

CP14

This interview is being tape recorded. The interview is being conducted in an Interview Room at Armagh Police Office. I am Patricia Murphy, Detective Constable, South Region and the other Officer present is - eh Detective Constable [REDACTED], South Region CID - the date is Tuesday the 10th of April 2001 and the time from my watch is two minutes past three. Also present is

SOLICITOR

Sean Hagan, Solicitor, [REDACTED]

OMBUDSMAN

Mark Robinson from the Police Ombudsman's Office in Belfast.

Could you give your name, please.

ATKINSON

Eleanor Atkinson.

At the end of the interview, Eleanor you'll get a Notice explaining what will happen to the tapes and Mr Hagan will keep you up-to-date with that. Eleanor, I arrested you this morning at 8 40 am for Conspiracy to Pervert the Course of Justice concerning the Murder of Robert Hamill on dates between and including the 27th of the 4th 97 and the 25th of the 11th 97. You were cautioned at that time and all you said in reply to the caution was, can I ring my husband. I just want to remind you of that caution again, OK.

ATKINSON

Yeah.

You do not have to say anything, but I must caution you that if you do not mention when questioned, something which you later rely on in Court, it may harm your defence. If you do say anything it may be given in evidence. Do you understand that.

ATKINSON

Yes.

I've just a little summary here to explain it a little further to you eh just in case there is any doubt. It means that you have a right not to say anything if you don't want to and anything you do say can be given in evidence. This means that if you go to court the court can be told what you have said.

ATKINSON

Yes.

If there is something you do not tell us now when we ask you questions and later you decide to tell the court, then the court may be less willing to believe you.

ATKINSON

Yes.

OK. Is there anything <sup>335</sup> you don't understand

about any of that.

ATKINSON

No.

OK - OK, Eleanor what I have here is an original statement that was recorded from you on the 9th of October 1997

ATKINSON

Yes.

OK, that is there if you wish to have a look at it

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

I'm going to read eh a copy of that statement to you

ATKINSON

Right.

OK. Just confirm that is your signature at the top of the statement

ATKINSON

Yes.

Before we start and it's dated the 9th of October 1997.

ATKINSON

That's correct.

I live at an address known to Police with my husband Robert and my son [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Robert is a Full-Time Member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve and in April 1997 he was stationed in Portadown. I have been shown an itemised billing for my telephone which is marked M114. On this item I have been referred to two particular phone calls, one of which was on the 27th of April 1997 at 8 37 am and the second on the 2nd of May 1997 at 1624 hours. The phone number [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I recognise as that of Elizabeth Hanvey. I can recall the phone call on the 27th of April 1997 which was made by Michael McKee. Michael and his wife, Andrea had called at the house on the 26th of April 1997 with the intention of going out with my husband and myself. Unfortunately my husband was working that night so the three of us sat in, in my house. This hadn't been arranged and Michael and Andrea would call unannounced. I went to bed sometime after Midnight and Michael and Andrea also stayed that night. I heard the phone ringing sometime during the night and my husband answered it. He made a brief comment of having to go back to work. At around 8 am on the 27th of April Robert returned to the house. I asked him what was wrong and he told me that there had been a row in the town involving the Coach bus, that's all was mentioned. I got up and

wakened Michael and Andrea a short time later as I knew Michael had to be at his gym on the [REDACTED] at 9 am. At the breakfast table I passed a comment of a row being in the town centre. Michael was concerned about his niece Tracey Clarke as she went to the Coach possibly with Alistair Hanvey. He asked me if he could make a phone call in order to find out where Tracey was. He made a call and a short time later he returned and mentioned something about Tracey. I think he mentioned Hanveys but I'm not sure. A short time later Michael and Andrea left the house. In relation to the phone call on the 2nd of May I made that phone call with the intention of speaking to Elizabeth Hanvey. I in fact spoke to Kenneth Hanvey and asked him if he would have any Tai Kwando boots, gloves and a pattern book which I could have. My daughter is a member of the club and I was aware that a number of the Hanvey children were members of the club. I knew they hadn't used them recently and that they would have had the equipment especially the boots which I could have put to good use. My [REDACTED] twelve years had lost her boots and her equipment was worn. The equipment and the boots were later left at the club. Kenneth had told me he would mention it to his wife and see what he could do. I don't know who left them at the club or who they were left with, however, [REDACTED] got possession of them. I followed [REDACTED] involvement with the club and travelled with them to competitions. It was through this that I got to know the Hanveys. In relation to the phone call on the 27th of April 1997 Robert had went straight to bed. He doesn't take breakfast and would have been aware and wouldn't have been aware of Michael's call. In fact he didn't even see Michael and Andrea. I don't believe at that early stage that he knew they had stayed the night and then it's signed E Atkinson.

ATKINSON

Right.

OK.

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

You can confirm that

ATKINSON

Yes.

Was the statement made at the time eh it's your signature on that statement

ATKINSON

Yes.

It consists of three pages, OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

And that's your signature at the bottom of each page.

ATKINSON

Yes.

OK. I would just like to go back through that statement and just, there's a few points I would like to clarify.

ATKINSON

OK.

The first one, the phone number [redacted] I recognise as that [redacted] of Elizabeth Harvey. Can you tell me how you recognise that number.

ATKINSON

Well I wouldn't really recognise it to be quite honest with you; it's in a book, the wee phone book, you know

Right.

ATKINSON

The City of Armagh and it's actually probably in [redacted] writing, probably the name and

Right, well in the phone book, what do you mean is it a, a phone book that you keep at the house with the number actually written in the book or is it

ATKINSON

Well it's just, you know the City of Armagh

Right.

ATKINSON

Wee book and everybody's number is on it and probably my daughter has wrote

Is it a local directory.

ATKINSON

Yes.

And you said

SOLICITOR

Well really it's a domestic directory, is that right

ATKINSON

Yes.

But it hasn't been written on by yourself or by [redacted] or it would've been.

ATKINSON

Oh I don't know whose writing but the number probably

Only what, yes what, what

ATKINSON

Is in it.

I just want to clarify there that it's not

actually, obviously the number is going to be in the phone book but I know in the phone book

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

There is maybe a page where you can actually write, hand writing yourself

ATKINSON

Oh yes she has wrote it or someone has wrote it.

She has wrote it in there.

ATKINSON

Probably because she would've been

The Hanveys, how did you come to know them.

ATKINSON

Through Tai Kwando.

Right.

ATKINSON

I would've known them but I mean not terribly well but I would've known eh know Alistair through Tai Kwando

Right.

ATKINSON

With [REDACTED] in competitions.

Is it, is it a case where you would have visited them or

ATKINSON

No.

Right, you would have met them through, at, at the club.

ATKINSON

Yes, uh huh.

Would you have had regular contact with them on the phone, through yourself, through your husband or through your children phoning them or vice versa any of their children or them phoning you.

ATKINSON

From my own phone at home.

Yes.

ATKINSON

Probably, my daughter probably.

Right.

ATKINSON

Would've been in competitions or whatever but myself, I would have saw him at the club or on a bus where they took a bus to Dublin whatever and apart from that

So yourselves, youse didn't socialise with the Hanveys or

ATKINSON

No, no.

OK, the second bit I would like to just clarify is I can recall the phone call on the 27th of April 1997. I'll just confirm that is the 27th of April, that's the Sunday morning.

ATKINSON

Right.

OK, and you were aware of the incident that happened down the town involved Mr Hamill so that's the Sunday

ATKINSON

I mean now but then I wasn't, you know.

Right, that's that Sunday eh which was made by Michael McKee.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Can you just explain to me your relationship with the McKee's.

ATKINSON

Well Michael was the instructor eh in the Tai Kwando club. We chat, well they would've called at my house one, two, three nights a week after the, they might've brought [REDACTED] home for me or I might've went up, waited for the training, a bit of craic in the club and whatever, I might've done the weights or whatever, maybe done a wee bit of training and that's we might've went out occasionally but usually they would have come to my house with their parcel of drink.

You would have socialised then, there is occasions where you would've maybe went out to a bar for a drink or

ATKINSON

Eh not very often.

They would have come to your house.

ATKINSON

Yes.

How did they come, did they get a taxi, would they have drove, driven

ATKINSON

Well probably the car, the car, yeah.

They would've driven a car over.

ATKINSON

I think it's a black car he had.

Eh if they had've came, would they have stayed over often.

ATKINSON

Uh huh eh

They would have.

ATKINSON

Maybe, not once a week but when he drank, Michael drinks like a fish

OK.

ATKINSON And if he would've took the drink she would have took Miller, I don't personally take drink.

Right.

ATKINSON Eh and they both had, would've been on the drink so

Just clarify

ATKINSON They would've stayed.

Yeah, just clarify when you her, she took

ATKINSON I wouldn't let them drive home.

It's Michael, Michael and then his wife was Andrea.

ATKINSON Andrea, yes.

And so the two of them - did she drive.

ATKINSON Well she would've drove, drove, yes but when she would've had drink like she wouldn't

Yeah - would you have ever visited them and stayed over with them or

ATKINSON Never, I think I was in their house in total three times.

OK, well

ATKINSON In all the years were, were in it.

Well what was that for.

ATKINSON Eh

I don't mean what was it for

ATKINSON Michael

Was it for a social occasion, were you there maybe for the, for the night or for tea or something or when you say you were there three or fours times was it a matter if you were in the house five minutes and out again

ATKINSON Oh it would've been five minutes and out again. I was never there for a meal or

Were you ever there on your own without Robbie, your husband.

ATKINSON I think once when Mr McKee, when Michael done a bunk, he left.

Right.

ATKINSON

And I might've been, she, I think she phoned me but she didn't go to the club for a while and nobody knew that he had gone. I think he ran away with somebody out of the club. Well he would do that every now and again, Michael.

Right.

ATKINSON

So I think she, I don't even know if she rang me or maybe, she maybe rang the house or the club and I might've been up with [REDACTED] because my daughter would have taken the Tai Kwando, she was a black belt so therefore she would have helped them out with eh another senior maybe and I think I might've called over her, she was, you know devastated because he had gone like

(inaudible)

ATKINSON

But apart from that, no.

In your statement here again you say Michael and his wife Andrea had called at my house on the 26th of April 1997, that's, that's the Saturday evening with the intention of going out with my husband and myself

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

Unfortunately my husband was working that night and it goes on to say that Michael eh or I went to bed sometime after Midnight and Michael and Andrea also stayed that night.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Is, is that the case, is that what happened.

ATKINSON

Yes, yes.

They, they stayed over.

ATKINSON

Well they drunk their, what they brought.

Right.

ATKINSON

It must've been twelve Miller and maybe sixteen cans.

Do, do you know roughly what time they maybe arrived at that night. I know it's going back to 1997 but

ATKINSON

What day was it, Saturday

The Saturday night, yes.

ATKINSON

Well I don't but if there was Tai Kwando on, sometimes if there was something special on

maybe First Aid, I really don't know.

OK, do you know how, would they have got a taxi that night or would they have driven.

ATKINSON

Well I would say they had the car.

They had the car, OK - and that wasn't a planned night, that was planned to be.

ATKINSON

Oh no, no, nothing was ever planned, they just arrived.

OK - and they didn't know your husband was working.

ATKINSON

No they wouldn't have known.

Do you remember your husband coming in that night, the Sunday morning.

ATKINSON

I don't know

To refresh your mind, no he would've come in and then left again.

ATKINSON

Well I remember the phone ringing

Yeah.

ATKINSON

And him saying he had to go.

Right, so whenever he come in obviously youse were all in bed.

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

Eh and obviously he got to bed, he never, he didn't have a conversation at that stage.

ATKINSON

Well maybe I would've asked him where were you, you know what happened or

Yeah.

ATKINSON

What delayed you. I can't mind

OK.

ATKINSON

Honestly.

But you remember the phone going and he said he had to go to work again.

ATKINSON

Yes.

On that night, the Saturday night, were, [REDACTED] at that stage

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

What age would [REDACTED] have been.

ATKINSON [REDACTED] would've been eh [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Were they at home that night.

ATKINSON He lives with my mother  
Right.

ATKINSON At eh next [REDACTED]  
Yeah.

ATKINSON [REDACTED]  
At that stage was he living with your mother.

ATKINSON Yes, uh huh.  
Now can you just explain the circumstances why he's living with your mother.

ATKINSON My mother was having the house renovated at [REDACTED] and eh we couldn't get them somewhere to live so we decided we would take them to our house, to the dining room, so they put their bits and pieces in and lived there eh my father took the flu, it was January 97 and he passed away  
Right.

ATKINSON So she, the house wasn't ready so eh she stayed to Easter and she was, auck in a bad state like because she was, she would've been eighty  
Yeah.

ATKINSON Because she is eighty-four now so [REDACTED] decided he would live with her so they got his room done up in my mother's and he lived there.  
OK.

ATKINSON And he has always lived there.  
So your mother and [REDACTED] had just moved out really of your house

ATKINSON It would've been Easter, I think it was Easter, round Easter that mother moved.  
It was before this date anyway.

ATKINSON Oh it would've been, it was Easter time, I remember.  
OK, it's just in relation if, if Andrea and Michael stayed over, where were they have stayed.

ATKINSON

Well with [REDACTED] being at mother's [REDACTED] had a double bed because I had mother and father, you see; my mother and father was living with me so I had, [REDACTED] always had a double bed and it was always there like

Yeah.

ATKINSON

She would've stayed in [REDACTED] room, in the front room, the small room

Right.

ATKINSON

And they would've stayed, they always stayed in [REDACTED] bedroom.

Right, has [REDACTED] still got a double bed.

ATKINSON

No.

Right.

ATKINSON

She's maybe, well she just got a new unit in there, it's not just quite finished and she has a single bed.

OK, again we'll, we'll move on then to the Sunday morning

ATKINSON

Yes.

Eh at around 8 am, I'm reading from your statement again, at around 8 am on the 27th of April Robert returned to the house. Eh around 8 am you can't be really any more precise on that, could you or

ATKINSON

I couldn't, no.

OK. When he returned what, what, when he came through the door what happened then.

ATKINSON

Just (inaudible) but I really

Right, were, were you up at that time.

ATKINSON

I don't think it but I remember from this, you know when they had to be at the gym for nine o'clock.

OK - do you want me to look at your statement again.

ATKINSON

Yes, I remember them having said we have to be, they had, they had two private students (inaudible) and that's how I remember that for I knew I would have to make them something, you know a cup of tea whatever. I don't even know what I made them before they went to train or to take their private students.

Right - I'll just give a second, take all

the time you need to have a look through that - yeah

ATKINSON

And that's all, prob, probably that's all that was said

Right.

ATKINSON

Between the two of us.

So around, at around 8 am on the 27th Robert

ATKINSON

Aye, probably in the bedroom, I probably got up then.

Right, so you got

ATKINSON

Yeah.

Your, your breakfast, that's all that was said, yeah, she got up and yeah wakened Michael and Andrea

ATKINSON

I would've done, yeah probably.

As you say because you know they had to go to the gym; you cooked them breakfast

ATKINSON

Probably tea and toast.

Right, right

ATKINSON

Yeah.

Eh so obviously when Robert had come in he had told you what had happened the night before down the town.

ATKINSON

No, he wouldn't have said that now I think

No, no she's

ATKINSON

I remember something

Eh just

ATKINSON

I vaguely remember some, the Coach bus

Right.

ATKINSON

Robert said to me

I'll, I'll just read when we were at the breakfast table I passed a comment

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

Of a row being in the town centre, Michael Tracey Clarke, OK. about his niece, Tracey,

ATKINSON

Yeah, yeah.

Right, and as resulting from this Michael asked could he use the phone.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Eh the reason for that was he knew Tracey went with Alistair Hanvey; Alistair was living at home with his parents and he thought he would phone Alistair

ATKINSON

Yes.

To see if Tracey

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

Obviously that's the reason why

ATKINSON

Yeah ehm

Did, did Michael know the phone number for the Hanveys or did you get it for him.

ATKINSON

No, he knew it, as far as I know he knew it.

OK - was there a discussion between him and Andrea about making this call or what was the

ATKINSON

Well the two of them, I remember the two of them being in the hall together.

OK.

ATKINSON

So I mean my kitchen is quite long so I really don't know what they said.

Did you, did you hear any of the conversation.

ATKINSON

No.

Can I ask, obviously you know somebody is very worried about their niece and they go to the steps to phone her boyfriend's parents, did he take any other steps to phone anybody else.

ATKINSON

Well except he made them from the gym but certainly not in my house.

But at that early stage, you know obviously he was being concerned eh what I'm saying is as soon as he came off the phone

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

His niece's boyfriend's parents

ATKINSON

Yeah.

Eh that would maybe worry them or something

but did he, what about her mum or I don't know the family

ATKINSON

He didn't speak to [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] is a sister and they don't speak, him and Irene don't speak or didn't speak, that's all I know about it.

Right.

ATKINSON

Like she lives in [REDACTED]

Uh huh.

ATKINSON

His house was up here and [REDACTED] was somewhere along here, I was never in it but all I knew is for some reason they don't, they didn't speak.

You (inaudible) would be maybe a step, he was so worried that he would maybe have phoned her mother.

ATKINSON

Well I don't know now.

OK.

ATKINSON

What he done to be quite honest.

That's fine eh then you are saying a short time later Michael and Andrea left the house.

ATKINSON

Yeah.

As far as you're concerned they were left to go to the gym.

ATKINSON

Yes.

OK - where was Robert when they made that call.

ATKINSON

He would've been in bed, my Robert.

Yeah your Robert

ATKINSON

Aye, he was probably snoring.

Did he see them at any stage.

ATKINSON

No, he wouldn't have, no.

What time does he arrive home, can you remember that.

ATKINSON

No, eightish, I really don't know except I, I said to him at that particular time what time is it, I don't know.

You don't know.

ATKINSON

I really don't know.

You then move on to the second call which was on the 2nd of May 1997, so that is a Tuesday

ATKINSON

Yes.

Eh

ATKINSON

I don't know.

Right, in what you said your intention was to speak to Elizabeth Hanvey

ATKINSON

Yes.

Eh and it was actually Kenneth who answered the phone and it was in relation to the Tai Kwando, it was boots, gloves and a pattern book.

ATKINSON

It was actually the pattern book.

The pattern book.

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

Right, boots

ATKINSON

Probably.

Boots, what

ATKINSON

Well you had to go to maybe England to get the quality

Right.

ATKINSON

They probably have them and he hadn't been

Well when did

ATKINSON

At, Alistair hadn't been at Tai Kwando for a considerable time, you know at that time of that happening; he wouldn't have been going to Tai Kwando.

Eh just in, in relation to the boots, what are the boots like for it or

ATKINSON

They're, you know just plastic, oh sorry

SOLICITOR

No problem.

ATKINSON

Just plastic to go over your foot and then they come round with a little bit of eh elastic and the gloves are like boxing gloves.

Right.

ATKINSON

Then a helmet that (inaudible)

Are they full boots that actually wear or are they boots that go over eh like a track shoe, no.

ATKINSON No, there is no sole in them.

There is no sole in them.

ATKINSON There is no sole in them.

Right, so you can slip them on over

ATKINSON Just slip them on

Is there

ATKINSON Now you don't, you don't wear shoes with them

Oh right.

ATKINSON You just slip them on.

Over your bare feet.

ATKINSON Yeah.

Is there a difference between a boy's boot and a girl's boot or

ATKINSON No.

So did you think that they would have boots that would do your [REDACTED]

ATKINSON Well you see at one stage I think maybe the three Harvey boys went to Tai Kwando although I don't eh I don't know their names, I can't remember their names, they would've all went so they would've had eh

And are these boots in sizes like or does, are they medium, large

ATKINSON Well there probably would be small, medium and large.

And you thought that they might've had boots that would have done

ATKINSON Awe well they would've had, yes but [REDACTED] was going to the World Championships and the book was the most important thing to [REDACTED]

What, what is involved in the book or

ATKINSON It's a pattern book with all your different patterns and all the questions you are likely to be asked that eh she might've been doing her black belt, her first Dan or whatever and all those questions would have been in the book.

So in a competition you are actually judged maybe on, I don't really know what's involved with Tai Kwando but obviously

ATKINSON It's technique from

There is technique

ATKINSON Yeah.

But you are obviously asked questions and all as well.

ATKINSON Yes.

And again [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] at that time.

ATKINSON Yes.

Right, so obviously Kenneth said he had, as, as you say here he said he would mention it to his wife and at some stage after that Laura got what she, what she needed.

ATKINSON Or whether it was Elizabeth, Kenny or Alistair I don't know but Andrea give me the bag with, I can't mind now what I got and it was Andrea McKee that delivered them to myself.

She brought them down to you.

ATKINSON Well I don't actually know if I was up with Laura and she gave me

She gave them to me, right.

ATKINSON The, whatever.

And you go on to say that in fact you thought that eh your husband didn't know that the two had stayed that night.

ATKINSON No, he wouldn't have known.

How far would it be from ehm Portadown Station is where your husband worked.

ATKINSON Yes.

How far would it be from Portadown Station to your house and how did it take him to get home.

ATKINSON Oh five minutes

Five minutes.

ATKINSON I would, say, yeah.

Yeah and that was a Sunday morning, did you notice if he had papers with home or anything. Did he stop off or

ATKINSON No, I wouldn't have thought so for I always get them in the VG on a Sunday morning.

So he would have come straight home.

ATKINSON Well I would say so, yes.

What way would he come from Portadown Station to the house.

ATKINSON I would've thought probably

The Armagh Road

ATKINSON Down, Armagh Road, Carleton Street or Hanover Street. Carleton Street probably is straight up the Armagh Road.

Just, just to clarify another wee point here, the 2nd of May I said that was a Tuesday eh your, you work with the Electricity Board at, at [REDACTED]

ATKINSON Yes.

Eh how long have you worked there.

ATKINSON In total in NIE twenty-seven years but in [REDACTED] fifteen, left for five and I worked in the Abbey National and the Police Station in Mahon Road.

OK.

ATKINSON And back eh NIE asked me back and I'm there twelve years now.

Right, so 97 you had been working with them, 1997 you would've been working at [REDACTED].

ATKINSON I would've been, yes.

What are your shifts there, what were you working

ATKINSON Well I just do

A normal, a normal week.

ATKINSON Well I could go in any, it's flexi, any time from eight

OK.

ATKINSON To six.

Right.

ATKINSON Well I would've stayed to six, I was there, I would be there

You, you do your eight hours

ATKINSON (inaudible)

Between

ATKINSON Between

Eight and six, what (inaudible)

ATKINSON Half eight

Right.

ATKINSON Well certain days to go half eight

Yeah.

ATKINSON And stayed to five except there was a storm

Right.

ATKINSON When I would stay

So technically speaking you could start at eight and finish at four or you could start at ten and finish at six.

ATKINSON I couldn't, never do that well except I've been rang on occasions to come in at six, you know by [REDACTED], the boss.

Right.

ATKINSON Eh by the time I had got up, ready it would be seven.

She says no, in your statement here as well you have mentioned and maybe you have shown eh exhibit M114 and that, that is just you know your telephone bill

ATKINSON Yes.

For covering that period and it's relation to the two calls eh the first one we spoke before was on the 27th of the 4th 97 and that was at 0837 hours and the second was on the 2nd of the 5th 97 and that was at 1624, it's twenty-four minutes past four in the afternoon

ATKINSON Uh huh.

Eh it's a Tuesday, would you have been home at that stage, would, would you have been at work or

ATKINSON Well I could've finished at four maybe, well I might've had a half day with Jack eh mother maybe with her if it was just after my father's death I might've had, when was it eh

That's a Tuesday

SOLICITOR

It would've been in May, the 2nd of May

The 2nd of May.

ATKINSON

I think I had flu and my father died, oh no that was in January, no well possibly, I probably left at four.

Right.

ATKINSON

A half day

Robert

ATKINSON

We can take half days.

Do you know if Robert was home that day or

ATKINSON

I wouldn't have a clue, not a clue.

OK - had you ever rung them much before that.

ATKINSON

I would say [REDACTED] might've, you know how children are they just

Uh huh.

ATKINSON

Ring away, she might possibly have rang.

Right, just when we were talking earlier there about ehm your friendship with the McKee et cetera

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

And you really, there was no social relationship with the Hanveys

ATKINSON

No.

Who else would you have socialised with, who would you and your husband have socialised with at that time.

ATKINSON

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] eh [REDACTED] from [REDACTED],  
Clare in [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

ATKINSON

[REDACTED].  
Would they have been at your house regularly.

ATKINSON

Ehm Boxing Day.

Right.

ATKINSON

It's year about and I would see them whatever through the barbecue or whatever

Uh huh, is that all or

ATKINSON

My cousin, [REDACTED] eh my cousin [REDACTED]

Is she [REDACTED] as well.

ATKINSON

Yeah, no she's [REDACTED].

And did you have many social nights out.

ATKINSON

With the McKees

With, with anyone at that time, round about that time.

ATKINSON

Well Robert and myself usually do our own thing, we would go wherever ourselves and whatever

Well specifically with the McKees then

ATKINSON

No, we would've gone maybe once to see Titanic, I remember that and the Tai Kwando always had their eh trophy night, you know when they gave out the prizes in the Masonic Hall in Thomas Street in Portadown and that would've been eh Christmas. They were out with us before Christmas and that would've been it.

Right, I'm sorry you may have already answered this but I didn't catch ehm the night that the, the night that we are talking about, the night of the 26th in to the morning of the 27th how did they arrive at your house. Did they get a taxi

ATKINSON

They had the car.

They had the car and where would they have parked that car.

ATKINSON

Well the car was actually parked at my mother's round the back because I'm sure you know we had a lot of trouble eh with Loyalists at the house, petrol bombs, shooting and he, at that stage him and her would've been good to me. Robert was actually in [REDACTED] eh for a fortnight, you know staying so they would have come, you know to my house and saw, did you need cigarettes, did you need food whatever, they were very good to me at that stage and he always parked his car because he was and they stayed a couple of nights that particular time because if he left his car there and somebody recognised his car, he didn't want his car burnt

Was this round about the time we are talking about, is this

ATKINSON

Oh I don't know, I really couldn't tell you when our house was targeted and petrol bombed, I really don't know. It was several years it happened.

Uh huh.

ATKINSON

And he would've parked his car at my mother's house, round, right round the back

SOLICITOR

Out of sight.

Out of sight.

SOLICITOR

Right.

ATKINSON

Out of sight, yes.

Is your mummy's house near to your's.

ATKINSON

Yes, just, she' [REDACTED] and I'm [REDACTED]

Right, what kind of a car did they have, did you say or do you know the make.

ATKINSON

He had a Toyota and then he got a black car but what it was I don't know.

OK - OK, Mrs Atkinson we have went through your statement, we have clarified eh everything eh and what you tell us and fair to that is inaccurate eh account of events

ATKINSON

Yes.

That happened that evening, at this point eh obviously my colleague eh you received the Article 3 Caution before and my colleague explained that to you eh I would like to enforce that caution on you eh would you like to hear that again.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Well I'll just explain it to you that you have a right not to say anything if you do not want to, OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Anything you say may be given in evidence, this means you could go to court, the court may be told what you have said

ATKINSON

Yes.

OK. If there is something you don't tell us now which when asked you questions and you later decide to tell the court then the court may be less willing to eh believe what you have said, OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

What I want to say is what you have told us is or in that statement and what you have told us today is totally false

ATKINSON

Right.

I point to you that the McKees did not stay with you that night, OK.

ATKINSON

Well they did.

Right.

ATKINSON

Most definitely.

Andrea McKee has made a statement to the fact that she did not stay at your house that night.

ATKINSON

OK.

Can you explain why she would do that or

ATKINSON

Well eh I really don't know to be quite honest

OK, I have a statement here of Andrea McKee eh it's quite lengthy and I'll read just extracts from that statement

ATKINSON

Yes.

On that night I was actually in my home address, [REDACTED] with my husband, Michael. We didn't go out that night, I believe we were watching a boxing on television. OK.

ATKINSON

Yeah.

She will go further to say that she had friends over that evening, OK

ATKINSON

Right.

We would have another couple who sometimes came to our house; these people were Rodney Smith and Joy Kitchen eh it goes on to give where, where they live, it's in the town eh when I think about it this couple eh were visiting the house on that Saturday night eh and they came to our house by taxi, OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Obviously we have spoken to those two people and they can confirm that they were there that night.

ATKINSON

Right.

So obviously you see from that that the story you have told us cannot be true. I'm asking you to account

ATKINSON

OK.

For that discrepancy.

ATKINSON

Well I really can't, they were at my house. Andrea and Michael stayed at my house.

I just want to say for information of the tape that you were shaking your head eh negatively there, OK. You went like that. You shook your head negatively.

ATKINSON

Yeah.

OK.

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

You are saying that they stayed

ATKINSON

Yes.

Eh Andrea is saying that they definitely did stay, they had friends who were with them that night, those friends can now confirm that they were with Andrea at their home address in [REDACTED]

ATKINSON

Yes.

Do you know Rodney Smith or Joy Kitchen.

ATKINSON

I do, yes, they both eh were in my (inaudible) students, the Tai Kwando.

Would they have been any reason to tell a lie about that.

ATKINSON

I don't know.

Well can you think of one.

ATKINSON

No.

This is your opportunity, you know we have two different accounts now at this moment in time

ATKINSON

Yes.

We are telling you about two differing points, that's Andrea's and your's and if you have any reason or you can think of any reason why Andrea would be saying this or why Smith and Kitchen would be saying this, this is your opportunity to say it.

ATKINSON

I really don't know.

Andrea is quite clear about the, you know they were eh the taxi firm that they left with eh what was on TV, they are adamant that they weren't out of their own house, they weren't at your house

ATKINSON

Uh huh, well my, well I don't know if my daughter would remember it but eh they were certainly at my house.

Do you think your daughter may remember it.

ATKINSON

She probably would.

Why would your daughter remember that night in particular.

ATKINSON

Well she probably wouldn't, she probably would just be able to say they stayed at time to time but I wouldn't say he would remember that night for any particular reason.

Was she up on the Sunday morning when they were up.

ATKINSON

I don't know.

Did she sit up with you on the Saturday evening or

ATKINSON

Possibly.

She was definitely in the house.

ATKINSON

Yes, yes and my son probably was there until he went to my mother's.

He was seventeen at that time.

ATKINSON

Yes.

He would've been in the house on Saturday night.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Well I'm asking you to think about it again now, Eileen - Eleanor - or sorry, Eleanor, the discrepancy here that they weren't at your house and now you are putting forward your, your own son and your own daughter as a, to cover that they were there. I'm asking you to think about that before you, obviously they have to be spoken to if they can confirm or, or

ATKINSON

Well I really don't think they could remember four years back.

OK.

ATKINSON

To be quite honest.

What Andrea

ATKINSON

And I wouldn't put them in a position

OK, what Andrea went on to say, what actually happened was that Michael was approached by Robert Atkinson. I became aware that he was looking eh to cover a phone call that he had made on the morning to Alistair Hanvey's house. Michael told me that he wasn't happy about, about covering for Robert, OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

SOLICITOR

Now, sorry this is Andrea

Yeah.

SOLICITOR

Saying this, this is not Michael.

No, she's, no

SOLICITOR

It is Andrea saying this.

That's correct, yes.

SOLICITOR

Uh huh.

Andrea will go on to say that she, she remembers the Sunday fully eh her and Michael got up on the Sunday morning. I recall making breakfast and Michael went out for a short time to get the papers. She will say then between ten or between eleven and twelve eh Tracey Clarke came round to the house to visit.

ATKINSON

I don't know.

These are all things, again you said in your statement that you were aware that Michael had to go to the gym.

ATKINSON

Yes.

OK. We have checked and the gym wasn't open that Sunday morning.

ATKINSON

The gym is always opened, everybody has keys, the gym is always opened.

Yes, well what

ATKINSON

Because the two sets

We, we are aware that people obviously members whatever they have a key, they can go to the gym and they can get in themselves and work away

ATKINSON

Yes.

They don't actually need anybody there; I said the gym is not open on a Sunday for people to come eh for lessons, for tuition, for whatever, they can let themselves in they can train away but it is not opened for normal business as you could say on a Sunday.

ATKINSON

Well it was opened, yes, quite a lot of Sundays for full Tai Kwando.

Well that is contrary to eh statements that we have received from people eh the owner of the property in fact and eh other people working there.

ATKINSON

Well it most definitely was opened every Sunday. Somebody would then open with the key, left the door open, lights was fully on and because my daughter went on a Sunday.

OK - so are you saying then that Andrea McKee is telling a lie here.

ATKINSON

Yes.

And the people who have made statements to say that the gym wasn't opened on a Sunday are also telling a lie.

ATKINSON

Well I would like to know who they are, are they regulars.

Have you those statements down with you at this stage, no - eh I haven't the statements, no but eh obviously we know the gym is owned, Bobbie Jameson owns the property

ATKINSON

Yes.

And he will confirm, there is a statement from him, it's not, I haven't it with me in my presence at the moment eh but we are talking about statements and you say you know eh Robert Smith and Joy Kitchen. Now they, they have made statements to say that they were at eh the McKee's house that Saturday night

ATKINSON

Yes.

So you're saying Andrea is lying, those two people are lying as far as being at home, at [REDACTED] and you're no they were at your house.

ATKINSON

Yes.

OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

What I'm in possession of here, it's a copy of a taxi log for the 27th of the 4th 97 from Call-a-Cab, West Street, Portadown, OK. Now when I go through the taxi log there is a call on it eh it's on the log at 0215, OK

ATKINSON

Yes.

On the 20th, the Sunday morning, it is collect Smith and the address is to collect him from is [REDACTED].

ATKINSON

Yes.

OK. What can you say to that.

ATKINSON

Well Rodney and Joy

Why

ATKINSON

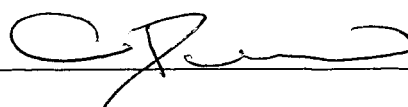
Went to get, Rodney was married, now I did not know he went with Joy and I went in and out of the Tai Kwando club and apparently, now this is only talk sake from people, they both stayed at Andrea's weekends on their own; her mother and father are in the Christian Endeavour Kitchen, you know in Mandeville Street and they would not tolerate Rodney was a married, has two children and apparently Mr and Mrs Kitchen did not tolerate this going on so they apparently (buzzer) stayed at Andrea's for a cover-up. I don't know if that's true but that's what apparently happens or happened.

That, that bleep that you heard there, I'm sorry to interrupt you at this stage, it's a quarter to four, those tapes have finished and I'm just going to put a new set of tapes in and then we'll just continue on, OK.

ATKINSON

OK.

CHECKED & CERTIFIED AN ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF PACE TAPE NO T25549A INTERVIEW OF ELEANOR JANE ATKINSON ON 10 APRIL 2001 BETWEEN 1503 HOURS AND 1545 HOURS.

 DC 17691