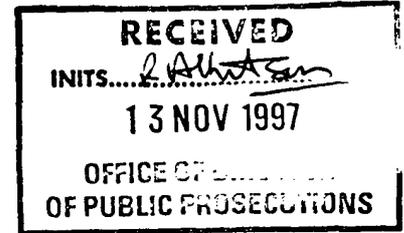


Mr Kitson

Murder of Robert Hamill

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Report and Opinion



1. Counsel was asked to consult with a number of specified witnesses in this case, to assess their evidence and to give an opinion in the case. In view of the fact that some of the accused were, and some are in custody I have been asked to proceed in the absence of the Pathologist's report. I have verbal instructions only to the effect that Mr Hamill's death was the result of the attack upon him, most likely head injuries. Any opinion expressed is therefore dependent this being later confirmed in the Report.
2. I have conducted 4 consultations in the case. 3 in Belfast and 1 in Portadown. I have seen the following witnesses.
 - (a). Jonathan Wright. I saw Mr Wright with Mr Davidson in attendance. Mr Wright made two statements to the police. The first, dated 11 May 1997, was a general statement of his movements and his companions on the evening in question. In it he denies all knowledge of any information in relation to the incident. He made his second statement on 15 May 1997. I specifically asked him why he had decided to make a second statement. He stated that he was distressed by the death and he decided it was important to tell the truth. I do not propose to analyse the statement at this stage of my opinion. Sufficient for present purposes to say that given the normal disadvantage inherent in using a witness who has two contradictory statements on file, I was satisfied that Wright was apparently reliable as a witness and was satisfied it would be appropriate to give full weight to his statement in assessing the evidence in the case.