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Title: COPY JOURNAL N490 K [REDACTED] RE N253 LAWThER

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is made. 1030 am interviewed DS Lawther, outlined my reasons for intervieweing him. DS Lawther states that on the weekend of 26 & 27 April 1997, he was off duty. Returned to duty at 9 am on Mon 28/04/97. Stated that he was aware of an investigation which had been initiated concerning the serious assault of Robert Hamill which occurred early Sunday morning in Portadown Town Centre, stated that he was not involved in the initial investigations during the course of Monday morning and he carried out investigations into a robbery at Hoggs Coffe Shop which occurred at the end of the previous week. D/S Lawther states that he was first introduced to the Hamill investigation when he was given a Task late on Monday afternoon (28/04/97) to identify and research 'Rat' Gray. D/S Lawther could not recall who had gave him that task. The action concerning Rat Gray was the only enquiry that he was given to do in relation to the Hamill investigation that day. D/S Lawther stated that he knew Robert Atkinson who worked in Portadown Station and that he had no dealings with him on that Monday, states that he never spoke to him at any point. On that day, D/S Lawther states that he was not aware of any details which Atkinson may have given, further states that he was not aware of the content of Atkinson's statement or indeed

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whether he had made a statement. D/S Lawther does not recall seeing Atkinson at all that Monday. In the days that followed, D/S Lawther states that the only action which he was directed to carry out concerned 'Rat' Gray. D/S Lawther could not recall who issued that action to him. D/S Lawther stated that the enquiries to identify Rat Gray continued for a number of days but D/S Lawther states that he was unable to ascertain the exact address of Rat Gray. D/S Lawther could not recall if the action was allocated to somebody else. In making the enquiry about Gray, D/S Lawther spoke with Atkinson on 30/04/97 regarding Gray - D/S Lawther could not recall whether this was in person or by phone. At this point D/S Lawther referred to his notebook for an entry recorded on 30/04/97. D/S Lawther states that as far as he was concerned, Gray was the only name mentioned in the conversation because that is what his enquiry was about and states that Atkinson did not give him any further information about any other person. D/S Lawther states that that was the one and only conversation he had had with Atkinson during this period. Over the period of the initial investigation in April/May. D/S Lawther states that this was the only enquiry re: Gray which he had concerning the Hamill investigation. At some point in the future, D/S Lawther recalls speaking to Const Alan Neill about the detail of his statement. States that notes were recorded of this and entered on HOLMES. D/S Lawther states that he was not involved in arrests and interviews of suspects and at no time

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did he ring Atkinson to ask him if he could identify anybody. D/S Lawther states that there were conferences held in the CID office but does not recall Atkinson ever being at any of these.