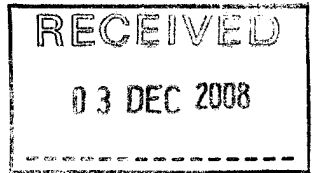


STATEMENT OF WITNESS



STATEMENT OF SHELLEY LIGGETT

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2008

I, SHELLEY LIGGETT, 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 was born in Portadown and I have lived there all of my life.
3. I have read my statement to the police dated 26th May 1997, [page 9180 – 9182], to refresh my memory. This reminds me that in April 1997 I worked at the Mandarin House Chinese Restaurant in Portadown. I cannot really remember but I am reminded that Tracey Clarke also worked there at the time. Tracey was only an associate of mine, and I would not have called her a close personal friend or even her best friend to go out with.
4. I knew Pauline Newell and her sister Tracey McAlpine (née Newell) through working in a fruit shop with Pauline and I went to school with Kelly Lavery, but in those days I only saw her every now and again. I do not even see any of these people around anymore; our paths have definitely taken us in different directions. Since the events of 26/27 April 1997, I have not seen Tracey McAlpine in years and have not stayed in touch with her. After the murder of Robert Hamill, I did not really go out because the events and the violence put me off.

5. In April 1997 I also knew Dean Forbes and Stacey Bridgett. Wayne Lunt I believe went to school with me and I had also run about with Stephen Bloomer for years. I knew Timothy Jameson. I was also friends with Paul Currie and I also knew of Marc Hobson, Allister Hanvey, Jason Woods, Stephen Bloomer, Chris Henderson, Rory Robinson and P46
6. In those days I went to the Coach Inn with Tracey McAlpine, Pauline Newell and Kelly Lavery on most Saturday nights after finishing work at around 22:00 - 22:30. On 26 April 1997 I think that I went to the Coach Inn with Tracey Clarke. I am not sure but I think we got changed at the restaurant and went straight from work. It takes about 20 minutes to get to Banbridge, so we would normally get to the Coach Inn at about 23:00 or 23:15. I cannot remember who I was with at the Coach Inn that night, but it must have been the people mentioned in my statement. I do not remember seeing Wayne Lunt at the Coach Inn, nor Marc Hobson, although he probably would have been in the crowd that night. I could not tell you what I had to drink, but I do not think I would have been too drunk because I went to get something to eat afterwards.
7. In my statement [page 9180] I said that I took the bus back into town from the Coach Inn at around 01:15. That was the normal sort of thing that we would do; either that, or we would ring a taxi firm. Our bus ran every weekend from Portadown to Banbridge and back. I do not know whether there was a later bus that left the Coach Inn after the 01.15 bus. I do not now recall who was on the bus with me. I assume that I was with Kelly and Pauline, and in my statement I said that Kelly Lavery, Pauline Newell, Tracey Clarke and Tracey McAlpine were already on the bus. Some of the other people I have mentioned that I knew at the time might have been on the bus, but there could have been 30 or 40 people on the bus so I am not sure who was there.
8. I got off the bus at Z-Cabs. I would say that this happened between 01.30 and 02.00 because the bus driver often waited until the bus filled up so did not leave on time. Z-Cars was near the Ulster Bank just where Castle Street joins High Street. In my statement [Page 9180] I said that "*Pauline and Tracey Newell got off before me and headed up the hill Pauline went into Boss Hoggs.*" but I

should clarify that I think there was just one bus stop. It is more than likely that we all got off at Z-Cabs and made our way home up High Street. There was no shouting at this stage. People were just getting off the bus and moving in different directions: some were leaving and some were going to get something to eat, but I did not see anyone walking down Thomas Street.

9. In my statement [Page 9181] I said that I shouted after my group of friends that I was going to phone for a taxi and that “*I used the phone box outside Jameson’s and phoned [REDACTED]*”. It is confusing because there are a couple of ‘Jameson’s’ in town. The one I am referring to is the clothes shop near Z-Cars with a couple of public phone boxes outside, rather than the bar where I have been drinking myself and know is not near any phone boxes. I arranged for [REDACTED] a self-employed taxi driver whom I still use, to pick me up from Tracey McAlpine’s house in Brownstown and to take me home. I do not recall now why I had arranged for [REDACTED] to pick me up from Tracey’s house rather than from in town. Perhaps it was to do with where [REDACTED] was at the time, but in any event it was a convenient place to be picked up from and then to go on to my parents’ house. I knew from working with Pauline in the fruit shop that Tracey sometimes held parties at her house on a Saturday night. I probably went back to hers on some nights, but that night I had decided I was going on home.
10. In my statement [Page 9181] I said that I went into Boss Hoggs. This is literally beside Jameson’s and is still quite close to the point where I got off at Castle Street and High Street. I honestly do not remember being in Boss Hoggs that night, but my statement says that there was a queue and when I left Boss Hoggs with something to eat I bumped into Paul Currie. I do not recall now but Paul probably had been at the Coach Inn that night with the regular crowd. He did not mention that there was any trouble in the town centre because at this time there was none. I was from one end of town and Paul and the others lived at the other end, so I was walking in that direction. We walked up the town together for a little while.

11. To get to Tracey McAlpine's house in Brownstown we had to walk through West Street. I do not know where Tracey Clarke was at this point and Pauline Newell was not there; Tracey McAlpine and Kelly Lavery must have been ahead of me as they were in the house when I arrived. Paul and I walked a bit further up the High Street in the direction of St. Mark's Church. I have been shown a photograph of Woodhouse Street at page 00226, and it reminds me that I saw a police Land Rover parked outside the Halifax Building Society just a bit further down from the mouth of Woodhouse Street. Driving up both sides of High Street was not allowed, so the Land Rover must have been pointing away from the Alliance and Leicester. I cannot remember if I saw any police officers inside the Land Rover. I may not have seen inside because of the direction in which I was walking and because I was about to cross the road to take the branch of the road that runs into West Street.
12. As we crossed the street at the traffic lights on the junction of Woodhouse Street and Thomas Street I could see up to where I know the fight happened later. There might have been a few people about but I could not see anything happening at this point. I would say this was between 01.45 and 02.00.
13. In my statement [page 9181] I said that, "*When Paul and me got past Bennett's and into West Street, I heard shouting and a siren*". I did not see the source of the siren. Bennett's is on Mandeville Street, so I think I was roughly next to the junction of Mandeville Street and West Street. We walked around the bend to the right of St. Mark's Church. I then turned around and saw a bit of a commotion going on I think about 200 yards away at the junction of Thomas and Woodhouse Streets, on either side of Market Street. There was a crowd of people there. I do not really know how many but there were definitely less than 60 people. I could not make out any individuals from that distance or whether the police were out on the street, I assumed it was the Portadown people who had been on the Coach Inn bus just having an argument amongst themselves. I did not see any physical fighting. I am informed that in her statement of 10 May 1997 [pages 262] Tracey Clarke said "*I think at that stage the other persons with me were Pauline Newell, Tracy McAlpine, Kelly Lavery, Shelley Ligget and a fellow called Jason.*" "*Around this time we heard shouts coming*

from the main street. I can't remember what was said but it was something like 'fight' fight'. We all ran down to see what was happening." I would say Tracey is a liar – this is not true. I had no idea where Tracey was during the commotion and I do not remember her running back down past me. I do not remember that happening and I was not in a position to hear any cat-calling, if there had been some.

14. After looking back at where the commotion was coming from Paul and I literally turned around and walked away towards Tracey's house. I thought, "*Well, what possibly could happen if the police were there?*" but I probably thought that, whatever was going on, I was not going back down there to get myself lifted by the police. I thank God that I had the sense to walk on. I remember passing a drunk person around West Street. I do not know where he had come from, but it must have been from the town centre. Nor do I know who he was.

15. I would say that it took about 10 – 15 minutes to reach Tracey McAlpine's house from the point where I was looking at the fight because I was probably dawdling. I can no longer remember the exact time I arrived at Tracey's house or who was there, but in my statement [page 9181] I said, "*I arrived there about 2.10am. Tracey and Pauline Newell and Kelly Lavery were already there. Kelly shouted down that her and Pauline were in bed. A few minutes later [REDACTED] arrived and took me home.*" As far as I am concerned what I said there was true. I cannot remember exactly how long I stayed, but it was not very long. When I said "*a few minutes*" in my statement, it could have been only 10 or 15 minutes at the most. I do not think that there was a party in full swing going on while I was there.

16. There must have just been some talk about a bit of a commotion in town, but I was not aware at that time what had taken place because I had a head start and was away up West Street with the fight probably still happening behind me. Nobody arrived at Tracey's house and told us what had happened.

17. I am informed that in Iain Carville's statement to the police on 19 May 1997 [page 09185] he thought he remembered seeing me at Tracey's house after 03.00. He was an acquaintance of mine from school who was in a crowd that went to all the pubs, and I am not sure but I think he might have been seeing Tracey ~~McAlpine~~ ^{Clarke} at the time. I could have been talking to him back at the Coach Inn, but I cannot remember if it was possible for him to have seen me at Tracey's house. I know that I was not there for long, but either or both of us could be getting our times wrong. I am also told that Ian says that he saw Pauline Newell, Kelly Lavery, Allister Hanvey, Dean Forbes, Jason Woods and me at Tracey's house, with many of us sleeping there. I do not think that I ever stayed the night at Tracey's. My mother would have been expecting me home. That night [REDACTED] picked me up and it probably took about 5 – 10 minutes to drive to my house.
18. I first learnt that someone had been seriously injured on the news on Sunday, 27 April 1997. I thought that it was possible that the people who had been on the Coach Inn bus were involved, but I did not know of any previous trouble involving people coming off the bus.
19. Prior to that time, I had never witnessed any fighting in town. I suppose a bit of a fight on a Saturday night was not that rare. I knew fighting went on between Protestants and Catholics but it was not something I was ever involved in. I did not realise that St. Patrick's Hall was a venue for Catholics, and I was so naïve back then that was not aware that Catholics used to come up Thomas Street late on a Saturday night. However, at that stage I definitely would not have walked through Portadown town centre on my own, so I would have heard about fighting but I would not have seen any myself. I can confirm that I had not heard of any fights previously where the police did not intervene but I was not aware of the level of police presence in the town centre in those days. The night of 26/27 April 1997 was the first night I remember seeing the police around the town centre.
20. I cannot remember seeing Tracey Clarke after the incident. I did not like anything about her. We had some kind of fallout but I cannot recall the details.

I think she ended up getting sacked from the Mandarin House. I probably would have spoken to Stacey Bridgett and Dean Forbes in the days and weeks after the incident, but I do not think that I spoke to them about what had happened. I did not hang about with Marc Hobson so did not speak to him afterwards about the incident. I do not remember speaking with Wayne Lunt about the incident afterwards either. None of the other people I have mentioned as being known to me at the time ever spoke to me about the fight.

21. For a couple of weeks after the incident I did not really go out, so I did not hear any rumours or speculation about what had happened. No one ever turned around to me and said, "I know this" or "I know that". There were certain people arrested, but I do not know if they were responsible or not. Had I seen or heard anything, I would not have had any concerns about going to the police to report the information.

SIGNED:

SHELLEY LIGGETT

DATED:
25.11.08