

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF NEIL RITCHIE

AGE OF WITNESS[If over 21 enter 'over 21'] : UNDER 21

I declare that this statement consisting of 4 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 13 day of May 1997

██████████  
SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

by whom statement was recorded or received

NEIL RITCHIE

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I live at an address which is known to the Police Officer recording this statement. At approximately 9 to 9 30 pm on Saturday 26th of April 1997 I caught a coach to the Coach Inn Banbridge. I was sitting on the coach next to Andrew Osbourne who is a friend of mine. Also present were some other friends of mine, namely Timmy Jameson and Ian Carville. Also on the coach I saw amongst the passengers was two males I know as Rory Robinson and Stacey Bridgett. We arrived at Banbridge at about 9 45 pm and we got off the bus, paid our entrance fee and entered the Coach Inn. During my time at the Coach Inn I mingled amongst the crowd just generally socialising. At approximately 1 15 am on Sunday 27th of April 1997 I caught the same transport back to Portadown. The coach arrived back at Portadown at approximately 1 45 am and let the passengers outside Z Cabs taxi office. I got off the coach with Timmy Jameson and we walked to Boss Hoggs. We went inside and Timmy purchased some food whilst I waited for him. Whilst at Boss Hoggs I spoke to my sister Jill and told her that I would be staying at Ann Bowles flat, which is ██████████ something. I cannot recall the full address. I left Timmy's company at Boss Hoggs and I began to walk up the town towards the direction of

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St Marks Church on my own. I eventually started to cross the road at Ronnie's Pub walking onto the central traffic island reservation situated in the centre of the High Street. At this time I saw a Police landrover parked outside the Alliance and Leicester Building Society with the front of it facing towards the bottom of the town. I then completed my crossing of the road and I found myself outside the First Trust Bank next door to the Alliance and Leicester. I would like to add that I was following the following three girls, Ann Bowles, Alison Bowles and [REDACTED]. These girls were ahead of me some 15 to 20 metres and I wanted to catch up to them. As I got to Boots the chemists I heard the sound of females screaming coming from behind me. On turning around I saw a group of 15 - 20 males and females fighting amongst themselves. I could not recognise anybody from where I was standing. After a few seconds I resumed my journey. I eventually caught with the girls somewhere between Magowan Buildings and West Street. The four of us walked across the Northway foot bridge and into Edgarstown and through the estate into Montague Street from there we made our way into the [REDACTED] and onto Ann's flat arriving at 2 15 am to 2 30 am. On entering the flat I saw Ann's boyfriend Geoffrey Smith. There were other persons present but I cannot recall their names. Everybody sat about at the flat talking and drinking and I retired to the upstairs bedroom at about 4 00 am or 5 00 am. I got up later that morning and left the flat around midday. In total that evening I would have consumed a 750cl bottle of buckfast, 6 to 8 pints of lager and a few bottles of lager in the flat. I did not socialise with Dean Forbes that Saturday evening but

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as I was walking up the town from Boss Hoggs I can recall seeing Dean Forbes and maybe saying hello to him before I reached Ronnie's Pub. Finally I know of a person called Fonzie Allen whom I would describe as follows 19 to 20 years, 5'11" to 6'0" in height of slim build with short dark brown to black hair with a side shade and curtain style haircut.

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

NEIL RITCHIE

CHECKED AND CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL SIGNED

