

CP16

This interview is being tape recorded. The interview is being conducted in an Interview Room at Armagh Police Office. I am Detective Constable Murphy, South Region CID and the other Officer present is - Detective Constable [REDACTED] from Belfast Region CID - the date is Tuesday the 10th of April 2001 and the time, from my watch is 9 10 pm. Other persons present are

SOLICITOR  
OMBUDSMAN

Sean Hagan, Solicitor, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] from the Police Ombudsman's Office in Belfast.

Can you

ATKINSON

My name is Eleanor Atkinson.

Just, Eleanor Atkinson.

ATKINSON

Eleanor Atkinson, yeah.

Eh you have already got a PACE 21, Eleanor telling you what happens to the tapes.

ATKINSON

Yes.

You still have that in your possession.

ATKINSON

Yes.

And you are happy enough with what happens with the tapes. You, you can read that and

ATKINSON

Yes, I get, my solicitor gets one and

Yes.

ATKINSON

And you keep one.

Uh huh.

ATKINSON

Yeah.

And your solicitor is present here, OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

You were arrested by myself

ATKINSON

Yes.

This morning at your place of work at 8 40 am. You were arrested 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 your reply was, can I ring my husband.

ATKINSON

Yes.

You were subsequently interviewed here in Gough from 1503 to 1622 by myself and DC [REDACTED].

ATKINSON

Yes.

We wish now to carry on a further interview and before I do that, I'll just read you the caution again, OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

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. That's Article 3 of the Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1988. It basically means you have a right not to say anything if you don't want to.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Anything you do say can be given in evidence, that means if you go to court, the court can be told what you have said

ATKINSON

Yes.

And if there is something you 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.

Do you understand what that means, yes.

ATKINSON

Yes.

OK. In the interview today we showed you two documents but they were photocopies of documents, I want to now show you the real exhibit if you like. The first one is MI14 and it's labelled as an itemised bill for Mr R Atkinson, dated 11 9 97, OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

It's exactly the same as the photocopy obviously but it's just the original document, OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

You can see there is a number underlined there

ATKINSON

Yes.

At 0837 on the 27th of the 4th 97

ATKINSON

Yes.

[REDACTED]

ATKINSON

No.

[REDACTED]

ATKINSON

[REDACTED]

Whose number is that.

ATKINSON

That's Hanvey's.

Do you know the first name of Hanvey.

ATKINSON

Kenneth, Kenny.

We put it to you earlier today that your husband rang that number at that time and you, you said that was not true, Michael McKee rang that number from your home.

ATKINSON

That's correct.

Is that what you are still saying.

ATKINSON

Yes.

That number again appears on the 2nd of May 97 at 1624

ATKINSON

Yes.

You are happy enough with that.

ATKINSON

Yes.

What did you say about that time and that date.

ATKINSON

That was regarding the equipment for Tai Kwando.

And you still stick with that story.

ATKINSON

Yes.

The second document that I wish to show you is DL4, it's named as a taxi log for the 27th of the 4th 97 from Call-a-Cab, West Street, Portadown.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Again it's the original document. There's an item highlighted here but that's not what we're concerned about, this line here is the time, 2 15, [REDACTED] sorry

[redacted] Smith, town; that's the address that the taxi has to go to.

ATKINSON

Right.

Smith is the name of the person that requires the taxi.

ATKINSON

Yes.

The town is where they are going to

ATKINSON

Yes.

And the driver was driver 9

ATKINSON

Yes.

OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Do you know who lives at [redacted]

ATKINSON

Eh Andrea and Michael McKee lived there.

At that time.

ATKINSON

Yes.

And we put it to you that if that taxi was rang at 2 15 am and they were the only two people that lived in that house that they were calling a taxi for visitors that were at that house that evening.

SOLICITOR

Well that could be right.

ATKINSON

Yes.

And we also put it to you that the McKees were in the house with them.

ATKINSON

No, we did but I'm saying the McKees was at my house.

SOLICITOR

And that date again, Detective Constable, is what date again.

The 27th of April 97 or 97. You said that you knew Rodney Smith and Joy Kitchen

ATKINSON

I am not very well, I know them, they went to Tai Kwando and the reason you said that they went to McKee's house was because he was married and this girl's parents wouldn't like the relationship or something like that.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Well if they were in that house that night, why would they have got a taxi home at 2 15

when the McKees stayed at your house; why would they not have just stayed there.

ATKINSON

I don't know. I really don't know.

The reason they didn't stay was because the McKees were there, they were going home. The McKees were in their own home. The McKees weren't in your house.

ATKINSON

The McKees were in my house.

Andrea McKee says they weren't.

ATKINSON

Well I say they were.

Andrea McKee says a story was concocted in your house to cover the fact that Robert had made the call.

ATKINSON

Well there was never a story eh concocted in my house about anything.

Not in your presence.

ATKINSON

Well I was always in the house when Robert was there, you know, well if he had've been working I would've been three myself but if we were both there we both would've been either in the kitchen or the living room.

Robert is never in the house when you're not in it.

ATKINSON

Oh he is, yes.

SOLICITOR

(inaudible)

So that story wasn't concocted in your presence.

ATKINSON

No.

But you wouldn't be able to say if that story was concocted in your house when you weren't there.

ATKINSON

Why would I not, no.

It's a very unusual time if you're staying at someone's house and they're not there to go home, do you not agree with that.

SOLICITOR

I'm sorry I didn't catch you.

I said it's an usual time for someone who was staying at someone's house if they're not there to go home; if they had the run of the house.

SOLICITOR

Ehm there could've been all sorts of reasons why they want to go at that time of the night.

ATKINSON

Well Joy's parents are ehm leaders of the Christian Society in Portadown in Mandeville Street. I don't know the reason, maybe she had to be home, I really don't know.

But even, even at that it's a very late time if you were from a Christian family to go home.

SOLICITOR

It could be a Cinderella job, isn't that right.

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

Right - do you wish to have a look at your statement again or are you happy that you have read it and you are happy that it's true.

ATKINSON

I am happy it's true.

Every word in that statement is the truth.

ATKINSON

Yes.

And every word that you have told us here today is the truth.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Mrs Atkinson, the two telephone numbers underlined the same telephone number referred to Anthony's, is that right.

ATKINSON

Yes.

How well do you know them.

ATKINSON

Well through school or probably would know Elizabeth, between the school from we grew up and through Tai Kwando and because she would have been from that end of the town.

Uh huh.

ATKINSON

And that's really how I know her was through Tai Kwando.

Uh huh, you had no contact with, with them, no.

ATKINSON

██████████ would have, yeah.

No, so you're not that friendly as such.

ATKINSON

No, I speak if I need to Mrs Hanvey, I would speak.

But if you had eh connections with them through this sporting outfit, the Tai

Kwando, would it not be unlikely you would contact them more than just twice, I think that statements covers about a two and a half month period

ATKINSON

When my eh my daughter would probably have maybe before that been in contact with them but eh Alistair hadn't been doing the Tai Kwando for a while, you know he, [REDACTED] continued her Tai Kwando, he didn't.

Right.

ATKINSON

He wasn't at the, she would've went nightly, you know every night she would've went and he always would've, if you were in the hall and you have seen them, who was training and it had been a long time from he had been at Tai Kwando.

Right, well what was, why did you get in touch with him for equipment then if

ATKINSON

Well [REDACTED] goes to competitions and there's a manual, like a book ehm with patterns and what have you ehm she didn't have one and his eh Alistair's other brother, he has two other brothers went and they had the hats and what have you and when [REDACTED] thought she would get something cheap probably.

Right, was the club still going at that time then.

ATKINSON

Uh huh eh yes, uh huh.

Is it still going now or

ATKINSON

Well eh [REDACTED], there was a fella [REDACTED] would have it now.

Right.

ATKINSON

[REDACTED] has been a few times but she's doing her O levels so it's been about six to eight months from she has been.

Uh huh - the phone call that was made on the 2nd of May 97, that's the one that you were talking about, the boots and the pattern book et cetera, that phone call was made around eh 4 30

SOLICITOR

Four o'clock or so

Four o'clock

SOLICITOR

Yeah.

Or 4 30

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

1624, almost twenty-five past five, twenty-five past four, would, and you said this morning, earlier on that you can work flexi

ATKINSON

Yes.

Would, does your work have a rota sheet or a she that would say what you worked on that day.

ATKINSON

Eh I'm not sure, how long ago is that, they might have, yes.

To say what time you would have started and what time you would have finished.

ATKINSON

Possibly, yes.

Well is that kind of sheet kept in work or

ATKINSON

Well everyone sort of does their own flexi but ehm they probably wouldn't have kept maybe as far back

Right.

ATKINSON

I really don't know. I could certainly ask.

No, that's OK I just, I didn't know if you, like I know that we have duty sheets but I didn't know if

ATKINSON

Well we fill in the time of the morning we come in and the time we go home on a wee flexi sheet.

Yeah.

ATKINSON

And then your hours from that month, at end of the month your hours is added up then it's, that's probably tore up and it's, your balance is wrote at the top of the other sheet and then you continue for next month

So your hours mightn't necessarily be there then

ATKINSON

No.

Your actual hours may not be there.

ATKINSON

Yeah.

When Mickey stayed that night and slept in [REDACTED] bed

ATKINSON

Yes.

Which at that time was a double bed

ATKINSON

Yes.

When did you get rid of that.

ATKINSON

Ehm eh that was in 97, maybe a year and a half later.

Did you sell it or

ATKINSON

No.

Threw it out.

ATKINSON

Threw it out, uh huh.

Dumped it.

ATKINSON

Well actually my mother and father had to stay because of the renovations but she would've accidentally wet on the

Right.

ATKINSON

Bed and even though I had put a, one of those sheets on it so [REDACTED] she wanted her room done up; her father is making her a unit and she got her a single bed and she's, the unit is just finished, Robert had been sort of working on it when that, you know (inaudible)

But the single bed is there although down before the unit and stuff, is that right.

ATKINSON

Oh yes, yes, yes.

Yes.

ATKINSON

Uh huh, the unit has been ongoing for about two and a half years.

Ehm a slow worker.

SOLICITOR

ATKINSON

He is.

Anything else - no - do you want to say anything, Mr Hagan.

SOLICITOR

No thank you.

Right - the plan is that ehm you will be released from here on bail tonight to return at a later time

ATKINSON

Yes.

And I think the date that they are talking about is the 8th of May, OK.

ATKINSON

Yes, yes, is that Monday.

I think it's a Tuesday - no, Tuesday, it was four weeks today

ATKINSON

(inaudible) and been off work.

Uh huh - they'll not let us work on Monday - they only pay us

ATKINSON

Oh right.

SOLICITOR

That could be a problem to me personally for this reason that the 8th of May is the opening day of a planning enquiry at Craigavon and I'm already committed to that and so I don't want to be telling you at the last minute so that would be Tuesday after the Bank Holiday.

Yes.

SOLICITOR

And it's a very critical day in the planning appeal and I represent quite a few clients and I would really need to be there.

Well I'll speak to the bosses about that then.

SOLICITOR

I appreciate that if you would, yes and there wouldn't be any difficulty as far as Mrs Atkinson or her husband are concerned in attending another time or indeed attending that day but I would find it very difficult.

OK, well we'll speak to the boss

SOLICITOR

Yeah, because this, this enquiry begins at 10 am that day.

OK and you expect to be there all day.

SOLICITOR

Well unhappily I would be there certainly all morning and in my calculation the afternoon; I would be expect to be engaged all morning.

Right, so possibly, if, if we can't change the date definitely the afternoon then.

SOLICITOR

Well, yeah, I mean, I mean could work the afternoon but I can't desert these people in the morning.

OK.

SOLICITOR

Yeah.

OK and we have arranged a lift home for you tonight so

ATKINSON

OK.

You shouldn't be long detained now, is that OK.

ATKINSON

That's fine.

ATKINSON Is there anything you want to ask or  
 No, is Robert  
 We can't discuss

ATKINSON Oh sorry, sorry.  
 Him at all.

ATKINSON Right, but can I wait on him.  
 SOLICITOR Well I think if you leave that to me I'll  
 liaise with the Police

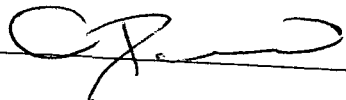
ATKINSON OK.  
 SOLICITOR And then I'll, I'll be able to let you know.  
 OK, you've got the PACE 21 about the tapes.

ATKINSON Oh it's up in the cell so I'll have to lift  
 it.  
 Right, OK.

ATKINSON So I just, do I just come here.  
 SOLICITOR Sorry the time now is, I want to get the  
 time

SOLICITOR Yeah the time is 9 29 - that's right.  
 That's fine then.

CHECKED & CERTIFIED AN ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF PACE  
 TAPE INTERVIEW OF ELEANOR JANE ATKINSON ON  
 10 APRIL 2001 BETWEEN 2110 HOURS AND 2129 HOURS.

 DC 17691