

**R v ATKINSON, ATKINSON & HANVEY****SUMMARY OF EVENTS**

1. Early on Sunday 27 April 1997 Robert Hamill was beaten and kicked by a crowd in Portadown causing injuries from which he died some days later. A police landrover and its crew were close to the scene of the incident. A member of the crew was R/Constable Robert Cecil Atkinson.
2. Later on the same morning it is alleged that R/Constable Atkinson made a telephone call from his home to the home of Alister Hanvey who later became a suspect for the murder of Robert Hamill. The purpose of the phone call was to warn Alister Hanvey to get rid of the clothes he was wearing at or about the time of the incident. The source of the information about the telephone call is Andrea McKee (now also known as Andrea [REDACTED]) who had met in conditions of some secrecy with D/Inspector Michael Irwin. She and her husband Michael were friends of Robert Atkinson and his wife Eleanor.
3. Upon the nature of the phone call from the Atkinson house to the Hanvey house being investigated by the police, Robert Atkinson persuaded his wife and Andrea and Michael McKee to enter into a conspiracy with him to falsely state that Andrea and Michael had stayed overnight in the Atkinson home on 26/27 April and that the telephone call under investigation had been made by Michael McKee to enquire about the safety of his niece who was Alister Hanvey's girlfriend at that time.
4. Despite what she had told D/Inspector Irwin at the meeting referred to in paragraph 1 above, Andrea McKee, in furtherance of this conspiracy, at Robert Atkinson's solicitor's office, made a written statement to police confirming that Michael had made the phone call.
5. Although police were aware that the story about Michael McKee making the telephone call was concocted it was not until very much later that they had an opportunity to further interview Andrea McKee who had then separated from her husband and had gone to live in Wales. She admitted that she and her husband had conspired with the Atkinsons to tell a false story to the police. Andrea's estranged husband Michael also admitted that he had lied to the police.
6. As a result of their admissions Andrea and Michael McKee were prosecuted for an offence of doing an act with intent to pervert the course of justice. At Craigavon Crown Court on 7 May 2002 they both pleaded guilty. Andrea McKee was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment suspended for 2 years and Michael McKee was sentenced to 6 months immediate imprisonment.
7. Following her conviction Andrea McKee indicated that she would be prepared to give evidence against Robert and Eleanor Atkinson and Kenneth Hanvey who