-page statement which incriminated people in relation to the incident involving Robert Hamill. I do not recall who told me this, the name of the pub or the names of the people who were involved in the conversation at the pub. After I was told about this conversation, I spoke with my solicitor, Mr [REDACTED] Mr [REDACTED] wrote a letter to the police who later visited me at my home. I note the document, statement of H, [page 19959-19960] which was been previously disclosed to me, records that Detective Inspector H and another officer visited me on 11 April 2002 to speak with me about my statement and Mr [REDACTED]'s letter. I was asked by DI H what I thought I was signing at the time, and I replied that I thought it was just a note of what had been said rather than a witness statement.
13. In the document [Page 19959] it is recorded, *"He states that he had heard that he had been talked about at a pub in Portadown by certain people that he didn't want to name and that he didn't want his statement to incriminate people."* That is the way Mr. H has worded it. It would have come back to me fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth hand that I'm supposed to have mentioned names and incriminated people, which, it didn't concern me because I knew it happened. The documents goes on to say, *"He then recounted what he had said in his statement and said with Portadown being what it is, he didn't want to go to court because he had heard his name mentioned and was afraid."* I wouldn't term it like that; in the sense I was afraid, because there was nothing to be afraid of.

- 14. Since April 1997 I can confirm that I have not been approached or threatened by any member of the Atkinson family, or anyone in relation to the Robert Hamill Inquiry or what I had told the Police about my movements on the night of 26/27 April 1997.

- 15. I have not been asked at any time to give evidence at any trial, nor have I had any contact with the DPP. In fact, I did not hear anything further about this matter until the Public Inquiry started.

SIGNED:
RODNEY STEPHEN SMYTH

DATED: