

This interview is being tape recorded. The interview is being conducted in an interview room at Armagh Police Office. I am Detective Sergeant H [REDACTED] from South Region CID and the other officer present is Detective Constable J [REDACTED], South Region CID and we also have another person present. Could you identify yourself please.

OMBUDSMAN

Certainly my name is Darren Wright. I'm investigating officer with the office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.

Can we just close those windows if you wouldn't mind, is that OK, there's a bit of a noise, sorry. OK, the date is the 10th of April 19 or sorry 2001 and the time is 1048, 1148. And also present is a solicitor

SOLICITOR

[REDACTED]
OK, can you tell us your full name please.

McKEE

James Michael McKee.

Michael what's your date of birth.

McKEE

[REDACTED]
And your address.

McKEE

[REDACTED]
Michael at the end of this interview we will give you a form, it's a PACE 21 which will explain to you what I'll happen to the tapes OK.

McKEE

Yeah.

And I want also to remind you and I know your solicitor's present now but throughout your detention you have a right of access to legal advice OK. Now I want to put the allegation to you and the allegation is as I told you this morning eh you've been arrested in relation to a conspiracy to pervert the course of justice between and including the 27th of the 4th 1997 and the 25th of November 1997 in relation to the murder of Robert Hamill who was assaulted on the 27th of the 4th 97 in Portadown and subsequently died on the 8th of May 1997. Do you understand that Michael. I want to caution you in respect of that and the caution is you do not have to say anything but I must caution you that if you don't 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.

McKEE

I do.

I know you're nodding your head there Michael but if you just bear in mind that this interview is being tape recorded and if you could speak as well as nodding your head

McKEE

Tear away, OK.

Do you understand everything so far.

McKEE

Yes.

Well I just want to explain to you that although you're being questioned in Gough Barracks here in Armagh you are detained under eh Police and Criminal Evidence Law OK, it's not, you're not held here as a terrorist, this place has been designated for the purposes eh of PACE Arrests for today.

McKEE

OK.

All right.

McKEE

Yeah.

Michael ehm before I start here is there anything you want to say.

McKEE

Not at this time no.

OK, you fully understand the reason that you've been arrested.

McKEE

Yes.

In 1997 you were, you made a witness statement to police. Do you recall that.

McKEE

I do, yes.

Ah, do you recall that you made it to a Detective Inspector Irwin.

McKEE

Yeah, I can't remember his name but

OK

McKEE

A policeman, yes.

Do you remember the content of that statement.

McKEE

I do, yes.

Do you want to tell us about that, what you said in your statement.

McKEE
SOLICITOR

Yeah.

Is it.

Ehm, that I and my eh ex wife had made a phone call to Alistair Hanvey's mother ehm checking on my niece's whereabouts and was she all right and her name was Tracey and that's about all I can remember.

OK, and why did you do that. What was the reason behind that.

McKEE

Eh, because my niece Tracey was going out with Alistair Hanvey.

Yes.

McKEE

And apparently the night before he'd been in a fight in Portadown and obviously just checking on her well-being.

OK, do you remember eh much about that fight in Portadown and who told you about it.

McKEE

No.

And when you made that phone call what you're saying is that you're recollection is that it was you or your wife.

McKEE

Yes.

And your wife then was

McKEE

Andrea McKee.

OK, and you made that phone call from where.

McKEE

Robbie Atkinson's house.

And Robert Atkinson is what.

McKEE

He would be a friend of mine or was.

Was a friend of yours.

McKEE

Yes.

Is he no longer a friend of yours.

McKEE

No.

And at that time ehm was he in employment.

McKEE

Yes.

What did he work at.

McKEE

A policeman.

He's a Full Time Reserve Constable.

McKEE

As far as I know yes.

OK, had you an association with Robert Atkinson, you say he was a friend, what type of friendship was that Michael.

McKEE

Eh it was a very close friendship because obviously ehm in Northern Ireland eh I didn't go out very much and I was either drinking in Robbie's house or my house.

Right, OK. And what about that statement that you made then. Is that statement true and correct.

McKEE

Can I just speak to my solicitor please.

SOLICITOR

Can you turn the tape off I need to speak to him, he needs legal advice.

You've already, we've only kicked this off now

SOLICITOR

But he's entitled to I think some legal advice.

Five minutes

SOLICITOR

Five minutes

Right, that's OK we'll kick this tape on, we just want to make it clear, we'll kick the tape off in five minutes and most of that time has been spent on introductions

McKEE

Uh huh.

But we don't have a problem giving you a bit of time with your solicitor all right.

McKEE

Thank you.

OK, but we can't continually, I just want to make it clear that we, continually we can't stop to do it all right.

McKEE

That's fine.

But, OK, so we'll switch the tapes off here at what time - 1154, 55. Here the time is now 1155 pm and we're recommencing the interview.

McKEE

OK.

OK, Michael now the question I asked you just before you finished off there for your consultation was, was that statement you made then correct and true.

McKEE

It was not.

In what way was it not.

McKEE

Ehm, I was a friend of eh Robbie Atkinson's for some number of years and he asked me to say I made the phone call to eh Alistair's mum to check how Tracey was and as a friend of Robbie Atkinson obviously because he was about the only friend that I had in Northern Ireland I said yes I would, I'm saying I made the phone call so I did.

OK, ehm what was the reasoning behind that, why did that come about.

McKEE

Eh, I don't know the whole story but apparently ehm he was one of the policemen on the crime scene and where Robbie Hamill ehm Hamill was sort of assaulted and for whatever reason eh Robbie had made a phone call or, or his wife had made a phone call to Alistair's mum or dad and to do something or something or other and me and stupidity said yes I'll cover up and say I made a phone call.

Yeah, but and ehm do you know who, who made the phone call.

McKEE

I honestly don't know who made the phone call.

And what they till, whoever made the phone call you're saying it was Robert Atkinson or Eleanor Atkinson

McKEE

Or Eleanor yeah.

And they made the phone call to Hanvey's home.

McKEE

Yes.

And who lives at Hanvey's home.

McKEE

Well Mr & Mrs Hanvey and at the time four of their kids.

And who, what's significant about that but

McKEE

What do you mean.

Who did you say lived there.

McKEE Eh, well there was the eldest one was ehm I can't remember his name and there was Alistair, and there was Glen, and I know eh the youngest one I can't remember his name either.

And it was, it was who, who asked you to make the phone to say you made the phone call

McKEE Robbie

Robert Atkinson.

McKEE Yes.

And what did he say they had phoned the Hanvey's about.

McKEE He never actually said so I, you know so, and I don't know.

You said earlier there that they had made a phone call to Hanvey's mother or father

McKEE Yes.

Telling him to do something.

McKEE Yes.

What do you understand by that.

McKEE Well like I honestly don't know whether they were trying to cover up something or you know or get something over to them or something I don't know.

Uh huh, well when did Robert ask you to do this.

McKEE I'm assuming it was the day after the fight on whatever day it was I don't know but it was a Saturday or a Sunday morning (inaudible)

Well the assault occurred at about 1 50 am on the 27th of April

McKEE Right.

In Portadown.

McKEE Uh huh.

Now Robert Hamill he didn't die until the 8th of May

McKEE Right.

Ehm, can you tie it down to a time then, was it before or after his death.

McKEE

No, I can't tie it down to that before or after

Uh huh, so he asked you, sorry it's better if you say it again just to get it clear, tell us what he asked you to do again Michael.

McKEE

He asked me to say I made the phone call ehm checking on my niece Tracey

(Inaudible) Tracey is - Sorry

McKEE

Sorry

Tracey is who.

McKEE

My, my niece.

And what's her second name.

McKEE

Eh, Clarke.

OK go ahead - Now the phone just to be clear, he, he told you to make the phone call or to say that you had made the phone call

McKEE

Uh, no he did not, he didn't tell me to make the phone call, he asked me to make the phone call and me being very gullible and stupid said yes I would say I'd make a phone call from his house

From his house, that was my point and - And yeah, he just to be clear about this, he asked you to make a phone call is what you just said.

McKEE

No, he said he asked me had, that I'd, that I'd made a phone call.

He asked you to say

McKEE

Yes.

Right, you explain that in your own words, that's what I'm trying to get to Michael - That's where I was confused I think you said he asked you to make a phone call

McKEE

No.

But you didn't actually make a phone call

McKEE

No.

McKEE He asked you to say
I'd made a phone call

McKEE That you had made a phone call

McKEE Yes.

McKEE Is that correct.

McKEE Yes.

McKEE Right, and he asked you to say that you had
made the phone call from

McKEE His house

McKEE Right, to

McKEE Harvey's house.

McKEE Right - When did this phone call occur.

McKEE Sometime in the morning.

McKEE Of, after the assault.

McKEE Oh it, well it must have been yeah.

McKEE Right, OK. Now what I'm going to do here is
well before we get to that point, who all
knows about this.

McKEE Me and my ex wife.

McKEE Andrea

McKEE Yes.

McKEE And who else.

McKEE Eh Robbie Atkinson and Eleanor.

McKEE Yes, who else.

McKEE That's it.

McKEE Well the Harvey's what about them.

McKEE Ehm, I haven't seen a Harvey for a long
time.

McKEE Yeah.

McKEE You know before that even because Alistair
had stopped training, admitted he was
going, still going out with my niece off and
on ehm and in the past he ehm October,
18 months I've seen Alistair once.

Eh and when you say training could you just explain for the purposes of the tape what you actually do and what the training is in connection with (inaudible)

McKEE

I teach Martial Arts and I taught Alistair Hanvey eh on Martial Arts and Robbie Atkinson's daughter.

Yes, and that is how you got to know Robert Atkinson.

McKEE

Yes, and Alistair Hanvey.

And your Martial Arts Gym and your

McKEE

In Port, it was in, was in [REDACTED] Portadown.

Right, and that is how your association came about with Robert Atkinson.

McKEE

Yes, uh huh because he was one of Jameson's bodyguards and he sort of used to bring the gym all the time you know for cups of tea and talks and you know just friendly sort of chit chat.

Uhm - Uh huh - Just to clear that point up Jameson being the person from whom you leased

McKEE

Yes, the building of

The building

McKEE

Yes.

That your gym was in.

McKEE

Yes.

Yeah, right - Ok, so you didn't make a phone call to Hanvey's.

McKEE

No, I didn't.

And the phone call that we're referring to is a phone call at 0837 am on the 27th of April 1997 from the home of Robert Atkinson to the home of Alistair Hanvey at [REDACTED] and you're now saying you did not make that.

McKEE

I did not make that phone call.

And you're now saying that you were asked by Robert Atkinson to say that you made that phone call.

McKEE

Yes.

And the reason for that was that you were checking on your niece.

McKEE

Yes.

I want to read that statement out to you that you made then.

McKEE

Fine.

OK. Michael as you see this is the original statement that I'm showing you here OK and you'll see that it's dated the 9th of October 1997.

McKEE

Yes.

OK, that's James Michael McKee, over 21, consisting of three pages and it's signed by Michael Irwin who is the Detective Inspector

McKEE

Uh huh.

From Portadown OK.

McKEE

Uh huh.

I want to read eh would, would you agree that that's your signature.

McKEE

It is, yes.

Top and bottom here, and there

McKEE

Yes.

And there.

McKEE

Yes.

Where we've finished writing

McKEE

That's it, yeah

Where the Inspector's finished writing

McKEE

Uh huh.

Well I'll this out to you. I am the Chief Instructor of the Ulster Tae Kwon Do Club and I am the proprietor of a gym located at [REDACTED], Portadown. I have had the gym at Brownstown for approximately twenty-two months. It was through my association with the club I got to know Eleanor and Robert Atkinson. They have a daughter [REDACTED] who regularly attends the club. As a result of our friendship my

wife Andrea and I call regularly at the Atkinson's home. On a number of occasions we would just call in unexpected. I can recall my wife Andrea and I calling with the Atkinson's. This would have been a Saturday night. We had the intention of having a social drink however on arrival I became aware that Robert was working in Portadown RUC Station. My wife and I sat in Eleanor's house, chatting. As on regular occasions we stayed that night. I got up early every morn, I get up early every morning including Sundays as I open the gym at approximately nine am. On getting up on this Sunday morning with Andrea as usual we were treated to our breakfast. We were chatting with Eleanor and she had mentioned that there had been a row involving the ones coming from the Coach. I have a niece Tracey Clarke. I was aware that she regularly went to the Coach and I was concerned regarding her safety. Tracey is my sister's daughter, although I have little contact with my sister, I do have contact with Tracey. Tracey had met an Alistair Hanvey at my club and they got engaged. As a result of my concern I rang Alistair Hanvey's home. I got Hanvey's phone number from my wife. I spoke to Kenny Hanvey who I had also met through my club. I asked if Tracey was at his house. He told me that she wasn't and I said that was fine. I didn't ask about Alistair not did I mention there was trouble in the town centre. I didn't ring my sister Irene's because, sorry my sister [REDACTED] house because at that stage we weren't on talking terms and after the phone call I left the Atkinson's house with Andrea and we both went to the club. I believe Andrea would have heard me talking on the phone, I have been shown an itemised bill marked M114. I have been directed to a phone call on the 27th of April 1997 at 8 37 am. I can state if the number [REDACTED] is that of Hanvey's however the call was made some time before, sorry it says I can't state if the number [REDACTED] is that of Hanvey's however the call was made some time before 9 am. At no stage on the morning of the 27th of April 1997 nor at anytime in fact during that visit did I see or speak to Robert Atkinson OK.

McKEE

Yes.

Do you agree that's the statement that you made.

McKEE

I do, yeah.

OK, what parts of that are not true.
Were you at Robert Atkinson's house that night.

McKEE

No.

Do you remember where you were.

McKEE

Probably sitting at home.

OK, did you ever stay over at Robert Atkinson's house.

McKEE

Yes I have.

You did.

McKEE

Yes.

Where did you sleep.

McKEE

Eh, in a back bedroom.

But it's a three bedroomed house isn't that right.

McKEE

And they have a room in the loft as well.

Have they. Who sleeps up there then.

McKEE

Eh, when they have guests eh [REDACTED] sleeps up in the bedroom upstairs.

And they've only two children.

McKEE

Yes.

So it is true to say that you did stay there on occasions.

McKEE

Oh yes, uh huh.

Do you open the gym every Sunday morning.

McKEE

Every Sunday morning, not every Sunday morning, no.

How regular would that be.

McKEE

Eh

Is it irregular or is it regular

McKEE

Irregular.

OK Michael. So obviously if you weren't there Eleanor didn't tell you anything about the Coach.

McKEE

No.

Or the row in the Coach and you didn't make the phone call to Hanvey's home before nine am.

McKEE

I did not.

Well you, you've obviously made this story and I mean you've give it to the Inspector who recorded your statement ehm how did that story come about, how did you plan it, what, what happened there.

McKEE

I honestly can't, can't sort of recall how it happened because at the time all that was going on me and my wife weren't sort of going through a very good or having a very good patch and I would say most days I was absolutely more than three quarters pissed all the time

Uh huh

McKEE

Day and night.

OK, you see eh it's true to say that it was Robert that asked you.

McKEE

Yes.

Did Eleanor have any part in that asking.

McKEE

Well she was in the same room.

She, you remember being

McKEE

Yes.

There with the two of them

McKEE

Uh huh.

When they asked. Was Andrea present.

McKEE

Yes.

OK, so you discussed this, was this in Robert's house

McKEE

Yes, it was.

Was it in his living-room.

McKEE

In his living-room.

And what way did he put it across to you Michael.

McKEE

I honestly can't remember but all I'm saying is that whatever he said that I agreed to it

and he says aye you know I'll make the phone call because he was a friend of mine.

Yeah, you when I'll say make the phone call you mean I'll say I made the phone call

McKEE

Yes, uh huh.

Right, did he say he was in trouble for making that call.

McKEE

I can't remember.

What did you not, did you know the reason that he wanted someone else to say they made that call. I think initially you said that it was because he told the Hanvey's to do something about Alistair or something like that. Do you remember that.

McKEE

I can remember bits and pieces of it you know and I'm coming clean here so I will try to remember what I can.

Yeah, I understand it's a while ago would it help you if I told you that what we believe is that Atkinson phoned Hanvey's to tell them to tell Alistair to burn his clothes.

McKEE

Well now I honestly don't know if that was said or not

Yeah, but did you hear that, is that the type of thing that you heard.

McKEE

Oh that, that, that went round Portadown for a long time

Well

McKEE

(Inaudible)

What did

McKEE

What you just said

That Atkinson had phoned the Hanvey's to get Alistair to destroy his clothing

McKEE

Yes.

Or to burn his clothing.

McKEE

Yes.

OK.

McKEE

That's what, that's what's a lot of people were saying but I don't think I've heard it, because Robbie never actually said that to

me

Well what reason did he say to you that he needed you to cover the call.

McKEE

I can't remember.

But did he say, he said he was in trouble

McKEE

I think he, I

Did you realise or think that there must have been a very good reason why he asked you to make the call.

McKEE

There probably was a good reason for it yes but ehm as a friend I thought I'd just help Robbie.

You see at some stage ehm you're aware that we've interviewed Andrea your ex wife.

McKEE

Yes.

At some stage you became aware that Atkinson had made this call right this is prior to you making your statement

McKEE

Uh huh.

Did you contact him by the phone and say look if you've made that statement or if you have done what I've heard you've done you're a stupid whatever

McKEE

Say that again to me.

As some stage you became aware what we believe is Michael at some stage you became aware that Atkinson had made this phone call, right.

McKEE

Uh huh.

And you phoned him or you were speaking to him on the phone and you said look Robert you're a quare stupid bastard or you're a quare stupid cunt or whatever for making that call. If you done that that's what you are. Do you remember that.

McKEE

I can't remember that, no.

Do you remember saying to Atkinson he was stupid if he done that.

McKEE

Well I can't even remember saying that no.

But in any event you remember the four of you together in probably

McKEE Yes.
The sitting-room

McKEE Uh huh.
Of, whose house.

McKEE Robbie's house.
And you remember him, who, who structured this plan that, to say that's what you were doing.

McKEE I'm assuming it was Robbie and Eleanor because you know we sort of, they asked us to do it or asked me to do it.
Was it discussed what you would say or did, did he present you with the story already made up, if you know what I mean

McKEE Uhm
Did the four of you sit in his living-room and say right this is what we're going to say or did you arrive and the story was prepared.

McKEE I can't remember how it went about, how it was actually come about to, actually come up and say you know
How

McKEE Phoning up for Tracey.
Did they know that Tracey was your niece.

McKEE Oh God yes, uh huh
So they would have known that.

McKEE Yeah.
And - Had you an association with the Hanvey's anyway.

McKEE Oh yeah, uh huh.
Through

McKEE Not as much as before because Alistair had stopped training.
That's through Tae Kwon Do again.

McKEE Uh huh.

Right.

McKEE

And sort of, he started to go out and enjoy himself you know because he had been training like since he was young. As, as he got older he found out a sort of drink was abounding, girls and stuff you know and away he went

Uh huh, run on, OK. Whenever ehm, whenever this investigation into this started to roll then back in 1997

McKEE

Uh huh.

Did you get together to make sure that you would all stick by your story.

McKEE

Ah Jesus I don't know, it's just, the story went from there to a statement and then we've gradually drifted apart since I wouldn't let Robbie come to the competition because there was no room in the bus and he started to give me jip on the phone.

It's true to say that Robert Atkinson is actually the Secretary of your club.

McKEE

Ah, he was yes.

Yeah - So he took a lot to do with the running of it.

McKEE

Oh yeah, and obviously because he was up in Jameson's you know bodyguard

Uh

McKEE

And you know sort of, he got bits and pieces done and things like that there you know he helped paint and

OK

McKEE

A few bits and pieces yeah.

Yeah, ehm it's not, is it true to say also that he called at your home in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] when he was on duty in [REDACTED].

McKEE

The odd time yes.

What would that have been about Michael.

McKEE

It could have been about anything, coming round for a cup of tea.

Do you remember Alistair Hanvey wearing a silver or grey coat, jacket, top of some sort with a large stripe down the sleeves.

McKEE

No. He has ehm Alistair had really stopped training ehm when he went to, when we went to America to Los Angeles and he got beat in the final of the World Championships and he sort of drifted away from then and that was 1994.

Right.

McKEE

He started to drift away after that because he'd lost it all.

Uh huh - Ehm, do you recall, do you recall how Tracey Clarke eventually went to Portadown Police Station to make her statement.

McKEE

Do I recall how she went.

Yes.

McKEE

My ex wife took her.

Yes, did you also drop her off.

McKEE

I did not, I went home and had beer.

Right, is it right to say that you were contacted to go around to the Chinese restaurant to collect her and that you went there and took her round to the police station and then you went home.

McKEE

I can't exactly remember how she got there. I, all I remember is that Andrea and her went to the police station and I went home and got a bag full of beer.

Yeah, and did you go down to [REDACTED] then later on to see if they were home.

McKEE

Probably not because I wouldn't eh very rarely go near my sister's house.

But you did on occasions.

McKEE

Oh the odd occasion yes.

And would this have been one of those odd occasions.

McKEE

Eh, it might have been I don't know.

But in any event do you recall that Andrea and Tracey weren't home until probably the early hours of that morning two to three

McKEE

Yeah, it could have been yeah, uh huh.

And that statement that Tracey Clarke was in the police station making was in relation to firstly the assault on Robert Hamill where she named people who assaulted him and also to the fact that Atkinson had phoned Hanvey to tell him to destroy his clothing and was keeping him updated on the investigation.

McKEE

Uh huh. Well I, I don't know what was said.

But are you aware of what I have just said and

McKEE

Ehm, no sure you're telling me that, you know I don't know what was said.

Yeah, but is it not, yeah I know you don't know what was said when Tracey was in the police station

McKEE

Uh huh.

Because you weren't there when she made her statement.

McKEE

Uh huh.

But the point I'm making is are you aware that Tracey had that knowledge.

McKEE

Now God knows

Yeah, you see she was talking about it in your gym. This is what we believe happened

McKEE

Ehm

She was talking away in your gym and a couple of police officers who were there, a couple of Reserve Constables who were there heard about it.

McKEE

Uh huh.

Heard her, and brought this to the attention of the Investigating Officer in Portadown that there was a girl called Tracey Clarke who had knowledge of the assault on Robert Hamill and what went on

McKEE

Uh huh.

And she was then contacted but it was yourself and Andrea who were really the main driving force in getting her into the police station in order for her to make her statement.

- McKEE It was Andrea, I think it was Andrea that took her to the police station.
- OK.
- McKEE You know bugger all to do with me, I'd rather go home and have a beer.
- I understand that but do you, were you aware of the knowledge that Tracey Clarke had.
- McKEE Ehm, I knew she had knowledge but what, what I don't know.
- Are you aware that she had knowledge of the people who assaulted Robert Hamill.
- McKEE Ehm, she said she knew people who had assaulted Robbie Hamill but as far as Tracey and her mum and all them ones were concerned I wasn't ready yet, I didn't really give a shit about them.
- OK, that's fine yeah.
- McKEE You know.
- Ehm, whenever Andrea came back from the police station did she tell you what happened.
- McKEE She might have done but I can't remember because I was
- That's
- McKEE Sitting there drinking twelve cans of beer.
- That's OK.
- McKEE You know watching telly, I don't know.
- It is possible then but you can't remember.
- McKEE It's possible, there was a lot of things that went on in those days that I can't remember about.
- All right. Whenever Atkinson was discussing this with him and his wife Eleanor and you and Andrea
- McKEE Uh huh.
- Did he mention that there was a second phone call that he had to cover for.
- McKEE No, not that I know of.
- And he was happy enough he could sort that

out himself.

McKEE

I don't know.

And then whenever you made your statement to the police.

McKEE

Uh huh.

That one I have just read to you, you went to the police station with Eleanor Atkinson would that be correct.

McKEE

I don't think so, I can't remember going to the station with Eleanor.

Oh right, well she made a statement around the same time but maybe she, maybe you went on your own. As far as I can remember they put, oh hang on, hang on, hang on eh was that Lurgan Police Station. I think I was in the ambulance

You could well have been yeah.

McKEE

Yeah, uh huh.

Was Eleanor there with you. I think your two of you went to the police station together to make your statements now that might not be one hundred per cent correct but I think it is

McKEE

Aye, I think, hang on

Would you have made your statements elsewhere.

McKEE

No, the police come to the house once in Parkmore

Uh huh.

McKEE

And then I, I think I had to go to Lurgan Police Station and Sean

██████████ solicitor

McKEE

Sean Hagan

Yeah.

McKEE

I remember seeing Sean Hagan there yeah.

Yeah, that's OK. I just want to get the thing

McKEE

Uh huh.

Really back into your head and the events

that we know that happened

McKEE

Uh huh.

But Andrea didn't go to the police station to make a statement at that time.

McKEE

I don't think, I don't know, I can't, can't remember.

In fact she made, she made one at some time later and she made it in Sean Hagan's office.

McKEE

I can't remember that either

And you don't remember contacting Sean Hagan to get her to go.

McKEE

No.

OK, do you remember discussing with Atkinson the payment of a solicitor's bill.

McKEE

Say that again.

The payment of the solicitor's bill, do you remember saying to him something along the lines auk look Robert I don't want to get a bill for this or anything.

McKEE

No.

I don't want to be paying a solicitor.

McKEE

No.

Did you ever get a bill for it.

McKEE

No.

The other thing, when you were sitting discussing this with Eleanor and Robert and you and Andrea why did Andrea not come forward along with you and Eleanor to make a statement. Why did she wait for a while, in fact she waited until really the police said look we also need Andrea to come along here.

McKEE

God knows.

Did, was it part of your thinking like there's no point involving Andrea in this.

McKEE

I honestly can't, I can't think why.

OK, ehm Michael we have a lot of things to show you here ehm things from obviously our investigation

McKEE Uh huh.

That has went on. I think probably we'll just crack on and do them now, if you're both happy with that.

SOLICITOR Uh huh, uh huh.

McKEE Fine, yeah. Does anyone have a cigarette.

Ehm I don't - None of us smoke

SOLICITOR There's somebody going out for cigarettes for him, (inaudible) and left for him

Right OK - Right, I'll go out and check if you want - Right, go on ahead there.

SOLICITOR And she said she was going out to get

OK, right. You had cigarettes with you this morning I believe they're finished are they.

McKEE Yes.

All right OK - You've smoked them all.

McKEE Uh huh, there was only five in it.

Oh was there, right.

McKEE Eh.

We better wait to he comes back actually because he's meant to be

McKEE Uh huh.

Before I start going through this.

McKEE Oh that's all right, yeah.

Right, what time did he leave at - In that go he left 1222 - And you say for the purposes of getting cigarettes.

McKEE Uh huh.

What's his surname - I don' know, I can't remember, Wright.

OMBUDSMAN I'm just going find out now if there's any cigarettes.

OK fine, thanks, that 1223, back in again - What's your surname again

OMBUDSMAN Wright.

Yeah - Wright - Right, OK. Right, Michael we'll crack on here with. What I want to show you is that ehm from our enquiries that we have done eh over a considerable period of time we have been able to look at various, various items ehm one of which is a taxi-log from Call a Cab in West Street in Portadown all right.

McKEE

Uh huh.

Now that taxi-log shows and I'll show you it (inaudible) there's it there. It's marked DL4 police identification mark OK.

McKEE

Uh huh.

That taxi-log shows, if you look at the top of that page it says Saturday the 26th of the 4th OK

McKEE

Yeah.

And we go down that there and you see 2 15 on the left hand column

McKEE

Right.

OK, that actually is 2 15 on the 27th

McKEE

OK.

That's 2 15 am, all right, [REDACTED]

McKEE

Right.

That's your home address.

McKEE

It is or was.

Was, yes. Smith to town OK and that actually means driver 9. Now we know that that driver is a man called [REDACTED] we've interviewed him OK and this Smith we believe is a chap called Rodney Smith OK.

McKEE

Uh huh.

Do you know a Rodney Smith.

McKEE

I do.

Who's Rodney Smith.

McKEE

He used to be a Black Belt in my association.

Yes, we've interviewed Rodney Smith and we've also interviewed his girlfriend who's called Joy Kitchen.

McKEE

Uh huh.

Do you know her.

McKEE

I do, yeah.

Yes, and what they'll say is that they believed that they, they firstly they, they socialise with you and your wife occasionally

McKEE

Uh huh.

At [REDACTED]

McKEE

That's right.

And they believe that they had been out that night at your house and that they got a taxi home from [REDACTED] to the town OK and at that time Rodney Smith lived [REDACTED]

McKEE

[REDACTED] yeah OK.

OK, is that possible.

McKEE

It could have been.

Yeah, well further to that I also want to show you another exhibit here

McKEE

Uh huh.

Which will show there was a phone call made from your house at 1 30 in the morning of the 27th

McKEE

Right.

OK.

McKEE

Uh huh.

To the taxi in West Street

McKEE

Right.

To Call a Cab

McKEE

Uh huh.

All right, now what that shows us Michael is that there was somebody in your house at half one in the morning

McKEE

Right, making the call to the taxi and we went through the taxi log and we see two fifteen a collection at [REDACTED] by the name

of Smith to the town

McKEE

Right.

OK.

McKEE

Yeah.

So that shows to us that you were never in Robert Atkinson's overnight anyway.

McKEE

Right.

I know you're now saying that it was lies

McKEE

Yes.

Well I just want to show you, I'll show you the billing or a copy of the billing

McKEE

Uh huh.

OK.

McKEE

Right.

Well it's not, it's not actually in here but I'll show it - It should be because I, I brought it with me - Do you understand the point I'm making with that anyway

McKEE

Yeah.

That who all has access to your house.

McKEE

What

In other words who else could have made that phone call. We're saying, well we're going to show you something shortly here that I'll say that there was a phone call made from your house at 0130 am on the 27th to a taxi firm.

McKEE

Yes.

Who could have made that call.

McKEE

Me, no-one

Apart from.

McKEE

Myself, Andrea, Rodney Smith or Joy Kitchen.

Right, and the reason for that being that no-one else has access to your house.

McKEE

No, there was no-one

Is it possible that Tracey Clarke

occasionally has access to your house.

McKEE She would have come up to the house the odd time yes.

Right, but has she a key

McKEE No, not as far as I know.

OK, in any event we can rule her out because we know from her original statement that she was down in Portadown town centre at about 1 50 am when this assault took place OK.

McKEE Right.

So there was no-one else could have made that call.

McKEE No.

OK, and in any event you're happy enough to know it was you or And

McKEE There was somebody in the house at the time yes.

Joy

McKEE Rodney or Andrea.

OK. The Sunday mornings at the TKD Club

McKEE Yes.

I call it the TKD Club just for the sake of it's Tae Kwon Do

McKEE Tae Kwon Do, yes.

OK. If you take a period of a month, four Sundays

McKEE Uh huh.

How many of those would you have opened early in the morning.

McKEE On a Sunday, maybe, maybe one.

One out of four.

McKEE Yeah.

Is it, would it even be as often as that.

McKEE It might not have been as often as that ehm after a grading which was about twelve to thirteen weeks ehm I did a Patterns course which is everyone that's got passed their

exam the day after eh you'd a come down and l'd a spent from maybe nine o'clock in there the summer to maybe eight or nine o'clock at night, just teaching new Patterns all day.

OK, so if you didn't open early, well what do you call early on a Sunday.

McKEE What do I call early on a Sunday, well I'm up around seven, quarter past seven every morning.

Right, and what time would you have opened it on a Sunday

McKEE The gym

How long for.

McKEE Eh, maybe gone down there for a couple of hours.

At what time.

McKEE I very rarely, maybe ten o'clock.

Right, and then if you don't open it early on a Sunday do you open it at all on a Sunday.

McKEE No.

Right, so it's only one in four, it's opened on a Sunday anyway.

McKEE Yeah.

And it's only opened early in the morning.

McKEE Yeah

To lunchtime

McKEE Yeah, because I wouldn't spend all day there on a Sunday because it was the only day I got off.

Did you ever discuss this with Alistair Hanvey.

McKEE No, I very rarely seen Alistair Hanvey after he started, stopped sort of training.

Did you ever discuss it with anyone else.

McKEE No.

No-one.

McKEE

No.

OK, well I'll tell you what we'll do ehm we'll, we'll terminate this interview here ehm and we'll get some more exhibits to show you OK

McKEE

OK.

And so before we do that is there anything that you want to say or anything you want to clarify or anything.

McKEE

No, that's fine, that's all right.

OK - OK, ehm this is Form PACE 21 ah which just explains, your solicitor will explain to you, it just explains what happens to the tape and how you can have access to them.

McKEE

Right.

OK, so you hold onto that. OK, I'm now going to switch off the tape recorder, the time is 1232.

CHECKED & CERTIFIED AN ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT
OF PACE TAPE NO T255545A INTERVIEW OF JIM
MICHAEL McKEE ON 10 04 01 BETWEEN 1148 AND
1232 HOURS


