

# STATEMENT OF WITNESS

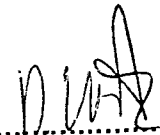
STATEMENT OF:     Darren Wright    

AGE OF WITNESS (if over 21 enter "over 21")     Over 21    

I declare that this statement consisting of     2     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 at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, 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     9<sup>th</sup>     day of     January         2002    

.....  
Signature of Investigator by whom  
Statement was recorded or received

  
.....  
Signature of Witness

I am an Investigations Officer currently attached to the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland based at New Cathedral Buildings, Belfast. On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2001, at the request of SIO Chris Mahaffey, I attended a briefing at the Charlemont Arms Hotel, Armagh concerning a series of interviews to be conducted at Gough Barracks, Armagh later that day by a number of RUC officers investigating matters arising from the murder of Robert Hamill. The briefing was given by SIO Mahaffey and also present was IO [REDACTED], IO [REDACTED] and AIO [REDACTED]. It was explained to me during this briefing that a number of individuals had been recently arrested in connection with matters arising from the Hamill murder investigation and that the Police Ombudsman's office had taken over supervision of the investigation. It was further explained to me that those arrested were to be interviewed later that day by the RUC and that I would be required to sit in on one of the interviews to act as supervising officer. It was made clear to me that I was to take no active part in the interview but was there simply as a supervising officer acting as observer and that I should take notes during the interview about what was discussed. I then travelled to Gough Barracks along with those present at the briefing and we all sat in an office at Gough Barracks waiting for an indication of the interview schedule for the day. A short while later I was asked by SIO Mahaffey to make my way to the custody suite and sit in on the interview of Michael McKee which was about to take place. On arrival at the custody suite I was introduced to DSH [REDACTED] and a Detective Constable who I was told would be conducting the interview of McKee. I then attended one of the interview rooms in the custody suite along with these two officers and introduced myself to McKee and his solicitor. I explained to them what my role was and they were happy for me to remain during the interview. The interview then began and I remained for the full duration of the interview. This interview

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STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: Darren Wright STATEMENT PAGE NO: 2

was punctuated by a number of comfort breaks and I made notes throughout the interview, which I later handed to AIO [redacted] who collated all the information concerning events during that day. During the day I attended a briefing given by Detective C/Supt Colville Stewart at Gough Barracks concerning the progress of the investigation and the interviews. I left Gough Barracks later on that day, once all the interviews were complete and I had no further dealings with McKee, his solicitor or any of the officers involved in the interviews.

*DWR*

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

*DWR*