

This is a continuation again of the interview of Mr Robert Atkinson. The time is now eleven minutes past one eh the first tape was commenced, completed, we eh put in a new set of tapes which appeared to go faulty very quickly within seconds so we have set in the third, the third set of tapes ehm just to remind you again as to the start of that second set of tapes to, that you are still under 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. You understand, Robert.

ATKINSON

I do.

You understand all, happy enough with everything so far.

ATKINSON

Yeah.

Exploring the area of your house, you say you would have come through the kitchen to go into your house.

ATKINSON

Normally come through the kitchen and walked straight up the stairs.

And you did not recall seeing Michael or Andrea McKee

ATKINSON

I can't

Or speak to them.

ATKINSON

I can't recall, I can't recall.

Ehm did your wife make you aware that they were there.

ATKINSON

Ehm I'm not sure when she told me or, or whether I knew from the night before they were there, I'm not, I can't recall.

But you were aware they were in the house.

ATKINSON

Aye.

You didn't make any point of going to speak to them.

ATKINSON

No.

Or to say hello to them.

ATKINSON

No.

Does that not seem a bit odd somebody is actually staying over and you just go to bed and

ATKINSON

No.

Without even two minutes to say how are you.

ATKINSON

No, well if they were in bed I wasn't going to disturb them.

Well do you reckon they were in bed then if you come through the kitchen or where would they have been.

ATKINSON

I didn't see them.

So they might've been in bed.

ATKINSON

I assume they were, I don't know.

What

ATKINSON

I didn't go out of my way to look for them; I was looking my bed, I just went straight into my own room, hit the pillow.

So what actually happens is that you go to bed, you speak to Eleanor, your wife and explained to her what happened last night, I had to go back in because they rung

ATKINSON

I'm not sure whether I spoke to her before I left or when I come back. I can't, I can't recall.

But did Eleanor get Michael and Andrea up.

ATKINSON

I don't know if she got them up or they got up.

They got up.

ATKINSON

I don't know.

And she made breakfast.

ATKINSON

She normally gets up early herself so I don't know.

I can read you a part of your wife's statement eh it talks about the McKees calling round. Michael and his wife, Andrea called at my house on the 26th of April with the intention of going out with my husband and myself. Unfortunately my husband was working that night so the three of us sat in the house. I should say this is a statement of the 9th of October 97. This hadn't been arranged and Michael and Andrea would have called unannounced. I went to bed sometime after Midnight and Michael and Andrea also stayed the night. I heard the phone ringing sometime during the night and my husband answered it. He made a brief comment of having to go back to work. At around 8 am

Robert returned to the house, slightly later than 8 am but it's not far off it. I asked him what was wrong and he told me there had been a row in the town involving the Coach bus; that was all that was mentioned. I got up and wakened Michael and Andrea a short time later as I knew Michael had to be at the gym at the Brownstown Road at around 9 am. At the breakfast table I passed comment of a row being in the town centre. Michael was concerned about his niece, Tracey Clarke as she went to the Coach bus with an Alistair Hanvey. He asked me if he could make a phone call in order to find out where Tracey was. He made a call and a short time later he returned and mentioned something about Tracey. A short time later I, I think he mentioned Hanvey but I'm not sure. A short time later Michael and Andrea left the house and then goes on to talk about the phone call. There was a second phone call then on the 2nd of May at 1624 hours to Kenneth Hanvey's house and she says in relation to the phone call on the 2nd of May I made that phone call with the intention of speaking to Elizabeth, Elizabeth Hanvey. I in fact spoke to Kenneth Hanvey and asked me about Tai Kwando boots, gloves and a pattern book which they could have, my daughter is a member of the club eh finishes off again, Robert had went straight to bed, he doesn't take breakfast and wouldn't have been aware of Michael's call. In fact he didn't even see Michael and Andrea, I don't believe at that early stage he knew, they knew, that he knew they had stayed that night but he says basically, she says you don't take breakfast.

ATKINSON

No.

Straight to bed.

ATKINSON

I don't normally, no.

It's difficult for us to believe that in a house like yours, which isn't a large massive house, that you could come in through a kitchen area and up to your bedroom that Michael and Andrea McKee

ATKINSON

I don't care whether you believe it or not, I know what I did, I come in through the door and went to my bed.

What's the lay-out of your house downstairs, I mean kitchen, sitting room.

ATKINSON

Sitting room, living room, hall and kitchen.

Two, a sitting room and a living room.

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

Hall and kitchen.

ATKINSON

Four rooms and a cloak room, five rooms

Uh huh.

ATKINSON

And a small front hall, a wee square thing.

And you came in through the back door.

ATKINSON

I always use the back door.

Well was your wife frying or anything when you came in.

ATKINSON

I can't even recall seeing her, I don't know if I met her; I don't even know if she was in bed or in the bathroom or nothing, I just, I can't recall, it's that long ago. Well like, let's be fair, do you remember what you done four years ago, I don't.

No, but I must be honest now if people were staying at my house I would have said hello to them or eh I would have been in some contact because if, if you are leaving the Station at the very most

ATKINSON

They stayed in our house, they stayed in our house that often it was just a matter of form; they lived out in [REDACTED] and if Michael or Andrea wanted to take a few drinks it meant he didn't have to drive his car.

There is just the two of them, isn't there.

ATKINSON

There is just the two of them.

There is nobody else staying in their house.

ATKINSON

No.

Well the problem is, I mean, I want to finish with this, I don't labour it over and over again but I mean you are coming into a house with two people staying, if you are leaving the Station at the very earliest eh that's 8 07 that call is for one minute twenty-seven, a minute and a half so it's a couple of minutes of a total of a phone call, you leave at the end of that phone call, 8 09 three or four minutes to go home; you are getting home fifteen, a quarter past eight, the very earliest

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

And yet in that space of time of you coming in and telling your wife, Eleanor of what

happened up the town and then getting breakfast, she gets breakfast and explains to Michael McKee what has happened up the town and he then is on the phone at 8 37 to ask about Tracey.

ATKINSON

I can't

It's a very compacted space of time for all these events to have happened and yet it would take somebody with fairly good eh management skills to get youse through each other, through the house, passed each other without seeing each other.

ATKINSON

If I didn't see him, I didn't see him that's all I can tell you.

Fair enough

ATKINSON

You know what I mean.

Do you see my point.

ATKINSON

I see the point you are trying to make but

Right, yes.

ATKINSON

I didn't see him, I'm not going to say I saw him when I didn't.

I can understand if you come in at eight o'clock and they got up at eleven, that you missed each other and you were fast asleep but for the events to have occurred that Eleanor had to tell them what happened up the town what she had got from you.

ATKINSON

I don't know what Eleanor told them. All I can tell you is I came in from my work and went to my bed, I didn't look at the clock, you're telling me I answered that phone call and they had, I don't know.

We're arguing that that, I mean that could not, that choreography of people moving through your house could not have happened because Michael and Andrea McKee were not in your house.

ATKINSON

Why could it not.

Michael and Andrea McKee were not in your house that night.

ATKINSON

I don't know if they were or not. I didn't see them. All I know is I went to my bed. I come home from my work and I went to my bed.

Well if they weren't in your house, who made that phone call.

ATKINSON

I didn't say, I said I didn't know if they were in my house or not. I didn't see them actually, see actually see them with my own two eyes, right

Yes - but surely you have to accept what your wife's saying that they were.

ATKINSON

I accept what my wife's saying.

Do you accept what she says.

ATKINSON

Yes.

I just find it very hard to believe how these folk could go through your house in that short space of time and you miss each other because they were up washing and going to get breakfast and yet it's (inaudible)

ATKINSON

I don't know what they did.

And then go and get the phone call and yet you are coming through the house and through it.

ATKINSON

All I know is I come home from work and went to my bed.

But are you honestly then also expecting us to believe, you said there I don't know what they did, are you saying

ATKINSON

I don't expect youse to believe anything.

Are you saying to us you had never spoken even to your wife; have you ever spoke to your wife or Michael McKee about their statements in relation to what happened in your house about this phone call.

ATKINSON

I have spoke to my wife, of course I spoke to my wife.

And what about Michael McKee.

ATKINSON

I can't recall whether I did or not.

How did she explain that they actually managed to get up and have breakfast without you seeing them

ATKINSON

To me it wasn't a big

SOLICITOR

Who do you mean seeing, do you mean

Mrs, Mrs eh Atkinson.

SOLICITOR

How does Mrs Atkinson.

How can she get them out of their bed, make them breakfast, relate what Robert has told her a few minutes beforehand and yet Robert

ATKINSON

The way you are putting it is eh they got out of their bed and they sat down and had a full breakfast before they made a phone call. I don't know what happened.

But I mean Michael McKee himself says and we'll come on to this in a moment, we were treated to a breakfast as usual. He, he's saying he had to be out of the house by nine o'clock so your wife is up early to make them their breakfast.

ATKINSON

Eh she always did.

Right, now I mean even if we allowed you eh fift, fifteen minutes, twenty minutes to get from

ATKINSON

Are you, are you trying to say to me that if I walked into the house five minutes later the rest of the people in the house couldn't get up, that's absolute nonsense.

No, no, nobody is saying that whatsoever.

ATKINSON

Well that's what youse are insinuating.

We're saying it's, well if you what to talk about nonsense, what we are saying is nonsense is the fact that you want us to believe that you walked into the house

ATKINSON

I don't want you to believe anything.

On Sunday morning and didn't see visitors.

ATKINSON

I don't want you to believe anything, I don't care what you believe. I know what I did.

SOLICITOR

These are very informal visitors, are they not really house guests in the normal

Yeah.

SOLICITOR

Formal sense, you know the people had the free run of the house, all over the place

Uh huh.

SOLICITOR

(inaudible)

ATKINSON

Sure people who walked in and out of my house without even rapping the door.

But we are talking about a small house where people

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

I mean people walking about would see each other

ATKINSON
SOLICITOR

Uh huh.
Uh huh.

And not meet each other

ATKINSON

Ehm.

And to comment about the row up the town was at the breakfast table so it wasn't as if they were having a, showering and something was mentioned

ATKINSON

Where

They came down so they were physically at breakfast when it was mentioned

ATKINSON

I had spoken to my wife when I come home, right.

Yes.

ATKINSON

You have already told me that, I have spoken to my wife and you haven't said whether I spoke to her in the bedroom, the kitchen, the bathroom, I don't know where I spoke to her, I can't remember.

But

ATKINSON

You know I could've walked in past my wife in the kitchen

Uh huh but we all, I mean you would expect that when you walked in that morning and spoke to your wife, she has also said oh, Andrea and Michael stayed last night.

ATKINSON

I can't recall what she said. It's four years ago.

Eh yes, that's true - Michael McKee, in his, and to move on slightly, Michael McKee says in his statement that he had to get up at nine o'clock to open the TKD Club as usual

ATKINSON

That was normal, that would've been normal.

But this is what we want to raise now as well with you, the TKD Club, I would believe it's not normally opened on a Sunday at 9 am. I have a number of statements there, [redacted] and Bobbie Jameson and folk like that and that's

ATKINSON

I'm not saying he opened it, he might've went to clean it but there was always a class on a Sunday morning or some description or people went to train and sometimes there was, sometimes they were doing eh things for their belts and there

would've been private classes in. He took private classes as well.

SOLICITOR

So Michael McKee hasn't made a statement.

Michael McKee has made a statement basically backing what Mrs Atkinson and all have said. He's basically saying that he stayed over that night and he made this phone call.

SOLICITOR

Ehm.

Now we are exploring that issue as well

SOLICITOR

(inaudible)

And Andrea McKee has made a statement basically saying that that phone call was made, she was present but to cover the aspect of the TKD Club being opened, one of the Units which lease is Unit 19, it was leased to Michael McKee, he used to teach TKD. The opening hours I recall them around 10 am to 10 pm Saturday, Monday to Saturday, although we would have closed earlier if there was no-one about. The club did not open on Sundays.

ATKINSON

At all.

That's what he says.

SOLICITOR

Who, who, sorry who is saying this.

This is Bobbie Jameson.

SOLICITOR

This is Bobbie Jameson, who is the owner of the

The Complex.

SOLICITOR

The Complex.

(inaudible)

ATKINSON

It was definitely opened on a Sunday.

[redacted], [redacted], a statement of the 16th of February this year or 2000

SOLICITOR

Who is, who is [redacted].

Eh a member of the TDK - a member of the TKD Club.

SOLICITOR

Right.

The club and gym were to my recollection opened six days a week, Monday to Saturday, 9 30 to 9 30 pm. It wasn't normal practice for Michael McKee to open the club at 9 am on a Sunday. He liked Sundays to himself. Now to be fair they say that occasionally if

were gradings were done that he would actually have come in on an odd occasion to do gradings but it wasn't a practice in the Tai Kwando

ATKINSON

Well I don't, I don't know because I didn't take a, a part in running the club as such, I went up with my daughter.

Yeah.

ATKINSON

All right and manys a Sunday I brought my daughter, that's all I can tell you.

You were the Secretary of the club, isn't that right.

ATKINSON

I wasn't a Secretary no as such, I helped them out, if they were going away on a trip I wasn't a Secretary; I went away. If we were going away on a trip somewhere I collected money.

I mean you say you def

ATKINSON

I wasn't the Secretary of the Club.

Definitely not the Secretary.

ATKINSON

No.

Definitely not.

ATKINSON

They had a, they had a Tai Kwando Club which was the club itself, OK.

Yeah.

ATKINSON

And then they had an association which wasn't the club, it was collecting money for going on trips and things like that; which I have, I have actually still got a, what do you call it book, a cheque book belonging to them. I wasn't actually a member of the Club, of the Club as such, it was like a parents association type thing.

I want to refer to you now, it was something that I was going to come on later on but just at this point in time

ATKINSON

That's right.

It's a copy

ATKINSON

There is a bit of a notice up about raising funds.

A copy

ATKINSON

Because my name is on it.

A copy of JD5, it's opening documents and

bank statements, Ulster Tai Kwando Association.

ATKINSON

That's correct.

Ulster Tai Kwando Association Recreation Club.

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

Dated the 23rd of October 1996

ATKINSON

Yes.

List of Officers and Secretary, Michael McKee is the Chairperson.

ATKINSON

Right.

Robert Atkinson is Secretary.

ATKINSON

That's right.

Trevor Leatham, Treasurer.

ATKINSON

Yes, but look at it, it's supposed to be Tai Kwando Recreation Club it's not actually the Club.

ATKINSON

It's a very eh, eh the point

The Recreation part of it, the Recreation part of it raised funds to take the kids away. I had nothing to do with the running of the Club. Trevor Leatham and myself and him raised money for the, for taking the kids away. If you took a bus to Dublin somebody had to look after the money and things like that. He had enough on his plate running the Club and collecting the money for dues and things like that, I never had anything to do with that whatsoever.

Uh huh but even though it may have been run parallel then as you, are you saying that for the Ulster Tai Kwando Club then that there was another Secretary and Treasurer

ATKINSON

No, he run the thing himself, him and Andrea McKee.

It was his own business, that was his

ATKINSON

That was his business.

Private business

ATKINSON

Right, so there is a note there it says Recreation Club, they were actually Ulster Tai Kwando Association which was a different thing altogether.

Uh huh but anything that fund-raisers or

whatever, you should would have been in
close contact with Michael McKee and
Andrea McKee.

ATKINSON

Oh yes, uh huh, yes.

ATKINSON

Because you would have had to because

That's right.

ATKINSON

You would have to let him know as Chairman
what was going on.

But I wasn't a member of the Club, I never
trained or I wasn't into Tai Kwando myself.

Uh huh, again I don't want to labour the
point

ATKINSON

Yes.

But eh it's just regards the Club opening on
a Sunday, [REDACTED] was spoken to,
just interviewed as a, on an action sheet

ATKINSON

Aye.

Not a statement. She said she never in the
Club on a Sunday and as far as she was aware
the Club was not generally open on a Sunday
ehm [REDACTED] eh Club

ATKINSON

You see he had, he had guys that, he had a
gym there and he had guys that trained,
weights, the weights

And had, had their own keys to get in on a
Sunday morning.

ATKINSON

That's correct, I think they had.

Uh huh, yeah - [REDACTED] says the Club
wasn't generally opened on a Sunday, he can
only recall one

ATKINSON

I'm not saying they trained as a Tai Kwando
Club but the premises were definitely opened
on a Sunday because manys a Sunday I brought
my daughter up to get lessons.

But, but the point we are discussing here is
the fact that whether ehm Michael McKee
personally had to open up every Sunday
morning (inaudible)

ATKINSON

Well I'm not saying he went every Sunday
morning but as far as I'm aware he was
supposed to have went that Sunday morning to
the Club whether he went

SOLICITOR

For, for whatever reason

ATKINSON

For whatever reason, whether to decorate

like eh at one stage they laid a floor down and they went up and they worked at that over the weekend. They put a ceiling in in the big back hall

Uh huh.

ATKINSON

It was, it was a factory unit and they sewed a ceiling up; I took part in it.

Uh huh.

ATKINSON

That was done over the weekend, you had to do it over the weekend because the classes were going on during the week.

But, but the statement was made in relation to those folk was that, that, that eh he had to open up the Club on a Sunday as he generally did or he always did on a Sunday morning.

ATKINSON

Well I, I can't labour that point, all I know is manys a Sunday I was in the Club

This is Rodney

ATKINSON

I don't know what time it opened at.

Rodney Smith says generally, he was never at the Club on a Sunday morning and can't comment whether it was open 9 am or not

ATKINSON

No.

[REDACTED] thinks the Club may have opened a few Sundays at the beginning; he has no recollection of Michael McKee doing weights

ATKINSON

Well as I, as I say there was a lot of weight equipment, there was a lot of guys trained that weren't in the Club.

Uh huh, again another item that we have looked at is the telephone analysis of the Club, exhibit DL11 which I don't need to go into now but it shows very few calls on a Sunday morning from the Club.

ATKINSON

Well I'm not, I'm not debating that question, I'm just saying youse are

SOLICITOR

These are, these are calls from

From the Club.

SOLICITOR

From the Club.

If we look at the telephone of the TKD Club there is quite a lot of telephone calls out of people making arrangements and doing things from the TKD Club, Tai Kwando Club

ATKINSON

Ehm.

But if we look at the telephone for four Sundays either side of that

SOLICITOR

Uh huh.

That day, the 30th of March no calls. The 6th of April no calls. The 13th of April nine calls out from 10 am to 7 23 in total. The 20th of April the only call out was at 12 06. The 4th of May no calls out. The 11th of May two calls made. The 18th of May three calls out. The 25th of May no calls. There is not a lot of phone calls on a Sunday, the point we're making is there is very little activity at that Club on a Sunday.

SOLICITOR

It's not hardly surprising.

Michael McKee is not generally at the Club on a Sunday is their allegation.

ATKINSON

No, well, well I accept that but I know I have brought my daughter up on a Sunday, quite a few times whether it be for an hour's training just because they were going away somewhere the next week or something like that or because she is doing a grading, I have been up on a Sunday.

Another person who made a statement at that time was Andrea McKee as well as Michael McKee made a statement covering the fact that the phone call was made by him to Kenneth Hanvey asking for Tracey Clarke

ATKINSON

Right, right.

Andrea McKee made a statement at that time saying that eh that was the case that she was present and Michael was in the kitchen of your house

ATKINSON

Right.

And made the call.

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

Andrea McKee has since made a statement saying that she has basically told lies.

ATKINSON

Right, that's

And she is saying that they were not staying at your house, that that was fiction.

ATKINSON

Well I can't comment, her and as far as I know her and Michael split up and there was a bit of animosity between the two of them,

I don't know.

So you would say that Andrea is

ATKINSON

I don't know.

Well why would she say she wasn't there if

ATKINSON

I haven't a clue, I don't know.

Well could, would it (inaudible) that she wasn't there.

ATKINSON

Eh you're asking me something that I can't comment on; as far as I'm aware I didn't see her but as far as I'm aware she was there. I can't comment on something I don't know anything about.

But you commented there that you said you were aware that they were split up and there was a bit of animosity.

ATKINSON

They're split up and there's a bit of animosity, I don't know what the story is between the two of them now I haven't a clue.

Uh huh.

ATKINSON

That's all I know eh she moved away and he has moved away and that's

Uh huh, but by her making this statement by saying that it didn't take place or they didn't stay at the house

ATKINSON

Well I don't know.

She is obviously implicating herself in a criminal offence.

ATKINSON

She is, aye, uh huh.

OK, you understand that.

ATKINSON

Right.

She's not just pointing the finger at others.

ATKINSON

Uh huh, eh that's up to herself, you know.

Well why would she say that she wasn't there.

ATKINSON

I don't know, you would need to ask her that.

Who made the call, Robert.

ATKINSON

Eh.

Who made that call.

ATKINSON

I don't know who made the call, I never made the call and I've told you that a dozen times.

I'll put it to you again, Robert, you made that call from your

ATKINSON

I didn't make the call and that's all I have to say in the matter.

Take a look at that

ATKINSON

I have been interviewed three times regarding it.

Yeah.

ATKINSON

I have received a thing from the DPP to say that there's No Prosecution agin me and I'm still being interviewed.

Right, can we have a look then at eh Michael Irwin speaks to, no eh, no actually Paul McCrumlish interviewed, Paul McCrumlish and those who speak to Kenneth Hanvey. The story was, the story was that Michael McKee rang looking to speak to Tracey Clarke at Kenneth Hanvey's house, isn't that correct.

ATKINSON

Well that's what you say.

Well that's what eh what's said not by me

ATKINSON

That's what you're saying

I have never said it but others who were interviewed in relation to this phone call

ATKINSON

You're saying

This is the story that has been

ATKINSON

Right.

That has been eh given to us.

ATKINSON

Well I can't comment on that because I, I know nothing about it.

Michael McKee says that - Michael McKee says that your wife, Eleanor says that

ATKINSON

Well that's up to them. I can only answer for myself and that's all I'm answering for.

Right, what they're saying is that you made a phone call to their, now whoever, whenever Police go to eh Kenneth Hanvey's home in relation to Alistair Hanvey who is involved in the Murder and Police on the 11th of the 5th 97 called at his house, Sunday, now this

is after the phone call that Michael McKee is supposed to have made to Kenneth Hanvey. Michael McKee is supposed to make a phone call to Kenneth Hanvey at 8 37 in the morning asking about Tracey Clarke and Kenneth and Elizabeth Hanvey are at the house there and Kenneth said he checked the bedroom and Alistair wasn't there, Tracey wasn't there, told Michael McKee that she is not here, I don't know where she is. So that's 8 37 in the morning, however, Kenneth Hanvey says whenever they interviewed him first of all on the 11th of the 5th, this is just about a fortnight, well a week, a week and a half later, Kenneth and his wife had got out of bed around 9 am on the 27th of the 4th, no mention of 8 37 phone call; no saying we got a phone call from Michael McKee at 8 37 asking about Tracey Clarke. Kenneth and his wife got out of bed at around 9 am on the 27th of the 4th, he, Kenneth went and fed cattle and the wife made breakfast. Kenneth then went to his brother, Thomas' house in [REDACTED] and spoke to Alistair who informed him of the fight. It doesn't say that he was already aware of the fight from Michael McKee or anything else or that Michael McKee had been ringing looking Tracey. Mr Hanvey further related how Alistair had told him he had helped Police keep the crowd back and Mr Kenneth Hanvey suggested that this Policeman would be giving evidence on behalf of Alistair Hanvey. Mr Hanvey refused to identify this Policeman. Is that not a strange thing to come off with.

ATKINSON

I can't comment on what Kenneth Hanvey says, he's got nothing to do with me.

Well why if Kenneth Hanvey got a phone call at twenty to nine in the morning from Michael McKee from your house asking about Tracey Clarke, would you not say to the Police, oh yes they were ringing looking for Tracey and Alistair wasn't about then, they were ringing looking him.

ATKINSON

I know nothing about, I know nothing about a phone call that I didn't make.

Again DC McIntosh was also present in that interview, this is their witness statements I am referring to because he didn't make a statement and again he recalls that the conversation was that Mr and Mrs Hanvey got out of bed at 9 am, he fed the cattle, at 9 30 or 9 45 Kenneth went to his brothers in Princess Way and Alistair was there. Kenneth got tea and Alistair told his father, Kenneth about a fight in the town the previous night. The reason that Kenneth and Elizabeth Hanvey did not mention the

phone call from Michael McKee at twenty to nine in the morning was that that phone call was not made to them by Michael McKee, it was a phone call made by you.

ATKINSON

I did not make a phone call and I'm

And never

ATKINSON

Sick telling you that I haven't made the phone call.

I want to move on then to Andrea McKee statements, it says that she was not there, she in fact was home. There is quite a lot of her statement and we wouldn't have time to go through it all now so I want to read bits of it now and we'll maybe go back to the second interview. I can now state, this is the statement made on the 20th of June 2000. I can now state that parts of this statement are untrue. This refers to the parts in which I stated that I stayed at Robert Atkinson's house and was present when a phone call was made to the home of Alistair Hanvey. This did not occur. On that night I was actually in my own address, [redacted] with my husband Michael. We didn't go out that night. What actually happened was that Michael was approached by Robert Atkinson, I can recall if, I can't recall if I spoke to Robert Atkinson but I became aware that he was looking for, to cover a phone call that was made earlier in the morning to Alistair Hanvey's house. Michael told me that he wasn't happy about covering for Robert. It was arranged for him to go to the Police Station with his solicitor, Mr Sean Hagan. As a result Michael going to the Police Station I had to go and speak to the Police. This was in Sean Hagan's office. Michael told me he had told the Police and I had to go and support him. I didn't like what I had to do but I felt I had to do it for Michael. I also know that Michael didn't want to be involved but he felt obliged to Robert. We didn't pay for the solicitor, Mr Hagan, I believe this was paid for by yourself, Mr Atkinson. I can't recall discussing this matter with anyone else at the time. The phone call I refer to is around the time, the phone was, the phone call that I referred to was around the time of the death of Robert Hamill. This is the only time I have been asked to do such an action, I know it was wrong. I have been separated from Michael a year now and Michael has initially left and gone down to live in Cork so Andrea McKee in that statement, there is another statement of her's, I'll not deal with it now to cover the aspects of it eh she just deals with

that in more depth. What Andrea McKee is saying that phone call was not made, that you basically approached her and Michael to make a cover story for that phone call. Is that true.

ATKINSON

That's not correct.

ATKINSON

That you made that call and to cover

That's not correct; I don't wish to keep repeating myself but that is not correct. I paid for no interview with Mr Sean Hagan as I'm sure you have already checked.

ATKINSON

You said earlier that Andrea McKee and Michael McKee lived, there was just the two of them.

Yes.

And where do they live.

ATKINSON

It's [REDACTED] I'm not sure of the number.

ATKINSON

It's in the hundreds all right, yeah.

ATKINSON

We have checked their phone billing for [REDACTED]

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

On the night of the 27th

Right.

The night they are staying at your house.

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

On their phone billing at [REDACTED] I refer to you an exhibit DL10 which is a telephone analysis, we don't have it here, it can be shown to you, at 1 30 am there is a phone call from [REDACTED] to Call-a-Cab.

ATKINSON

Well I don't know.

SOLICITOR

Sorry, I didn't catch what you said, there was a phone call

I can repeat that, on the night that Mr Atkinson and Eleanor and Michael McKee are saying

SOLICITOR

Uh huh.

That they stayed at Mr Atkinson's house

SOLICITOR

Uh huh.

Here and made a phone call that morning at 8 37 am

SOLICITOR

Uh huh.

On that night, the early hours of the 27th, the night they were supposed to be staying over at Mr Atkinson's house

SOLICITOR

Uh huh.

At 1 30 am from [REDACTED] there is a phone call to Call-a-Cab in Portadown; someone from Michael and Andrea McKee's house is making

SOLICITOR

Phone Call-a-Cab.

Is making a phone call to Call-a-Cab.

SOLICITOR

At 1 30 in the morning.

Yes.

SOLICITOR

Ehm.

And like

ATKINSON

Well I'm not at, I'm not at liberty to know who has access to their house or who hasn't.

You said earlier there was just the two of them.

ATKINSON

There is just the two of them lived in the house but there's, they had other friends than me.

And they would've lived in that house, would they.

ATKINSON

There was a guy lived with them for a while eh I'm not sure on what dates, him and the wife broke up and I think he was living with them for a while eh what's his name eh I can't mind his name, it will come to me later.

Well think about it anyway. I want to refer then to Irene McKee, who is an employee of Call-a-Cab, West Street, Portadown. I have been shown a document by DS H [REDACTED]. I recognise the document, I had completed it on the 27th of April 1997; it's DL4 in there, Paul, what's on that, are you looking through. This is a sheet that is completed by myself in respect of calls carried out by Call-a-Cab taxis. I recognise my writing and also the writing of [REDACTED] who would've been working with me, however seems to be the majority of the entries. I have been shown a particular entry, 2 15 to

[REDACTED] to collect someone called Smith to take them to the town. I want to refer to you now it's document DL4. It's a copy of the document, the document we have upstairs, we can show you in a later interview, in fact we will show it to you later on; that is the line we are referring to there 2 15, [REDACTED] Smith to town, driver 9. What that taxi log is showing is that on the night and in the early hours, 1 30 am on the 27th they took that call and they sent a driver, driver 9 to [REDACTED] where they collected it, a fare by the name of Smith and took him to town. I want to refer to, to a statement of Rodney Smith, I have it here somewhere - uh huh - that's, that's the one that was - yeah, Joy Kitchen, this is her's, here - that's the one I was looking for there - right, so I have it in my hand here, we have a lot of statements shuffling through here but I have it in earlier; Rodney Smith is a member of the TKD Club, wasn't he.

ATKINSON

Yes.

And he was friendly with the McKees.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Rodney Stephen Smith. I am known as Rodney Smith and I previously lived in [REDACTED] I have been presently involved in the TKD Club and take classes in Lurgan Rugby Club. In 1997 I was training in Brownstown at a gym run by Michael McKee. I got to know Michael and Andrea McKee through the TKD, it's Tai Kwando but I am shorting it TKD and on occasions socialise with them. I can recall on at least three occasions being at their house at [REDACTED]. I have been asked by Police to recall the 27th of April 1997 and I have checked my shift pattern which was what I call a continental shift pattern and from this I can state that I was off the weekend the 27th of April 1997 although I cannot specifically remember what I did that weekend. I have been shown a copy of the taxi log showing Smith, [REDACTED] to town on the 2 15. On the occasions I was at Michael and Andrea's, if I had been drinking I would get a taxi. I have got taxis from their home before and it's possible that this was me and Joy getting a taxi from [REDACTED] Michael and Andrea's to my home which was at Thomas Street in 1997. I don't have a set taxi firm that I would normally use although I have used Call-a-Cab in the past. In 1997 I still do in fact use them. I used them last night. That's Rodney Smith saying that he had stayed at McKee's and he has used taxis, he has used Call-a-Cab, he

lives in [REDACTED] which is town centre. He would have stayed over, now Joy Kitchen, he refers to the fact and it's in Andrea McKee's statement, she refers to the fact that they would have had people called [REDACTED] and friends staying and other times you stayed

ATKINSON

I recall that, yeah, I was trying to remember, [REDACTED].

[REDACTED], they said they would've had [REDACTED] staying at, at the house

ATKINSON

Yeah.

On occasions eh well not staying at the house, would have come and visited and left again in a taxi, him and his wife and now eh we have spoke to him as well and also Joy eh Rodney Smith, she says that those are the people that would've stayed at our house on occasions eh partied with us and got taxis home. I'm trying to locate who was, was at the house that night, got the Call-a-Cab. Joy Kitchen, I started going out with Rodney on the 9th of April 1997. A short time later, maybe two or three weeks or a month I went with him to Michael and Andrea McKee's at [REDACTED]. This was the first time I visited them. You see the significance of that; she starts going out with Rodney Smith on the 9th of April. She recalls going to Michael and Andrea McKee's so therefore whenever she goes to Michael and Andrea McKee's it has to be after the 9th of April. We're talking about the 27th of April. On occasions we visited the McKee's at [REDACTED] we would have taken a taxi. It could've been any well known Portadown taxis, Call-a-Cab, Pete's Cab, Z Cabs or Eden Cabs. So Andrea McKee recalls Rodney and Rodney Smith and Joy Kitchen visiting them in around that time and staying and getting a taxi home. We have a taxi log that shows Smith [REDACTED] on the night from [REDACTED]. We have a phone call at 1 30 am to a taxi company from Michael and Andrea McKee's house. The statements have all your folk in your house are saying they called for the evening sometime around Midnight they go to bed.

ATKINSON

I can't comment on that. I can only tell you what I did.

Uh huh, you see at the very least let's just assume for one minute that you, we accept that you are not being untruthful with us here, then your wife is at least lying.

ATKINSON

Well I don't know what she's doing.

But you do know what she is doing because you, you know what's in her statement so is she

ATKINSON

What do you mean I know what's in her statement, I didn't make her statement

No, but you know what your wife has said - I have read it out to you - and it's been read out to you. You know that your wife is saying to the Police that the McKees stayed over in your house that night.

ATKINSON

As far as I'm concerned that's what happened.

Uh huh, but we are now saying to you that the McKees were at home because people have phoned from there

ATKINSON

Well I can't comment on that, that's got nothing to do with me. I made my statement

It has everything to do with you, Robert because

ATKINSON

It's got nothing to do with me, I made my statement on the facts that happened on the night that I was involved in.

I can tell you why it's got everything to do with you, Robert because Andrea McKee says I was asked by Robert, Michael and I were asked by Robert because he had made a phone call to Alistair Hanvey or in direction of Alistair Hanvey not to Alistair Hanvey

ATKINSON

I asked nobody.

You made a phone call to Kenneth Hanvey's house to advise Alistair to burn his clothes.

ATKINSON

I made no phone call and I asked nobody and I paid for nobody's solicitor's fees or arranged no interviews.

The solicitor's fee's, the paying of is a min, is a minor issue, the issue is

ATKINSON

I don't accept that it is a minor issue and what your suggesting

Andrea McKee

ATKINSON

By that is that, that I, I'm paying for them to help me out. I don't accept it's a minor issue at all.

What we're saying is, is, is equally as serious, we're saying that you have arranged for these folk to

ATKINSON I realise what you're saying
To make witness statements to cover your phone call

ATKINSON I didn't arrange for anybody to make anything so I didn't.
Well the facts that Andrea McKee has stated have been backed out by physical evidence; she is saying we were not at that house and you can sit there and say awe but she

ATKINSON Well I've been, I, I hadn't seen, I didn't see her or him. I have already told you that.

SOLICITOR What you're saying is you had made, did not make that phone call.

ATKINSON I never made a phone call or I didn't see him or her.
Well tell us this then and again I know you can only speculate here, what has she got to gain by making

ATKINSON I don't know
That statement.

ATKINSON I don't know.
Because all she is doing is as I said to you before is leaving herself liable to criminal conviction.

ATKINSON I don't know, I don't know.
Well why would she do it then.

ATKINSON I don't know.
You know what's the reasons behind it.

ATKINSON I haven't a clue.
Unless of course it's the total truth, which is what we believe.

ATKINSON Well you believe what you want.
Do you not see all the facts here, just

ATKINSON I can only tell you what I did and I have told you what I did.
I tell you what you did, Robert, you made a phone call 8 37

ATKINSON No, no I didn't.

And there was a phone call again on the 2nd of May and coincidentally I would add that out of the whole time of your phone billing that we have checked and in relation of fifteen months

ATKINSON

Uh huh.

Of itemised bills, calls, I'll refer to the exhibit shortly here, we can look it up but in that whole fifteen month period there are two calls to Kenneth Hanvey's home or Alistair Hanvey's home or Elizabeth Hanvey's home, whatever way you want to put it there is a phone call to that house where Alistair Hanvey lived, two calls

ATKINSON

My wife sees Kenneth Hanvey everyday of the week, she works with him

Why two calls

ATKINSON

So she does.

One of them, one of them on the very morning of the Murder, the 27th of the 4th, the very morning, at 8 37 as was stated by Tracey Clarke in her statement that you rang to tell Alistair to burn the clothes and the next few days, later on, the 2nd of May

ATKINSON

I didn't ring and tell anybody to burn their clothes.

And the story that youse, that you gathered together to cover that phone call was that Michael and Andrea stayed over that night and

ATKINSON

As far as I'm aware that was what happened, I can't tell you no more or no less.

Michael and Andrea McKee stayed over that night and it was Michael made that phone call to check on Tracey Clarke and what we're saying now it was impossible for Michael and Andrea McKee to be there because somebody was in their house, no if they are the only two that have access to that house then the two that lived together, they have no family, the only other person that would stay with them on occasions we would give you as, as Tracey Clarke but don't forget that Tracey Clarke is standing up the town centre at that point witnessing the assault

ATKINSON

Well I don't know that

At 1 50 am so she couldn't have been in the house at 1 30

ATKINSON

I don't know, I don't

The only people who could have been at [REDACTED] were Michael and Andrea McKee and whoever their visitors were that night and those visitors were Joy Smith and Rodney Kitchen; there was Rodney Smith and Joy Kitchen. The taxi log backs that up.

ATKINSON

I don't know.

Smith to town centre, 2 15; it all ties together 1 30 am phone call to taxi company, 2 15 the taxi comes and takes Rodney Smith back to the town centre, he lives at [REDACTED] drops him off him.

ATKINSON

I don't know.

And when you tie that in with your connection with the Tai Kwando Club, Michael McKee, his niece is Tracey Clarke, who at that time was going out with who, Alistair Hanvey maybe through some misguided sense of loyalty you decide ehm

ATKINSON

I didn't say that

Young Hanvey's in a mess here, I'm going to help him out

ATKINSON

I didn't say anything about young Hanvey.

There is so much - your house is empty again down to you and Eleanor

ATKINSON

What.

For this, whenever this phone call was occurred, you filled your house with Michael and Andrea McKee, you put them into the house.

ATKINSON

I didn't fill my house with anybody, excuse me.

You put Michael and Andrea, you put Michael and Andrea McKee into your house

ATKINSON

I didn't fill the house with anybody.

They stayed over that night was the account they made up

ATKINSON

I came home from my work and went to my bed.

After having rung Alistair Hanvey

ATKINSON

No.

Or to Alistair Hanvey to let him

ATKINSON

I didn't ring Alistair Hanvey

Well we know later on we can deal with the

fact we don't think you did actually ring Alistair, we rang through to Alistair's house to let him know. We can deal with that in the second interview that Alistair was not physically there, we believe either. I don't, have you anything you want to say in relation to that; these are serious allegations put to you

ATKINSON

I know they are serious, I have nothing to say.

And I think you should put some time to reflect on what the position is.

ATKINSON

I have reflected for four years on the allegations and it still remains the same; I never made a phone call.

You reflected the last time that you came in and you basically, between you and Michael and Andrea McKee

ATKINSON

No.

And your wife had made an account that Michael and Andrea stayed over and that's who made the phone call. In your last interview you said you think Eleanor will tell you who made that phone call.

ATKINSON

I can't comment on (inaudible)

(inaudible) Michael McKee so you were resting on Michael McKee making, taking the phone call from you.

ATKINSON

No.

And we're now saying that is, that is impossible. I expect you, Robert to tell us

ATKINSON

I can't tell you any more than I have told you.

I think we should take a break and let you have some time to have a chat with your solicitor and get some lunch. Is there anything else you want to say, Robert.

ATKINSON

No.

Anything yourself, Paul - no have nothing further - Mr Hagan, do you wish to say anything.

SOLICITOR

Eh not at this stage, Sergeant.

Ehm that was the Form PACE 21 then eh signed at, what's that, 1 51 - well I make it 49 - you make it - 1 49 by my watch - right, we'll go by your watch, we have been using it so far. Could I have a signature there,

you acknowledge receiving that. Thank you -
eh 1 49 interview terminated.

CHECKED & CERTIFIED AN ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF PACE
TAPE NO T255554A INTERVIEW OF ROBERT CECIL ATKINSON
ON 10 APRIL 2001 BETWEEN 1 11 PM AND 1 49 PM.

Howard J. A.
