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STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF STEPHEN JAMES BLOOMER

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2008

I, STEPHEN JAMES BLOOMER, 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. In April 1997, I was living in Portadown in my parents' house. I was 18 or 19 years of age and I think I was in employment at the time but I cannot remember.
3. I have been referred to my statement dated 29 May 1997 containing page numbers **9151 to 9152**. I do not recall making that statement but I know I would not have put anything misleading in a statement. I no longer have any recollection of the events of the evening of 26/27 April 1997.
4. In 1997, I sometimes went to the Coach Inn on a Saturday night. I usually went with Kyle Magee and Conor Black. I am told I went there on the night in question and returned to Portadown by bus but I cannot remember the evening. If that is right, the bus would have dropped us off near where the Classic was.
5. I note that in my statement I refer to walking to Boss Hoggs to get something to eat and then to Call-a-Cab to get a taxi home. If I walked from Boss Hoggs to Call-a-cab I would have walked up High Street, taking the right-hand branch along West

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Street. I have marked 'CC' on the map to indicate the position of Call-a-Cab. From Call-a-Cab, if I could not get a taxi, I would have had to walk in a North Easterly direction to get home.

6. In my statement and questionnaire dated 2 May 1997 which has been produced and shown to me at page 8121 I refer to seeing a fight start as I walked up through the town. I have absolutely no recollection of any fight whatever.
7. There is reference in my statement to the Progressive Building Society and I have marked "PB" on the map to indicate its position. I do not, however, remember stopping near it or saying that I did. Similarly, I am told that Tracey Clarke spoke to me at Pound Stretcher and we stopped for a while. I do not recall that but I have marked "PS" on the map to indicate its position. There is now produced and shown to me a photograph containing page number 222 which shows Pound Stretcher. It is the shop with the yellow and red sign immediately to the left of the red car.
8. I think I would have got a taxi at some stage. In my statement I said I was stopped by the police at McConville's pub and told I could not go through that part of town. I do not remember that but have marked with an 'M' the position of McConville's pub on the map.
9. There is also reference in the statement to my meeting Ian Carville and Chris Henderson and going to a party at the house of Tracey McAlpine in Brownstown. I do not recall that. I do not know anyone called Tracey McAlpine and I do not think I know someone called Pauline Newell but I cannot be sure about the latter. I do not recall going to any party that night but I know it would take about 15 to 20 minutes to get to Brownstown from Call-a-Cab, if walking.
10. I knew Allister Hanvey and Stacey Bridgett to see. In other words I recognised them but would not describe them as friends. I knew Timothy Jameson or "Timmy" as he was to me and I also knew Shelly Liggett. I had also heard the name Reserve

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Constable P40 although I have not heard of Cornett, Atkinson or Neill.
I did not know anyone else relevant to this Inquiry.

11. I have never experienced any trouble in Portadown town centre and do not remember ever witnessing a fight. I would not describe the junction at Thomas Street and Market Street as a flashpoint but am told others do. I have never been to a police station before in my life other than to pay a speeding fine so if I made a statement and filled in a questionnaire it must have been at my home. I cannot help this Inquiry any further than that.

SIGNED:

STEPHEN JAMES BLOOMER

DATED: