

STATEMENT OF NEIL RITCHIE

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