

**STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

**STATEMENT OF ERIC JOHN WILLIAMSON**

**DATED THIS DAY            OF            2008**

I, ERIC JOHN WILLIAMSON 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. The Inquiry has disclosed a number of documents to me. Where I make specific reference to a document in my statement I have given the number of the relevant page.
2. I served in the Royal Ulster Constabulary between 1979 until I retired from the Police service for Northern Ireland [PSNI] in September 2005. I presently work for the PSNI in a civilian capacity as a HOLMES office manager.
3. In April 1997 I was a Detective Constable attached to the Regional Crime Squad [South] based at Armagh. I had 18 years experience as a police officer, five years as a uniform officer the remainder as a detective. I had served as a detective constable in Lisburn, Newry and Banbridge. I had attended a Junior CID Course in 1985 and had been trained in the HOLMES system in 1991.
4. Although I had never been stationed in Portadown being a native of the town I am well aware of the tensions which built up at certain times of the year. In 1996 the decision to stop the Orange Order marching down the Garvaghy Road after the Drumcree Parade had raised tension between protestant and catholic communities around Easter up to July 12. In the majority of cases people just lived with it and carried on their lives as normal. It was one of those things that was always there but not always on the surface.