

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF WAYNE DAVID LUNT

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2008

I, WAYNE DAVID LUNT 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. This is my first witness statement in connection with the death of Robert Hamill. I was arrested and interviewed by the police on 3 occasions during 10 May 1997 and the transcripts of the interviews conducted by the police are pages 6803 to 6927. 10 years on I do not have a clear memory of 26/27 April 1997. For the purpose of this statement I have refreshed my memory from the interview transcriptions.
3. In April 1997 I was living in Portadown with my parents; we had recently moved house. I had lived in Portadown for all of my life at that time. I was 17 years of age and had recently started work as a labourer. I do not remember who I was working for, but I had been there for a month or 2 at that point.
4. I had lots of friends in those days, and usually we were quite close. It depended, but on a Saturday night I used to go out with [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] as he was called, P136 my brother, Philip, and a couple of girls. I did not know Davy Woods or Andrew "Fonzie" Allen, although I had heard of Fonzie.
5. On the evening of 26 April 1997 I think I met some girls in Brownstown Park, Portadown. The girls were Heidi Reaney, Lisa Hobson, Joanne Bradley and

Michelle Jamieson. Heidi Reaney's sister was married to my half brother and the other girls were just friends. I went with the girls back to Michelle Jamieson's house. The interview transcripts remind me that my younger brother Philip and a friend **P136** had also been in the park. Philip is just over a year younger than me so he would have been 15 or 16 at that stage, and **P136** would have been a similar age. As far as I can remember they left before us.

6. I remember being in Michelle's house. I had been drinking alcohol that evening. I had earlier in the evening purchased a bottle of Buckfast Tonic Wine, which is a fortified wine containing about 15% alcohol by volume and which used to cost about £4.20. I think I bought it from Stewart's Carry Out, although the interview transcript at page **06851** reminds me that it was the Carlton Street Winemart. I also bought 2 bottles of a mixer drink called Jamin, which they do not make any more but is a mixer that I drank with the Buckfast Tonic Wine. I took these drinks with me back to Michelle's house and during the evening I drank the whole contents of the wine bottle to myself. While at Michelle's house I also ordered a second bottle of Buckfast Tonic Wine. You could send out for alcohol in those days so I telephoned a taxi company, either 'Easy Cabs' or 'Pete's Cabs'. They collected and delivered the wine to the house then I paid the taxi driver about £7 or £8 when he arrived, about 50:50 for the bottle and for the taxi. I think that I drank about half of the second bottle. In the interview transcripts at page **06860** I said that I had only drunk "*the neck out of*" the bottle, but I cannot remember whether the others drank from the second bottle.
7. This amount of alcohol would have had a good effect on me, and I would have been very drunk. Buckfast was my normal drink and that would have been a normal amount for me to have drunk on a night out in those days, although on some days I would drink more than that, on other days probably less than a whole bottle.
8. Before we left, I think Michelle's brother came to the house. I did not really know him well. I think that the 4 girls and I then left the house together and we walked into the town centre to see what was happening and who was about in

town that night. I think it would have been about a 10 – 15 minute walk into the town from Michelle's house. I have been shown a large scale map that includes Brownstown Park. As far as I can remember we went via Connaught Park across the Armagh Road through the Brownston Estate and up towards Fair Green. I cannot remember the exact route now because there are a number of ways that we could have walked, but it should be in my interview transcripts.

9. In my police interview at page **6866** I referred to Heidi Reaney meeting her boyfriend or ex-boyfriend, Glen Mercer, and that she spoke to him for about 5 minutes before he drove off. I vaguely remember this happening. I have now been shown the statement of Glen Mercer containing page numbers **9612** and **9613** in which he recalls having a brief discussion with me by Stewart's Wine Barrel and that I was vomiting at the time. I probably was being sick. Stewart's Wine Barrel is a shop in West Street with parking across the road and in front of it. It was about a 5 minute walk from St. Mark's Church, not even that.
10. I cannot remember what I did next off the top of my head. Page **06868** of my interview transcript reminds me that I then walked down towards Connor's, which is a chemist. I have been shown a photograph of this area on page **00231** and my solicitor has confirmed for me that Connor's is on the corner of West Street and Market Street, recessed between the block of flats known as McGowan House and the brown 3 – 4 storey building containing shops. I then walked in front of St. Mark's Church. I suppose I vaguely remember sitting on the summer seat just on the right hand side of the church front, but for how long I cannot recall.
11. I have now been told that Heidi Reaney says in her witness statement dated 15 May 1997 containing pages **09598** that the last she saw of me that night was around Stewart's Wine Barrel. I am also informed that Michelle Jameson says that same in her statement, containing pages **9149** to **9150**. I dispute this. I can definitely recall at least 2 other people sitting there with me by the church. Heidi and Joanne were definitely there and, although I cannot clearly remember, I think there might have been another couple of people there as well. After reading my interview transcripts I can also remember seeing Simon McNally

and P51 there at the boundary. These boys were probably age 14 or 15 at the time, so they were younger than I was.

12. From the summer seat, the junction of Thomas Street and Woodhouse Street would have been a little over 100 yards away. From there I could see a crowd. There was a group of people spread throughout the central reservation and all over the road just directly across from the Clarke's shoe shop. It is hard for me to say how many people were in the crowd. I was drunk, so I could have been seeing double what I was actually seeing and I cannot remember that far back very well. To take a rough guess I would say there were about 20 – 30 people. It is hard to say whether I could see if the police were there at this point, but I think I could see the crowd moving backwards so I assume that they were.
13. We began to walk down towards the crowd. As I said in my interview at page 06827 I was just going to see what was happening. I also said that "*there was police officers there. There was Land Rovers and they were all out in a line*". I could see the police there and what they were doing; I could see that they were starting to clear the area by pushing the crowd back across the street. I cannot remember, but I think that there were 2 Land Rovers and a police car. I cannot quite think, but there was definitely 1 Land Rover on the left-hand side.
14. As I was walking down a police car came past me from behind. The transcript of my first interview at pages 06872 to 06873 reminds me that I would have been on the right-hand side at the time, just where Clarke's is and just down by Thornton's. I am near enough sure that the police car would have come down the West Street side, although I cannot remember whether I saw the barriers down; if I did it was a common event and I paid no attention to the barriers at all. The police car stopped, there was a female police officer in the car, but I did not see whether she was the passenger or the driver because of the tinted bullet-proof windows. She got out of the car and chased me. I ran off up the town in the direction of the church and the female officer chased after me but did not catch me. I ran away because obviously I did not want to get arrested. I had been arrested in the past, not for fighting but after Dumcree, so I thought she might have arrested me because she would not have been running after me

otherwise. It was a good run, and I almost reached the church. I think I was on my own by this stage, but I cannot recall whether I still had the bottle of Buckfast at this point or when I got rid of it.

15. I am not sure why the police officer ran after me. She may have picked me out because I was wearing a white 'Toronto' baseball cap, white sweatshirt, white jeans, white 'gutties' or trainers and a 'Rangers' scarf. The scarf is red, white and blue in colour. I am informed that the female police officer now known as Constable A in her statement containing pages **09235** to **09237** says that I was wearing the scarf wrapped around my face when she chased me. It was the height of fashion in 1997 and quite popular to wear a scarf rolled up over the mouth. I probably was not sick in my scarf but I still wore it in this fashion afterwards. It was not *over* my face, as if to cover my face, this was just the way the scarf sat. I was not wearing it in this way on purpose to hide my identity.
16. The female officer may have also picked me out because I was carrying the second bottle of Buckfast Tonic Wine in my hand. I was carrying the bottle by the neck, the way everyone would; it has a slim neck so you do not carry it by the base. I am informed that this police officer says that I was carrying the bottle and running towards the crowd at the junction of Thomas Street. This is not true. It could have been her opinion that I was running to throw the bottle, but that was not the case. That said, having seen a man running with a bottle and wearing a scarf across his face, I can obviously understand the reasons why the police officer thought she wanted to stop me.
17. During an interview with the police on 10 May 1997, I was shown a photograph album which was then labelled item number "ARM1". The first photograph in that album at page **00235** shows the traffic merging from West Street into Market street, and Thornton's is located next to Clarkes. I have now been shown a photograph at page **00236**, which I am informed, was also in album ARM1. This photograph shows a traffic island at the junction of 2 roads and on the earth in the island are 2 wine bottles, 1 has a top on and the other does not. I have been informed that these bottles were seized by a scene of crime officer on

27 April 1997. I am also told that the bottle with the top off was later fingerprinted and my fingerprint was found on this particular bottle, as is shown on a report on result of a fingerprint examination at page **12518**.

18. I now accept that my fingerprints had been found on this bottle of wine, but I do not think I was advised about this fact at any stage during the investigation, nor can I remember being interviewed about this matter by the police. I probably would have been drinking some of the wine on the walk into town, and I think I shared some of it with the others. I cannot quite remember, but when I was still carrying the bottle at the time the female police officer noticed me, it probably was not empty. I was not carrying the bottle to use it in the fight; I had paid for it and wanted to drink it. It is likely that I threw the bottle down when I was being chased by the police officer, and the contents probably spilled out if the lid was off. I cannot remember putting the bottle in the central reservation, but that is obviously where it ended up, so it must have been the second bottle that I took into town with me.

19. Having run away from the female police officer, I stayed by the church for about a couple of minutes before going back towards the crowd. When I reached the crowd I think there were other police there who were still pushing the people back even further. The police were on the junction of Thomas Street, on the High Street side, pushing the crowd away from the church. I cannot really say how many police were there. The officers were drawing their batons, but I did not see any riot guns. I do not think that I was ever in amongst the crowd. There was a lot happening at the time, but to my recollection I did not see any fighting taking place. Obviously there was shouting, there were quite a few people by this stage and there were bound to be raised voices, but I cannot remember what was being said. I cannot remember hearing any smashing of glass.

20. I am informed that the female police officer now known as 'Constable A' says that she stopped me for a second time in the crowd. I cannot remember exactly, but I was not in the crowd. I am near enough sure that she would have come over and stopped me to the right-hand side of the centre, from where the Land

Rover was parked. I have been shown a photograph at page **00229**, which shows Woodhouse Street to the left and Thomas Street to the right. I can now vaguely remember that the woman officer grabbed me when I was in the area by the Instep shop, which is next to the Alliance and Leicester on Market Street. I am informed that the female police officer says that I kicked her (statement of Constable A, pages **09235** to **09237**). I probably pulled my arm away but I cannot recall kicking her, and I would not have done so since she was a police officer; you cannot go around kicking police officers.

21. I was then put into the Land Rover. The Land Rover doors were open and I was put straight inside and the doors were closed; I did not put up much of a fight. I think another officer helped the female police officer because I can certainly remember that there were 2 officers with me inside at this stage. However, I am not 100% sure whether they both stayed with me for the whole time I was inside the vehicle. I cannot remember exactly what the female officer said to me, but she took my details. I cannot really recall what I gave as my address, but I would have given her the address of the family home. I can remember a police officer using the radio to verify my details. I am now informed that the police officers had difficulty checking my details because I was not on the electoral roll for this address. I cannot remember whether this was so, but we had just moved there so the address may not have been changed over on the electoral roll.
22. I have been shown a radio transcript containing page numbers **10550** to **10561**. This states that a police officer checked my details at 01.55 and the address was cleared at almost 02.02. This means I was probably in the vehicle for about 6 or 7 minutes, and I remember that it would have been for roughly this length of time. I do not recall anyone approaching the Land Rover while I was inside because the doors were closed and I would not have seen anyone.
23. When I got out of the Land Rover my first police interview at page **06835** reminds me that I did see a male lying on the ground. I think I had also seen him on my way into the Land Rover, but I am not sure. It is hard to say exactly where this man was lying. Looking at photograph **00224** of Thomas Street, I

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am reminded that the man was probably lying in the centre of the road around the Give Way junction at the bottom of Thomas Street and High Street. I do not recall seeing an ambulance nearby. My vague memory is that there were people around where the person was lying, and other police officers were pushing the crowd back. I have been informed that Michelle Jameson says in her statement containing pages **9149** to **9150** that she went across to where one of the people was being tended to by a woman on the ground. Michelle was a good looking girl with blonde hair, but I do not remember seeing her at this point.

24. The transcripts of my first police interview on 10 May 1997 at pages **06843** and **6910** remind me of what happened next. After I got out of the Land Rover, I would have crossed from the left-hand side of the street, across the central reservation and into Market Street to go up and back around the long way, because obviously I could not have gone through the centre. At this point a man turned around, pointed and shouted at me. I cannot remember what the man said.
25. I vaguely remember the police questioning me about the evidence of this man, and obviously I recall being asked whether I was involved in attacking Robert Hamill. I am now informed that at the trial of Marc Hobson, containing pages **08306** to **08333**, this man gave evidence that *“They grabbed a fella and brought him down to the Land Rover... He was wearing a Rangers scarf... He was in the crowd that was kicking Robert”* (page **08310**). I can confirm that, to my knowledge, I was the only person put in the Land Rover. But I did not kick or punch anyone, nor did I see anyone else kicking and punching anyone else who was involved in the fighting. I have been asked why this witness would have accused me of kicking Robert Hamill. The only reason I can think of is that I was identifiable and it was easy for me to be picked out of the crowd in the clothes I was wearing. I certainly was not involved in kicking Robert Hamill.
26. After the man shouted and pointed at me, I turned to run away and a few police officers, probably about 6, pushed me into some shutters. At page **06844** of my first police interview on 10 May 1997 I said that these shutters would have been by Dorothy Perkins. Looking at the photograph taken from the church looking

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down Market Street at page **00223**, I can confirm that Dorothy Perkins is on the right-hand side of that photograph next to McNary's, back from Thomas Street. It would have been the shutters here that I was pushed into. I do not know why the 6 policeman did this. After the man shouted something at me, I turned around to try to hear what he was shouting and, as far as I can recall, that was all I did. After being pushed into the shutters, I walked away on my own and started walking back up the town. I did not have any injuries.

27. After I walked away from the police outside Dorothy Perkins, I cannot remember which way I then walked. Page **06840** of my first interview with the police reminds me that, "*when I was leaving, after I'd left the Land Rover, Simon McNally's mum walked up the road with me to the Chinese*". I cannot recall the exact spot, but I think that I met Mrs McNally around the front of the church. By this stage, I think that the crowd were coming up in the centre of town, dispersing in all different directions. My memory is vague, but I do not think that the police had reached the church at this stage.
28. When I saw Mrs McNally, I think I said, "Hi, Mrs McNally" or something like that. I have been informed that Mrs McNally has not mentioned me in her statement, containing page **09639**, but she did mention her son, Simon, and some other boys. Perhaps this was because I was not in her company all night, whereas those others were. I only knew her because I knew Simon, but I was not best friends with him; it was not as if I visited their house for coffee. I really cannot remember if Mrs McNally was with anyone or whether Simon McNally was also present, although I have a vague memory that Simon and Andrew Hill may have been there at that point. Mrs McNally and I must have gone to the Chinese restaurant in West Street because it would have been the only one in that area at the time. I said in my first interview that I ordered some chips but "*I didn't get it*". There was no reason for this; I probably paid for the food but then just left.
29. I am reminded that in my first interview at pages **06840** and **06842** I said that I then went to take a taxi from Eden Cabs with a driver named Mr Webb. Eden Cabs was at the bottom of town, on Bridge Street, so I had to walk the long way

around town. I am pointing to a map to show that I would have had to walk down a road that I am reminded is called William Street, right around the back of the Health Centre on Tavanagh Avenue, into the road that I am now prompted is called Meadow Lane, and almost up to the river. This whole route would have brought me right to the end of the bridge, to the junction at Eden Cabs' place. Usually I could have walked home from the centre in the same amount of time, but a taxi was the only way of getting to the other side of town that night. It would have taken me another 20 – 25 minutes to have walked home from Eden Cabs.

30. I am 100% certain that I did not see anyone in the crowd that night that I knew at the time or recognised. After Heidi Reaney and the others had left, none of my friends were in town that night. I have been informed that Stacey Bridgett would have had a bloody nose at the time, but I can confirm that I saw neither Stacey Bridgett nor Dean Forbes in the crowd.
31. The police arrested me on 10 May 1997, and that was the first time the police had interviewed me. I was arrested from my parents' address, which was the address that I had given to the female police officer when she stopped me. I had not been seen earlier by the police to fill out a witness questionnaire, as I am informed other people were there who had been seen in the town on that night. I accept that I was the worse for the drink on the night of 26 / 27 April 1997, but my memory of events was full because I was young; whereas when you get older your hangovers get worse, and your memory also goes. So, as far as I was concerned, the account I gave to the police on 10 May 1997 was true. I think it was the case that, as a result of my interviews with the police, some of the girls had to be re-interviewed.
32. After the interview I was charged with the murder of Robert Hamill. I cannot remember whether I was asked to take part in an identification parade. I would have had no problems with taking part, but my solicitor informs me that I was never formally put through any identification procedures. I believe that the police did not offer a doctor to examine me and I did not ask for it, but it was 13

days after the incident. However, my solicitor informs me that this should have been asked and recorded as part of the standard custody procedure.

33. I have been asked whether I knew the other people who were charged at the same time as I was. Prior to being arrested I did not know Allister Hanvey and Rory Robinson. I knew of Dean Forbes, Stacey Bridgett and Marc Hobson through seeing them about in school, but we were not personal friends; I think Dean Forbes was a year or 2 older than I was. After being charged we were all remanded in a Young Offenders Institution then I was transferred to the Maze Prison. The authorities said the transfer was for our own protection because we received several death threats from the Catholic Reaction Force.

34. I can confirm that, like everyone who lived in Portadown, I knew that the junction of High Street and Market Street was a flash point area. Confrontations could start on any night of the week. It was not a regular occurrence at the weekends though: some weekends it happened; some weekends it did not. This was not the reason that I went down to the town that night. I would not have brought the girls with me if I had been going down for a confrontation. I just went down to have a walk around town and to see what was happening, and not as in a confrontation.

35. I can say that going through my interview transcripts has brought back some of the events of 26 / 27 April 1997, such as being put in the Land Rover and then released, but everything else is vague in my memory. This incident was one of the reasons why I moved away from Ireland. I wanted to put it all behind me. If I could, I would want to forget all of it, and I have blanked quite a lot of it out.

SIGNED:
WAYNE LUNT

DATED: