

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF ANDREA LOUISE McKEE

AGE OF WITNESS (IF OVER 21 ENTER "OVER 21") OVER 21

I declare that this statement consisting of 3 pages, each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 25th day of June 2002

[Redacted]

Signature of Investigator by whom statement was recorded or received

Signature of Witness *Andrea*

I live at an address known to the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland and have been resident there since I split from my former husband Michael McKee in April / May 1999. Investigators from the Police Ombudsman's office have asked me to provide them with my knowledge on issues surrounding the murder of Robert Hamill, in late April 1997.

At the time my ex-husband, Michael, was the owner of the Tae Kwon Do Club, Unit 19, Brownstown Business Centre, Portadown. I also worked there on a full time basis as an administrator. There I met a police officer by the name of David McCaw and his colleague Paul Adamson, both would regularly train at the gym.

One day during the early part of May 1997, I was working in my office at the gym, the door was open and I overheard Tracey Clarke (my ex-husband's niece), in conversation with friends about the fight in the town. I can't recall exactly what was said during the conversation and can't remember whether it was morning or afternoon, but I do recall that this was the same day that the news of Robert Hamill's death had been broadcast on the radio.

Tracey Clarke was a regular visitor to the gym, but she wouldn't have known that both Davy and Paul were police officers. It seems that they had been training nearby when they overheard Tracey's conversation, a short time later Davy came into the office and asked if he could use my telephone. He wanted to contact his boss at the police station and asked me if I had overheard what Tracey had been saying. I told him that I had. He didn't know her because he had to ask me who she was and I told him that she was Michael's niece.

Later that evening, Davy picked me up and I accompanied him to Kernan cemetery, there I was introduced to two police officers called Michael Irwin and John McAteer. Davy and myself joined them in their car and sat in the back seat. The officers asked me a number of questions including, whether I thought Tracey had information concerning the murder of

Signature of Witness *Andrea*

Signature witnessed by

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Robert Hamill, also if I would be able to approach Tracey on their behalf. They asked me if I could recall any of the names mentioned by Tracey, during her conversations at the gym, along with other more general questions about Tracey's character and her association with Robbie Atkinson and Alistair Harvey.

I remember a discussion about a telephone call but I can't remember any details, however I told the officers that Tracey had been quite openly telling people that Robbie Atkinson was looking after Alistair Harvey. The meeting lasted approximately 10-15 minutes.

A couple of day's later arrangements were made for Tracey to go to the police station to make a statement. I remember that my ex-husband offered to take her and that it was quite

late in the evening, after Tracey had finished work in a local Chinese restaurant.

Tracey was very apprehensive, so to provide her with some support I went with her and was present throughout the statement taking process. There was a lady police officer called

P39 along with Michael Irwin and John McAteer, who actually wrote down Tracey's account. Other than being there as a companion for Tracey, I played no part during the statement taking and had no conversation with any of the police officer's present.

Whilst at the police station I recall that Tracey did mention the telephone call made by Robbie Atkinson to Alistair Harvey but again I can't remember any details or how it came about.

At that time it never crossed my mind that I would become involved to the extent where I would have to make an alibi statement for Robbie Atkinson. However in October 1997, arrangements were made by Robbie for me to attend the office of a solicitor called Sean

Hagan, where I again met with Michael Irwin.

I went on to provide a fabricated alibi statement, in which I falsely claimed that my husband had made a telephone call, from the home address of Robbie Atkinson.

I felt decidedly uncomfortable. What I had got involved in was just one bloody mess. There was very little conversation between Michael Irwin, and myself other than I recall him asking if I was there to make a statement. I said, "yes" and sat down.

After I had provided my statement, I had no further contact with Michael Irwin until he rang me some time in June 2000, after I had moved from Northern Ireland to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Following our conversation he and another officer travelled to North Wales to see me. During our meeting I fully admitted that my original statement made to him in October 1997, was false. It was explained to me that the reason for the approach by Michael Irwin, at that time,

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was because the police had become aware that I had separated from my ex-husband. As a result it was their belief that I might wish to reconsider the content of the alibi statement I had previously given.

We briefly discussed the taking of the original statement at Sean Hagan's office and just how awkward I had felt about what I was doing. I recall Michael Irwin commenting that from his point of view, he was simply carrying out a task, which he had been asked to complete.

I have had no other contact with or from Michael Irwin, I think that in the circumstances, they had a very difficult job to do and I have no complaint over how I was treated by the police. *ALM*

Signature of Witness *ALM*

Signature witnessed by

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