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Other Document

Number: D677

Title: COPY JOURNAL ENTRY N490^k [REDACTED] DUTY 031100

Details of Supervision or Other Duties performed
or Matters coming under Notice

10 15 am Interview of D/C McAteer ref Actions
re: Atkinson Investigation. Referred to Notebook during
course of interview. States that on 27/4/97 he was on
a Rest Day. Returned to duty at 9 am on Monday
28/4/97. Initially engaged in other sub-divisional
crime duties. From Tuesday 29/4/97, states that he
was detailed to assist in various enquiries regarding
the serious assault on Mr Hamill. States that
D/I Irwin briefed him regarding the enquiries
which he was tasked to carry out in the first days
of the investigation. During the course of this enquiry
D/C McAteer stated that on Wednesday 30/4/97
he accompanied DCI P39 to meet the Hamill
family and then on to speak to Father [REDACTED]
Parish Priest of the [REDACTED]
Stated that they had a general conversation about
the Incident with Father [REDACTED]. Referring to his
Notebook, D/C McAteer states that on 9 May 97
he spoke to Father [REDACTED] and Father [REDACTED]
along with DCI P39 at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] States that he recalls a discussion
about Robert Hamill's death, the police investigation
and the funeral arrangements for Mr Hamill -
states that the meeting also discussed their help

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in identifying witnesses or any information which they may have been told because witnesses were relevant to come forward to the Police. D/C McAteer states that that is the only recollection of him speaking to Priests about the Incident and the murder of Mr Hamill. I discussed the issue with D/C McAteer concerning alleged anonymous phone calls, D/C McAteer stated that he had no knowledge of this. We had a general discussion about D/C McAteer's duties during the initial days of the investigation as recorded in his N/book. We discussed his actions concerning the arrest of [REDACTED] that D/C McAteer assisted at 9 30 am outside Portadown Police Station on 6/5/97 - interview during the course of the day regarding his suspected involvement in the serious assault on Robert Hamill. D/C McAteer states that [REDACTED] was eliminated from the investigation and released no charges. We discussed duties performed on 7/5/97 as recorded in his notebook & states that after returning from Craigavon Court, he accompanied DCI P39 to visit the home addresses of Mrs Hamill (Robert's mother) and D [REDACTED] - stated that they got no reply from the D, E & F home. D/C McAteer states that he finished duties at 5 pm that day and his visits to the homes of the Hamill and D, E & F families was the only enquiries he carried out regarding the Hamill Investigation that day. States that he started duty at 9 am on Thursday 8/5/97 and was involved in other sub-divisional crime matters up until tea time on 8/5/97 after charging a prisoner in Lurgan at 4 35 pm

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Early evening on 8/5/97, D/C McAteer recalls a local policeman Davy McCaw coming into the office to speak to him. D/C McAteer cannot recall exactly what McCaw told him but believes that he mentioned the name Tracy Clarke and that she was at the Incident on the night in question and may have witnessed something - states that he would have spoken to a senior officer about it but does not recall which senior officer he spoke to - states that he then went with D/S Bradley to the home of Tracy Clarke at [REDACTED] where they interviewed her. Doesn't recall how he found out about the address in [REDACTED]. States that he completed a questionnaire and also spoke to her mother and father prior to her coming downstairs - she had been in the bathroom when we arrived - states that Tracy Clarke, D/S Bradley and himself went into another room and he completed a questionnaire which was timed at 8 pm - states that the time of 8 pm would have been recorded near the time of completing the interview. She gave information which didn't appear to reflect what McCaw had earlier said to him. She recalls that he was told by McCaw at some point, not sure when, that the person he was talking to was Tracy Clarke's aunt. D/C McAteer states that D/S Bradley and himself left the house and returned to Portadown Police Station - states that Tracy Clarke was left in the house with her parents at that time. D/C McAteer states that when they got back to the CID office, McCaw was contacted and D/C McAteer recalls that it was him who

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spoke to him. D/C McAteer recalls telling McCaw that Tracy Clarke had not disclosed any information about the incident and he states that he asked McCaw to contact the auntie to verify what she had earlier told McCaw - D/C McAteer states that he did not know the aunt's name at that time. I asked D/C McAteer about the entry made at Q10 re: House Party, D/C McAteer recalls that Tracy Clarke did supply that information noted which did include a reference of Alistair Hanvey being also present at the party in Tracy McAlpine's house after the incident. Late on the evening of 8/5/97, DC McAteer recalls Davy McCaw ringing into the office. D/C McAteer states that it was late on in the evening but cannot recall the time. Recalls Davy McCaw saying that the aunt was prepared to talk to us but that she didn't want to come into the police station. As a result of that conversation, D/C McAteer made an arrangement with McCaw to meet the aunt on a road off the Lurgan Road near Kernan Playing fields. D/C McAteer states that he spoke to D/I Irwin about McCaw's phone call and D/I Irwin and himself drove out to meet McCaw and the aunt - states they were in a police car - states that it was around 11 pm. On arrival, McCaw and the aunt got into the back of the car. At that stage, D/C McAteer states that she was introduced as Andrea McKee. States that the meeting lasted for no longer

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than 15 minutes, Andrea McKee related to them what Tracy Clarke had told her. Stated that Tracy Clarke had told her that Alistair Hanvey had been involved in the assault on Robert Hamill and that Tracy Clarke had seen Hanvey kicking Mr Hamill while he was on the ground, D/C McAteer states that it wouldn't have been clear if it was Mr Hamill or Mr [REDACTED] at that point because Andrea McKee herself wouldn't have been sure which man Tracy saw Hanvey kicking - states that Andrea McKee also told them that Tracy Clarke told her that Alistair Hanvey had told her (Tracy Clarke) that Robert Atkinson had telephoned him early on the Sunday morning of the incident and told him to get rid of any clothing that he had been wearing. Apart from these two points, the only other thing that she told us was that Robbie Atkinson was a member of their Tae Kwon Do Club on the Brownstown Road. Nothing else was discussed although he recalls telling her that Tracy Clarke had not disclosed this information to them at the earlier interview with her - states that there was no further arrangement to meet Andrea McKee at that meeting. Andrea McKee went off with McCaw and D/C McAteer states that D/I Irwin and himself returned to Portadown Police Station. D/C McAteer states that no notes were recorded by D/I Irwin or himself about what Andrea McKee had told them in the police car - states that there was no further conversation with McCaw that night

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and has no recollection of ever talking to McCaw again about it. States that he finished duty at 1 am. Cannot recall discussing the information from Andrea McKee with anybody other than D/I Irwin that night. States that on 9/5/97 started duty at 9 am. States that on starting duty he obtained the telephone numbers of Robert Atkinson and Alistair Hanvey's home addresses and completed application forms for itemised Telephone billings - states that he submitted the applications through DCI P39 that morning - states that he recalls them going to Craigavon Court regarding a Court Case - refers to his visit to Father [REDACTED] and Father [REDACTED] during afternoon (this is referred to earlier) states that he attended a conference at 4 30 pm regarding the Hamill murder investigation. Cannot recall who chaired the conference and further actions were discussed but not the allegation about Atkinson which at this stage was third hand information which needed to be verified - At that point the only officers that knew about the allegation concerning Atkinson as far as D/C McAteer is aware was DCS McBurney, DCI P39 and D/I Irwin and Davy McCaw (R/Constable). After the conference and during the evening D/C McAteer states that he contacted Tracy Clarke's home for the purpose of getting Tracy Clarke to the police station for a further interview. D/C McAteer records that he was told that she was working in a Chinese restaurant until about 1030 pm that night. D/C McAteer recalls being in the CID office

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when he was told that Tracy Clarke had arrived with her aunt Andrea McKee. This was sometime after 1030 pm - states that Tracy Clarke and Andrea McKee were brought by him to an office adjoining the CID office where D/C McAteer conducted the interview and recorded a witness statement. D/C McAteer states that on occasions during the course of the interview DCI P39 had entered the room to monitor how the interview was proceeding. D/C McAteer states that from his recollection Andrea McKee remained present throughout the interview and Tracy Clarke signed a written statement. D/C McAteer states that during the interview Tracy Clarke did disclose what Alistair Hanvey had told her about Robert Atkinson ringing him at about 8 am on the Sunday morning and telling him to destroy his clothes. D/C McAteer recorded this in his statement and states that Tracy Clarke signed the statement as Witness A. D/C McAteer states that he made the decision during the interview to have her referred to as Witness A. which Tracy Clarke was in full agreement with. During the course of the interview DC McAteer states that he did discuss how the interview with Clarke was going with DCI P39, also states that at some point during the interview DCS McBurney was present in another office. D/C McAteer states that at the end of the interview, DCI P39 and himself drove

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Tracy Clarke and Andrea McKee to Clarke's home in [REDACTED] - states that this may have been around 1 30 am - states that he went off duty at 2 am. D/C McAteer states that he started on duty at 7 am on Sunday 10/5/97 along with other officers. Cannot recall who briefed them but D/C McAteer states that he was detailed to carry out a search and arrest Alistair Hanvey 27/9/77 at his home at [REDACTED] Portadown - states that his briefing included seizing clothing that Hanvey may have been wearing on the night of the murder but cannot recall references to any specific clothing - D/C McAteer states that he cannot recall being briefed to search for evidence of burnt debris - states that a search team carried out a search which effected the arrest. States that he delivered Alistair Hanvey to Lurgan Police Station and returned to Portadown to carry out further enquiries regarding the murder of Mr Hamill - states that at 7 50 pm, he accompanied DCI P39 to the home of the late Robert Hamill and informed the family that five persons were to be charged with Robert's murder. D/C McAteer states that as far as he was aware, the first time that he ever heard Tracy Clarke's name mentioned in the enquiry was when Davy McCaw (R/Constable) spoke to him on 8/5/97. States that same the meeting with Andrea McKee on the night of 8/5/97 and speaking to her when Tracy Clarke was interviewed on 9/5/97, he had no further contact with her. States that he has never spoken to her husband. States that he had some

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contact with Tracy after that but most of the contact was with DCI P39. D/C McAteer states that he had no knowledge of why Tracy Clarke retracted her evidence, states that after the suspects were charged he was not as closely associated with the investigation in the months that followed - states that he was not involved in the input of the investigation concerning Atkinson and states that apart from making application for itemised phone billings on 9/5/97, he had no other dealings in the investigation into Atkinson's contacts with Hanvey. 1 pm - short refreshment break. Obtained copies of Notebook entries for period 27/4/97 - 12/5/97. D/C McAteer states that during the interview with Tracy Clarke, Andrea McKee made no comments which would indicate that Tracy Clarke's information about Atkinson saying Hanvey on that Sunday morning were untrue or incorrect - he does not recall Andrea McKee making any response when the issue about Atkinson saying Hanvey was being told by Tracy Clarke - states that Andrea McKee never made any comments when she told them about Tracy's information concerning Atkinson ringing Hanvey on the Sunday morning during the meeting near Kernan Playing fields on the night of 8/5/97 - states that she never mentioned about Michael McKee and herself being at Atkinson's house overnight on 26/27 April or about being present when Michael McKee (husband) phoned Hanvey from Atkinson's home phone - D/C McAteer stated that this information

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meant nothing to him, he had never heard this
before and he didn't know that her husband was
called Michael. 1 30 pm interview ended.