

# DRAFT

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

### STATEMENT OF JOE BLACK

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2008

I, JOE BLACK, declare that this statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that if it is tendered in evidence at the Inquiry, I will 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.

1. This is the first witness statement that I have made in connection with the Robert Hamill incident. No documents have been produced and shown to me in connection with this statement.
2. On the night of 26/27 April 1997, I went by bus to the Coach Inn in Banbridge with my brother, Mark Black, and [REDACTED]. We had been at Mark's house that afternoon and I had had a few drinks but was not drunk. After the Coach Inn closed at 01:00, I took a bus to Portadown with Mark. I do not recall if it was the first or second bus. We got off the bus near "Z Cabs" in Portadown. There were quite a few people out on the streets and in takeaways, but no more than usual for a Saturday night.
3. After getting off the bus, we walked up past the church on High Street and then along West Street towards my brother's house and did not stop for food.
4. As we were heading up towards West Street near the Job Market, roughly around the church area, I heard shouting and screaming. The shouting was coming from the area near "Z Cabs". I could not make out what was being yelled and did not know who was fighting who. I thought it may have been Catholics or Protestants fighting amongst themselves, or people from the bus fighting each other.