

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] from South Region CID. And also present is

OMBUDSMAN

Darren Wright, Investigating Officer with the Office of the Police Ombudsman.

And a solicitor present.

SOLICITOR

[redacted]  
OK, the date is the 10th of April 2001 and the time is 1304. You understand about your right of access to a solicitor during your detention here OK.

McKEE

Yes, uh huh.

And you understand that we're questioning you in relation to a conspiracy to pervert the course of justice in relation to the murder of Robert Hamill.

McKEE

Yes.

Between the 27th of April 1997 and the 25th of November 1997 Michael.

McKEE

Yes.

Yeah, I want to caution in relation to that and the caution is 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.

McKEE

I do, yes.

Right, Michael earlier on in the previous interview I refer to an exhibit it's actually DL10 police identification mark DL10 and what that is is a phone billing from your home at [redacted]

McKEE

Yes.

OK, and specifically I want to refer to one specific page in that and I'm going to show you that ehm we have marked this phone billing up but eh the part that I want to show you is, if you look there you see the 27th of April

McKEE

Yes.

0130

McKEE

Yes.

Portadown

McKEE

Right.

For thirty-nine seconds.

McKEE

Right.

Do you see that.

McKEE

I do.

Michael that, that number refers to  
Call-a-Cab at West Street

McKEE

Right.

OK, and that is the number we believe that  
eh obviously you, Andrea, Rodney or Joy  
Kitchen

McKEE

Yes.

Phoned to get the taxi

McKEE

Right.

Are you clear on that.

McKEE

Yes.

OK, and that number there, do you see that,  
it says call for Portadown

McKEE

Yes.

Whose phone number is that

McKEE

Eh

Or was that.

McKEE

It, uhm it could have been my phone  
number.

McKEE

Yeah, that was your phone number back in

McKEE

Right, OK.

Are you happy enough with that.

McKEE

Yes, uh huh.

In fact you only got that phone from about the 24th of April of 1997 wouldn't that be right.

McKEE

I don't know.

Right, OK I understand

McKEE

I don't know, yeah

So do you understand what we've said to you in this interview and, and in the last interview about that phone call

McKEE

Yes.

That, and you're happy enough although you can't remember it was one of the four of youse made that phone call.

McKEE

Right.

All right, sorry

McKEE

That's fine.

Did you Call-a-Cab frequently.

McKEE

Two or three times aye, quite often yeah.

OK. I'm going to read to you a typed copy of a statement made by Andrea Louise McKee. Do you know who that is.

McKEE

Uh huh.

Who is that.

McKEE

That's my ex wife.

OK, Michael this was taken on the 25th of October 2000

McKEE

Right.

All right ehm and it was taken by a police officer, Chief Inspector K [redacted] OK. I'll read this out to you. I make this statement further to my statement dated the 20th of June 2000. I have been asked to clarify a number of issues in relation to what I have said in that statement and to answer a number of further questions which I have been asked. I originally met my husband Michael McKee at around, well

obviously the handwritten, we have difficulty reading his writing for the date, would you agree there - Uh huh, 1990 - 1990 - Would that be right

McKEE

Yeah.

Yeah - In Wrexham when he left the Royal Navy

McKEE

Uh huh.

OK. At a date in 1991 which I can't remember I moved to [redacted] with Michael and we married in [redacted] in December 1991. We lived in several addresses around [redacted] ending up at [redacted]. We lived there as a couple, there were no children to our marriage. On around 1994 Michael had a full-time business running at Brownstown Business Centre where he carried out instruction classes, teaching students Tai Kwando. He did have a number of other classes which he ran on a part-time basis in various parts of Northern Ireland but his business centre was in Browntown, Brownstown Business Centre. He was qualified as a Fifth Dan in Tai Kwando. That's correct, isn't it.

McKEE

Yes.

When the business was set up I played a full time role in it, looking after the administration of the business and keeping records of data. The business ran well through the years and I was involved in helping Michael to keep it running. At around the beginning of 1999 the business began to fall apart because Michael was beginning to absent himself. On the 14th of April 1999 Michael separated from me and he went to [redacted] in Southern Ireland with another woman, Miss [redacted], that's

McKEE

Yes.

That's correct. Although I didn't know it at the time they had been having a relationship since Christmas of 1998. I was left to wind up the affairs of the business and after I had done that I left Northern Ireland in May 1999 and returned to live in Wrexham. Divorce proceedings are currently pending on this being handled by my solicitor. The divorce is being made on the grounds of his adultery. I understand that Mr [redacted], Solicitor from Lurgan is currently representing him. I first met Robert and Eleanor Atkinson quite a few

number of years ago when their daughter [redacted] attended a class which was run by Michael at the Killycomain Community Centre in Portadown. Is that correct.

McKEE

Yes.

Is the statement correct up until that.

McKEE

Yeah.

I think that [redacted] was about [redacted] years old at that time. Her parents would have delivered and collected her. I remember that Robert Atkinson once asked Michael was he the son of Jim McKee who Robert knew at the Mahon Road Army Camp. Michael's father was a Captain in the UDR many years before that but it was through this that Robert Atkinson and Michael became friends. Jim McKee died I believe in 1997. As their friendship developed over time Robert and Eleanor, Eleanor Atkinson began attending weekend tournaments and this is how I became friendly with them. I remember that Michael actually got the unit in Brownstown Business Centre through Robert Atkinson who was driving for Bobby Jameson who owned the complex.

McKEE

Yes, uh huh.

Jameson rented out units at the Brown, at the business centre and Robert Atkinson actually introduced Michael to Bobby Jameson. On occasions we would meet up socially and occasionally we would have gone to their house on the [redacted] for a drink. Michael did go to football matches with Robert Atkinson. On one occasion we went with Robert and Eleanor Atkinson and a number of other people to a football match in Scotland. Robert Atkinson did do some plumbing and tidying work on the club premises and Michael did help Robert in renovating the house near Shamrock Park Football Club. I didn't have as much in common with Eleanor although we were friends but Michael and Robert were much closer. Robert Atkinson only ever visited our house in [redacted] if they were collecting us to go out for an evening. He did not like staying in our house for very long because of where it was and the Atkinson's never stayed overnight in our house apart from, is that correct.

McKEE

Yes.

I can recall only one occasion when

Eleanor Atkinson came to my house to watch a football match on Sky. I cannot recall when this happened but I do remember that Robert had been away at a Rangers Match in Scotland with his son, [REDACTED]. Eleanor Atkinson was able to drive and we did go out socially, she would have collected us in the car and drove us home again. On the one occasion that she did come out and stayed at my house to see the football match I do remember that she drove out to my house and drove home again. In terms of the parents of students the Atkinsons were the closest friends that we had. Alistair Hanvey started to train with Michael from when he was thirteen years of age.

McKEE

(inaudible) yeah, could've been, yes.

We were friends with his parents Kenneth and Elizabeth but this was not on the same scale as our friendship with the Atkinsons. I met Alistair's parents at various competitions and we were invited up to the Hanvey home at [REDACTED] on a number of occasions while Alistair was still a member of the club. I remember many occasions when Robert Atkinson, Eleanor, Alistair Hanvey, Eleanor Atkinson, Michael and myself were together in the same company. This occurred at various tournaments and competitions which we went to and I remember us altogether at the barbecue at Robert Atkinson's house. Would that be correct.

McKEE

It would, there would be barbecues at their house and our house.

Oh right.

McKEE

Yeah.

And they were present.

McKEE

Yes.

At that time it was through the association of the Tai Kwando Club that everyone was brought together. Over the last couple of years of his membership, Alistair was getting older and his commitment to the training and attending training was not consistent. He did, however, always remain friends with Michael. I remember that Tracey Clarke, who is a niece of Michael attended the Brownstown Club on a number of occasions. It was there that she met Alistair Hanvey and started a relationship with him. As the relationship developed

both Alistair and Tracey would have stayed at our house in [REDACTED]. She lived with her mother and step-father across the square from us and occasionally would have stayed in our house. She had use of one of our bedrooms when she wanted it. Tracey started to train in the Tai Kwando but was not consistent with the training and eventually gave it up. Robert Atkinson knew Tracey Clarke through the club and also because she was Michael's niece. I remember when the Omagh Bomb happened in 1998 we were all away at the Tai Kwando training camp in Lanzarote. Robert and Eleanor Atkinson were there with their two children, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Tracey Clarke was there also. A number of other club members were there but at that time Alistair Harvey was not there as he was no longer with the club and Tracey was in another relationship. There was a number of occasions prior to 1997 when Robert Atkinson, Eleanor Atkinson, Alistair Harvey, Tracey Clarke, Michael and myself were together socially but this was generally around club activities. That's really all, what I'm, this is really all background into the thing

McKEE

Yes.

And do you agree with all of that.

McKEE

Yes.

During the Lanzarote trip in 1998 I knew that Robert Atkinson did know about what Tracey had alleged in 1997 about him but I never detected Robert or Eleanor showing any animosity towards her and I do not recall it every being discussed in my presence during the trip. I do recall that in early 1997 we had the phone service connected to our home address in [REDACTED]. I remember that we got the telephone connected at the home because Michael's father was very ill; he eventually died in July 1997. Up until the point of getting the phone connected at the house we did have the telephone at the club which served our purpose and Michael had his own mobile, which he carried everywhere with him. I recall the number being [REDACTED]

McKEE

I'm going to pass on that.

OK, Michael. I remember Robert Atkinson getting a mobile phone but I cannot recall when that was. Michael and Robert had a lot of contact with each other and the Atkinsons

had more contact with Michael than me. Robert Atkinson was always calling into the club premises and on occasions when he was on duty he would call in for coffee. When I left the business I remember that there was some people negotiating with Bobbie Jameson to take over the premises. These were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

McKEE

I don't know.

They were Black Belt students of Michael's.

McKEE

They both were, yes.

And [REDACTED] were considering taking over the business. [REDACTED] lives in the [REDACTED] lived in the country, [REDACTED]

McKEE

Yes.

When I vacated the business I left all our office records in the office. I did not know what happened to these records which would have included an appointments diary. It has been explained to me that I was not subscribing to Sky, to Sky on the night of the 26th of April 1997 and that Sky did not broadcast a box event involving Prince Nassim. I'll just explain why that's there whenever she was originally interviewed she thought that youse had been at home that night and had been watching Prince Nassim fighting on TV.

McKEE

Uh huh.

But whenever we checked that's not correct.

McKEE

Right.

All right, when I think about it again it is possible that this was not the night that we watched Nassim fighting. Just, can I stop there, I'm going to veer off just when it's in my head, do you remember that night of the attack on Robert Hamill and what youse were doing out at [REDACTED]

McKEE

No.

And the fact that

McKEE

If, if it was a Saturday night I can tell you what I did every Saturday night and most nights probably two years prior to that was getting pissed out of my head.

So you're recollection of what you were

doing wouldn't be great.

McKEE

No.

OK, Michael

McKEE

And that's, you know, Rodney and Joy well they were out there the odd time but that night, you know, I just can't recall.

OK, well we'll pick up the statement here, when I think about it again it is possible that this was not the night that we watched Nassim play but I do recall something on the television that night involving boxing and it would've been for that reason that somebody would have been invited to watch the boxing in our house. It has been put to me about a phone call that was made from my home to a taxi firm in Portadown at 1 30 am on Sunday the 27th of April 1997. I recognise the number [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] as Call-a-Cab in West Street, which Michael and myself would have regularly used to go to the club and return home. Do you agree with that.

McKEE

Well I agree with using Call-a-Cab, yes but to go to the club most mornings I went in my car and most nights I came home in the car.

But you did use Call-a-Cab.

McKEE

Oh yes, uh huh.

And would you have used it to go to the club at all.

McKEE

Ehm I suppose maybe the odd time, yes.

We did have a car which both of us shared, a black Celica.

McKEE

Yeah.

But I cannot remember the registration number; thinking about the night in question again I am certain that Michael and I were at home that night.

McKEE

I can remember the registration number.

Can you.

McKEE

Yeah.

What was it.

McKEE

BLZ8155, it's the only car I can remember.

Nobody was living with us and nobody else had our house keys. You agree with that, don't you that nobody else

McKEE

As far as I know, yes, uh huh.

Would Tracey Clarke have

McKEE

Eh no.

Right, I recall that there was a couple of friends [redacted] and [redacted] who came out to our house at that time but I believe they visited our house on that night. Now

McKEE

[redacted] and [redacted] came out to the house, you know often, sometimes.

Yeah, it's our belief in relation to the [redacted] eh that they didn't actually get together until July of 1997.

McKEE

They went to a competition in Scotland ehm around July because Robbie wasn't there ehm because of Drumcree but Eleanor and [redacted] as far as I know came and [redacted] was definitely there because he met [redacted] there.

Yes and that was July probably of 1997. To be fair to you what were you

McKEE

Like it could've been, it could've been, I don't know.

Eh yes but you agree it was July. We have interviewed [redacted] ehm and he went and checked and he has obviously checked with his wife, he actually lives in Scotland at the moment and she said that they didn't really get together until July of 97.

McKEE

It was around the summer time.

Yeah.

McKEE

Yeah.

Yeah, so the only point I'm making and you have sort of clarified is that it wasn't them who visited your house in April 1997 although Andrea

McKEE

Oh Jesus (inaudible)

She doesn't want to talk about

McKEE

I mean I don't know it could've been [redacted], it could've been obviously you have got Smith there, it could have been Rodney Smith

Yeah.

McKEE

I don't know.

Uh huh, I have started to think about this after making my statement on the 20th of June 2000 and recall that they had visited our house and got a taxi home. They arrived that night in a taxi and left to return home to [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. I remember making the phone call but I can't recall who I spoke to. I do not know any of the people who work in the office in Call-a-Cab and the only driver I know is a woman called [REDACTED]. We had no regular taxi driver as such and the drivers changed continually. I remember when the taxi arrived the horn sounded and Michael and I walked to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to our front door. I did not know who the taxi driver was. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived at our house in a taxi during the early evening of the 20th, Saturday the 26th of April and we spent the night in our house having drinks. I can remember some sort of boxing on the television during the Saturday evening. That portion where she is talking about is I believe is wrong, OK.

McKEE

Fine.

I want to, to put that to you when I am going through it, there were only, they were the only persons in our house. This would have been arranged either over the phone or at the club where [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were both members. I cannot recall when exactly it was arranged but it could have been either the Saturday morning of the previous day. As far as I was concerned when they left our house in the taxi they were returning home to [REDACTED] after they left. After they left we stayed up for about half an hour and then went to bed. They were a couple who were coming to our house at that time. When Michael and I got up on Sunday morning I recall making the breakfast and Michael went out for a short time to get the Sunday papers. He would have went to one of the garages on the Lurgan Road at Edenderry to get them. They were on order and he would've purchased the papers over the counter. He may have got petrol at the time but this, but that is where he did get petrol. Where did you get petrol at that time, do you remember.

McKEE

Wherever the car needed it.

Right, would you have went to that ehm

Lurgan Road, Edenderry Filling Station.

McKEE

Sometimes, yes, uh huh. If I had no petrol I can't say anywhere, you know it was just wherever the car needed petrol.

Yes, OK.

McKEE

It was very rarely I went out and got Sunday papers.

And sometimes between 11 am and 12 Noon Michael and I were in our house when Tracey Clarke came into our house. She was on her own. Tracey told us there had been fighting in the middle of the town, Portadown during the night and she, she didn't mention anything else about it and did not mention Alistair Hanvey at the time. Do you remember her coming over.

McKEE

No.

Pardon.

McKEE

No, I don't remember.

Tracey regularly called in so this was not out of the ordinary. After mentioning about the fight she went home. Tracey did not mention at that time seeing Robert Atkinson at the fight. I do not recall seeing Tracey Clarke again that day or discussing it with her again during that day. I cannot recall what we did during the course of that Sunday and I do not recall talking to Robert or Eleanor Atkinson during the course of that Sunday. In the days that followed Tracey Clarke came and spoke to Michael and myself. On the first occasion that she spoke to me and I cannot, sorry I should have stopped. On the first occasion that she spoke to me and I cannot be exactly sure of when and where the conversation occurred, Tracey told me that Alistair Hanvey had been involved in the fighting. She also mentioned a number of other names but I do recall her mentioning Stacey Bridgett. Stacey also told me that she had seen Robert Atkinson because Robert told her to get home. Do you remember any of that.

McKEE

No.

She said that she had spoken to Robert Atkinson at the time of the fighting. I remember talking to Robert Atkinson at some point around that time and I remember him telling me that it was just his luck to be on when something like that happens. I

did not discuss with Robert Atkinson what Tracey had said about Alistair Hanvey and the other persons she named. I know that Michael was talking to Robert Atkinson continually at that time but I do not know if he told him that time about what Tracey had witnessed.

McKEE

I don't know either.

At some point after that Tracey spoke to Michael and told him Alistair Hanvey had told her about Robert Atkinson ringing his house on the Sunday morning after he had got home from work and telling him to get rid of his clothes. I first heard about this from Michael and I recall after that Michael ringing Robert Atkinson from home and telling him what he had heard from Tracey. Do you remember any of that, Michael.

McKEE

No.

Could it have happened and you just can't remember.

McKEE

It might have happened eh you know it could have happened and I just don't know.

OK. I remember Michael telling him that if he did do this then he was an idiot but I was not in a position to hear what Robert was saying on the far end of the phone. That's the point I was putting to you earlier if you remember

McKEE

Uh huh.

When Michael came off the phone he just commented that if he did do it then he was an idiot and we didn't discuss it further at the time. So are you now any clearer about that phone call.

McKEE

No.

At some point I do recall Tracey Clarke mentioning to me about Mrs Hanvey, Alistair's mother ringing her at work, Going Places in Portadown. Tracey did not tell me why Mrs Hanvey was ringing her. Around the time that Robert Hamill died, which was some days after the fight I remember being in the gym one afternoon, it may have been a Thursday when Tracey was talking about the fight to people in the gym. I cannot recall who was in the gym at the time but I remember a Policeman who I know called Davey and talked to, talk to me about it and he asked me who Tracey was and did the Police

know about what she was saying. As far as I recall Tracey was talking about the fight and who was involved. I do not recall her talking about what Atkinson had done. Davey would attend our gym at different times to train; I remember talking to him again after which he then rang Portadown Police Station from our gym. As a result of that phone call I then accompanied Davey to go to meet two Police Officers. It was dark when I met the two Police Officers and I told them that Tracey Clarke knew about the fighting and what she had seen. I do not remember mentioning to the Officers about what Tracey Clarke had said about Robert Atkinson. On the following day, which was a Friday, I was speaking to Tracey Clarke's mother, Irene. Irene is your sister, isn't that right.

McKEE

Yes.

Who told me that Tracey had to go to Portadown Police Station to speak to the Police. I was not aware that she had been spoken to the previous night. Irene asked Michael to pick Tracey up from her part-time job at the Chinese Restaurant in West Street and take her to the Police Station. I went with Michael, picked Tracey up and went to the Police Station with her. Do you remember that.

McKEE

I can remember them going, they went to the Police Station but I did not go to the Police Station.

Did you drive them round and drop them off.

McKEE

Oh God I must have done, I don't know.

Where did I get to, straight, take her to the Police Station. I went with Michael, picked Tracey up and we went to the Police Station with her. I remember that it was quite late. I remained with Tracey while she was being interviewed and the Policewoman called [REDACTED] brought Tracey and myself home. Michael had dropped us off and had went on home to sit with Irene and await us coming home.

McKEE

No, I didn't sit with Irene, I wouldn't sit with Irene, you know so

Well I know that maybe your relationship with your sister isn't great at the minute but back in 1997

McKEE

It wasn't great then.

I know but was it not the case that youse were reasonably close.

McKEE

We've never been really close.

Yeah, as far, in respect of the fact that your father was quite seriously ill.

McKEE

Ehm

And therefore would have had more contact possibly than under normal circumstances.

McKEE

Probably not, no, probably not, no.

Is it possible.

McKEE

It is possible like, no it, I remember

Well.

McKEE

The night they went to the Police Station I went home with eh [REDACTED] and sat, sat and watched the tele and I remember that, no I can't remember going down to [REDACTED].

But you remember dropping them off at the Police Station.

McKEE

Yes.

OK and you remember going home.

McKEE

Yes.

Do you remember having any contact with [REDACTED].

McKEE

No, not as far as I can remember, no.

Right, well - OK - I'll come back to that point

McKEE

Right.

And I know it's difficult for you to remember, where did I get to, Michael had dropped us off and went on home to sit with Irene and await us coming home. At some point after this I recall Robert Atkinson telling me that Tracey Clarke had been to the Police Station and had made a statement. This occurred not long after this but I do not know when. Tracey Clarke was very worried about making a statement and Michael and his father Jim did talk to her, advising her to tell the Police what she knew. I think that should be Michael and her father,

Jim meaning Jim Murray. Would that be right.

McKEE

Yeah.

Your father wasn't called Jim.

McKEE

He was, aye.

Well would she have approached, would he have talked to her.

McKEE

Ehm he would've probably talked to Tracey more than I would have.

Right, so that probably is right then, Michael.

McKEE

It could've been, yes.

OK - uh huh - in the days that followed Alistair Hanvey was charged and appeared before court. I cannot recall being in any discussion with Robert Atkinson at that time and I do not know what his reaction was to Alistair being charged. I am not personally aware of any direct conversations between Robert Atkinson and the Hanveys over this period. The only contact I, I was aware of was when Tracey told me that Alistair Hanvey had told her that Robert Atkinson had rang his dad. I know that Robert Atkinson and Kenneth Hanvey have been friends for a long time and that Kenneth Hanvey works for the Northern Ireland Electricity Service which is where Eleanor Atkinson also works. I did not speak with the Hanveys either directly or by telephone over that period. I do not know if Michael spoke to the Hanveys at this time. In the month that followed Robert Atkinson never spoke to me about the incident or what he had done at the incident. Later in the year Michael told me that Robert Atkinson had spoken to him about the incident. Is that wee bit clear to you, OK.

McKEE

It's clear, yes, uh huh.

OK, this happened one night when they were both out together. On his return home Michael told me that Robert had asked him to cover for the phone call to the Hanveys. Do you remember that.

McKEE

No.

Michael told me that Robert, is it possible it happened that way.

McKEE

It's possible.

OK, Michael told me that Robert had made another phone call but that he could cover that phone call himself. Michael told me that he had asked Atkinson about why he had made the phone call. He said that Atkinson told him that he had rang him to try and help him and that he had realised now that he should not have done it.

McKEE

Say that again, say that again.

Michael told me that Robert had made another phone call but that he could cover the phone call himself and that's actually referring to a phone call that was made on the 2nd of May, OK.

McKEE

Which I had made.

No, this is got, it's a phone call, it's a phone call from Atkinson's house to the Harveys

McKEE

Right, right.

OK, but Eleanor Atkinson is claiming that she made it.

McKEE

Uh huh.

All right so (inaudible), we are not talking to you about that phone call

McKEE

Right, right.

At all, all right. Michael, this is the important part, Michael told me that he had asked Atkinson about why he had made the phone call. He said that Atkinson told him that he had rang him to try and help him and that he had realised now that he should not have done it. Now what he's saying there is that Atkinson had told Alistair Harvey to try and help him. Do you follow that.

McKEE

Right, yeah, go on then.

Well do you agree with that, Michael that he did tell you that.

McKEE

No, I, but I, I don't know, I can't remember that bit.

All right, Michael told me that Atkinson had told him that he had made the phone call to tell him to get rid of his clothes.

McKEE

I don't know, now I cannot recall him

saying that.

Is it possible.

McKEE

Not whilst I was sober, obviously if, if I had been on the drink it could've been possible.

This was the first time that I knew that Atkinson had admitted making the call to Hanvey. On the night that this happened, Robert and Michael had been out to a pub but I cannot recall the night in question. It was, however, after he had been interviewed about it, that's Atkinson had been interviewed about it.

McKEE

Ehm.

All right and that was sometime in September of 1997 he was interviewed about it, all right.

McKEE

Yeah.

I have been made aware that he had been interviewed about it. Michael said to me that he had agreed to do it for him although he didn't want to. He felt obliged as a close friend to do it and the family relationship with Tracey Clarke was perfect to cover the story. On one occasion after that but before Michael and myself made statements Michael and myself were over at Robert Atkinson's house. OK, so far.

McKEE

Yes.

We went there to sort the cover story out and Robert and Eleanor Atkinson were also present. Robert Atkinson led the discussion and he said that the story would be that Michael and I had been staying at their house overnight and he suggested that the call, could be covered by Michael saying that he was ringing because of his concern for Tracey Clarke. It was Robert who thought out this story about Tracey Clarke. Robert Atkinson said to me that I would have to confirm that I had heard Michael on the telephone. Do you remember any of that.

McKEE

Eh yes, I think that's about it, yeah.

Is it.

McKEE

It's like I told you at the start, you know ehm I don't know it was said that I made the phone call or Andrea had made the phone call eh and it was discussed, you know, sort of

to help him you know and I said I would do it because he was a friend.

Uh huh but who, who led the meeting, the planning of the cover story.

McKEE OK, I assume it was Robbie that did all the talking.

Do you remember that.

McKEE I can remember being there, yes but I can't remember exactly what was said.

Do you remember ehm the room it was in.

McKEE It was the only room we ever sat in.

Which was

McKEE Was the living room.

OK, we'll go back to the statement here now, Robert Atkinson mentioned about a second phone call that he had made but that he had that covered; that's one on the 2nd of May that I referred to earlier.

McKEE Right

And I do not know anything about the second phone call, about his reason for making it or his story to cover it. We were only there that evening to get the story right and we went home again after that. At some point after that I was aware that Michael and Eleanor went to Portadown Police Station to make statements. I was aware that Robert Atkinson was being interviewed again but I was not asked by Robert to go to the Police Station. Whenever they went to the Police Station I stayed with [REDACTED] Atkinson in Robert's house. When Robert, Eleanor and Michael returned Robert told me that I would have to make a statement. I knew that Michael had, I knew what Michael had said because it had all been arranged as to what we would say before it. Do you follow that OK.

McKEE I follow it, OK, yes.

Do you agree with it.

McKEE Well I assume I just covered up for him again, yes.

After that I cannot recall when but it was some time later I was contacted by Robert Atkinson and told to go to

Sean Hagan's office for 11 am one morning to provide a statement as we had originally discussed. Now that's about Andrea going to make the statement in Sean Hagan's office, do you remember that.

McKEE

No, I don't know remember that one.

I went alone to Mr Hagan's office and I was interviewed by a Police Officer, Detective Inspector Irwin and made a statement. I said it before in my last statement that the statement I did give was false, that's the statement she gave in Sean Hagan's office.

McKEE

Yes.

I do not remember where I spoke to Robert Atkinson after that but he asked me did everything go OK. I said it did. I was present during a conversation after that when Michael spoke to Robert Atkinson about the solicitor's bill and telling him that he hoped he would not have to pay for it.

McKEE

I can't remember that bit.

Robert Atkinson said he would settle it with the solicitor and pay the bill himself. I heard nothing else about this again and we never did get a bill from the solicitor. I am not aware of any telephone calls made from the Tai Kwando Club to the Prison at the Maze although I do know that Michael knew a club member, Trevor Leatham, who worked in the Prison.

McKEE

Yes.

And Trevor is a Prison Officer, is that right.

McKEE

Uh huh.

Did you ever phone him from

McKEE

Trevor, aye, several times, yes.

From the Tai Kwando Club.

McKEE

Yes.

To the Prison.

McKEE

Uh huh.

OK, I visited Alistair Hanvey on one occasion with Michael, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] were members of the club and there had been a collection

in the club to get something for Alistair's birthday. Is that correct.

McKEE I can remember going to see him at the Maze, yes.

You, you went.

McKEE Yes.

How many occasions.

McKEE Once.

And would that have been round the time of his birthday.

McKEE Again I can't remember eh I think it was his birthday anyway ehm I remember we went there, we stopped at the garage on the main sort of Moira/Lisburn Road and got him crisps and a few cans of eh you know Pop eh a couple of girlie magazines and a few bags of sweets and he actually gave us more sweets than we took him and we spent an hour with him or so and then that was it and that's the only, only the once I can remember.

OK and did you go up with ehm those people.

McKEE Yes, uh huh.

Ehm [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

McKEE Yes.

The only mention made of Tracey Clarke was by Alistair who asked how, how she was. There was no discussion about the information she had given to the Police. I do not know if Robert Atkinson ever went to see Alistair and I have never spoke to Robert about visiting Alistair. I don't know if Michael ever told him. Did you.

McKEE I don't know (inaudible)

Did you tell Robert Atkinson about going to visit Alistair.

McKEE I'm just assuming it would've been common knowledge within the gym, you know we had went to see him and obviously Eddie and Paul were in the gym all the time.

Yeah.

McKEE Eh because [REDACTED] was on a eh he was unemployed so he was on one of these

courses that I paid for ehm so he had to be in the gym sort of six or seven hours a day.

I don't know if Michael ever told him. I never spoke with Robert Atkinson about the matter after, after Alistair Hanvey was released and we never discussed the cover story again. The only people that I would be aware of that would have known about the cover story to support Atkinsons were Michael, Michael's brother [REDACTED]

McKEE I haven't spoken to my brother maybe once or twice since my father died.

Did he know anything about it.

McKEE God knows.

Did you tell him.

McKEE No.

Who Michael had told she says.

McKEE I could probably count on one hand how many times I spoke to my brother since my father died

Right.

McKEE In 1970, 19 no 97

1997.

McKEE Yeah.

Did ehm did you tell him but.

McKEE Who is that [REDACTED].

Yes.

McKEE Eh no I didn't.

And what you had done.

McKEE No.

Or that you had done a favour for Atkinson.

McKEE No.

Robert Atkinson, well to finish that sentence then the only people that I would be aware of that would have known about the cover story to support Atkinson were Michael, Michael's brother [REDACTED], who Michael had told, Robert Atkinson and Eleanor Atkinson, Kenneth and

Elizabeth Hanvey. I have never discussed this with the Hanveys but Robert told me that he had spoken to the Hanveys about it and the cover story was being planned. Tracey had told me as time went on that people were not talking to her. I am not aware of any reasons why Tracey refused to give evidence. Tracey has never told me that any part of her statement is untrue. As far as I am aware Robert Atkinson or Michael did not approach Tracey Clarke in an effort to stop her from giving evidence. I have been thinking about who was at my house on the night of Saturday the 26th of April 1997, we did have another couple who sometimes came to our house, these people were Rodney Smith and Joy Kitchen. Rodney lived in a flat in [REDACTED] I think [REDACTED] Joy lived at [REDACTED] When I think about it this couple may have visited the house on that Saturday night and when they came out to our house they did use taxis. OK.

McKEE

Uh huh.

Do you agree with that.

McKEE

I would agree with that, yes.

Do you agree with virtually all of that statement apart from the odd point that you (inaudible)

McKEE

Well the odd point I can't remember.

Yeah.

McKEE

Obviously.

But those things are possible.

McKEE

Yes.

OK, that statement there - right, there's quite probably a good wee bit more to go through here, Michael ehm maybe it would be a time now to, to break for your, give you a break to have your lunch.

McKEE

OK.

OK, before we do do that, is there anything that you want to add or anything you want to clarify.

McKEE

I think obviously ehm it's been a long time coming and I shouldn't have ballsed about in the first place ehm and wasting your bloody time.

You mean you shouldn't have told lies.

McKEE

Yes.

In the first place.

McKEE

Yes.

That's OK, we accept that, yeah. Look we have a bit of time to go through and we've some other things to go through here and if you want to say anything

McKEE

What more really is there to go through because I have told you the truth now.

Well, well we have points that, you have to understand that we have done extensive enquiries

McKEE

Yes.

And there is points that we want to, we believe, obviously we knew, we believed that what you were saying were lies and we have done extensive enquiries to prove firstly that you weren't in Atkinsons that night and that you didn't make the phone call

McKEE

But sure I have told you all that now

Yeah.

McKEE

Right.

I understand that but we have to show you some of the exhibits in any event, Michael.

McKEE

Right.

OK.

OLICITOR

It's part of the investigation that you must

McKEE

Yes.

There is no short cuts to it.

McKEE

Fine, that's all right.

All right.

McKEE

Yeah.

OK, I am now switching off the tape recorder, the time is 1340.

CHECKED & CERTIFIED AN ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF PACE  
TAPE NO T255546A INTERVIEW OF JAMES MICHAEL McKEE ON  
10 APRIL 2001 BETWEEN 1304 HOURS AND 1340 HOURS.

*Muma*

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