

CP20

This interview is being tape recorded. The interview is being conducted in an Interview Room at Lurgan Police Station. I am Patricia Murphy, Detective Constable from South Region CID and the other Officer present is - Detective Constable [REDACTED], South Region CID - eh the date, today is the 31st of May 2001 and the time from the interview room clock is 1236. Could you give us your full name, please.

ATKINSON

Eleanor Atkinson.

Eh what's your name, sir.

SOLICITOR

[REDACTED], Solicitor.

At the conclusion of the interview ehm Mrs Atkinson you'll get a Notice explaining what happens to the tapes that are used here today. Ehm you were arrested back on the 10th of April by myself 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 and you were interviewed on that day, OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Ehm you were released then to come back on bail and you have returned once and now you are back again today, we have some further points to you and we want to clarify some matters, is that OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Just before we do that I'll remind you of the caution, 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 and you know that means that you have a right not to say anything today if you don't want to, anything you do say can be given in evidence. You know that means that if you go to court, the court can be told what you have said and 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 that at that stage.

ATKINSON

Yes.

OK. We spoke to you at length in ehm during the last interview, Eleanor about the

statement which you had made to Police on the 9th of the 10th 97

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

We read that statement to you and ehm we went through various aspects of it and basically you stuck to your story that that was, that was the truth, that statement was the truth.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Could you tell us ehm how where you contacted to make that statement initially, how did it come about that you made that statement, did

ATKINSON

I was brought here to Lurgan.

You were brought to Lurgan.

ATKINSON

No, I was asked to come to Lurgan voluntary eh by eh someone in Portadown who was dealing with the case, I can't mind his name, maybe

That is Lurgan RUC Station.

ATKINSON

I was brought here, yes eh maybe it was somebody [REDACTED]

Right.

ATKINSON

I think that's who it was.

And who, who came along with you.

SOLICITOR

If you can't remember you can't remember.

ATKINSON

I can't remember, probably Robert.

Right, no-one else.

ATKINSON

No, I don't know.

How did you get here.

ATKINSON

I don't know, it's too long ago I couldn't remember, 97

Uh huh, did Michael McKee attend the Station with you.

ATKINSON

No.

He didn't.

ATKINSON

I don't know, no.

SOLICITOR Are there not records of this, Detective Constable.

Yes.

SOLICITOR Well what does the records indicate.

We are asking your client at the moment, Mr [REDACTED]

SOLICITOR She says she doesn't know.

She said, she said she didn't know is right, we are testing her truthfulness at this moment in time so you can't recall if Michael McKee was with you.

ATKINSON I cannot, no.

Michael - On that, sorry on that date was that the date that Robert was being re-interviewed eh did you arrange to come over with him then when he was being spoken to as well.

ATKINSON Well I couldn't, I don't really know.

OK.

ATKINSON I was just asked to come and I came and that's all I can remember.

And you think you came with Robert.

ATKINSON Aye, he probably would have brought me, yes.

OK, that was on ehm the 9th of October, that's the same date that Michael McKee made a statement. Now the statement that Michael McKee made at that time, he has now said was lies.

SOLICITOR When, when he did say this now.

Have we got that interview note there, on the 10th of April 2001.

SOLICITOR The 10th of April of this year.

Yes.

SOLICITOR Is that after caution or

Absolutely, yes.

SOLICITOR Had he been arrested.

He was, yes.

SOLICITOR So he gave a, originally gave a statement on

the 9th of October 97 and then on the 10th of April 2001, following his arrest he then is indicating to you

That that statement was false.

SOLICITOR

In your copy that statement is a false statement.

That's correct. Well I'm just going to read ehm from a transcript of his interview

ATKINSON

Yes.

On what he said. I'll just remind you of the caution before I do that, OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Ehm 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, OK.

ATKINSON

Yes.

SOLICITOR

My client has already been cautioned, Detective Constable.

I'll read the, the bit that I want to read to you

ATKINSON

Yes.

And then you are obliged, you can say or not say anything as you wish.

ATKINSON

OK.

This is a Police Officer speaking now, OK, Michael now the question I asked you just before you finished off

SOLICITOR

Sorry, Detective Constable, where was this interview conducted.

This interview was conducted in an Interview Room at Armagh Police Office. Could you refrain from interrupting me, just till I read the

SOLICITOR

No, Constable I, I need, my client needs to know these things and as legal adviser I need to know the situation. I mean you are putting a very eh a very serious matter to her, this is a serious investigation

Absolutely but if you, if you wish to ask me

a question

SOLICITOR

And you're, you're telling her

Mr [REDACTED] ask me before I start to read from this

SOLICITOR

But.

You are interrupting me in the middle of it

SOLICITOR

You have gone right in, you have gone right into it and you're, you're now going to read to her, are you going to read to her the full transcript of this interview or just parts of it.

I told your client, very specifically, that I wanted to read a piece of the transcript to her.

SOLICITOR

No, well ehm I would be advising her not to answer any questions in relation to that until, unless the whole transcript is read to her.

Fine, well I'll just read the piece that I wish to read to you at this stage and you can take your solicitor's advice as you wish. OK, Michael now the question I asked you just before we finished off there for your consultation was, was that statement you made then correct and true. He's talking about the statement that he made on the 9th of October, OK.

ATKINSON

Yeah.

SOLICITOR

Well eh I mean my client doesn't know what the statement that he made on the 9th of October, it will have to be read to my client eh Detective Constable with the greatest respect, you are going to read selective parts of an interview with this man, McKee eh on the 10th of April 2001 and before you do so, you have told ehm my client that he has made a statement indicating that his statement of the 9th of October eh of 1997 is lies. Now I think, as a matter of courtesy even, that, that Mrs Atkinson the whole of the 1997 statement be read to her.

If that's your wish, do we have the statement here

SOLICITOR

Well it's only sensible.

I, I would assume, Mrs Atkinson would be aware of what's in that statement

SOLICITOR

From 1997

She would've been aware of the contents of that in the previous interview

SOLICITOR

Well I think that, I mean but this is a new development now, this man has now made a statement which you say eh is in complete

And the new development is going to be read to her

SOLICITOR

Yes.

The bit that is going to be read to her

SOLICITOR

Well I think she, I mean we are talking about even an interview away at the beginning of, well the first week of last month, in April, she needs to be told and read through the statement that was made by Mr McKee, the full statement was made by Mr McKee away back in 1997.

It's not there, do you want to terminate the interview

SOLICITOR

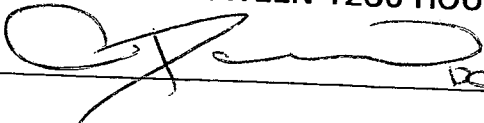
Yes.

To we get that statement ehm if you could go and get it, it would save or do you want to end it now - no, we'll just stop it and start it again. OK, right we will terminate the interview at this stage and we will get you that statement if, as your solicitor wants it read, OK.

ATKINSON

OK.

CHECKED & CERTIFIED AN ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF PACE TAPE NO T270650A INTERVIEW OF ELEANOR ATKINSON ON 31 MAY 2001 BETWEEN 1236 HOURS AND 1245 HOURS.

  
DC 17691