

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

### STATEMENT OF ROBERT ATKINSON

DATED THIS SECOND DAY OF JANUARY 2009

I, Robert Atkinson, 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 for 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 document the relevant reference number.
2. On 26/27 April 1997 I was a Reserve Constable in the RUC performing duty in the town centre of Portadown when a public disturbance occurred. On the date of the incident, I was a Reserve Constable attached to 'C' section stationed at Portadown.
3. I joined the RUC in December 1974, initially as a part-time Reserve Constable and subsequently, in or about April 1975, I entered the full time Reserve on completion of two weeks training.
4. On joining the RUC on a full-time basis, I was initially posted to Tandragee and, for a period, I was attached to Banbridge and later served an attachment with the Divisional Mobile Support Unit ("MSU"). It was while a member of same that I received training in public order duties and gained experience of policing of public order situations. My recollection is that I was attached to the MSU up until 1995 working out of Mahon Road base. I then was further deployed to Portadown Police Station. I also had two periods of attachment as a Close Protection Officer.
5. Prior to joining the RUC in 1974, I was employed as a fitter/toolmaker.
6. During my time in the RUC, both part-time and full-time, quite apart from the constant security threat to myself and police officers generally from the Provisional IRA, I was subjected, especially during the 1990's, to violent attention from loyalist paramilitaries who, I believe, were involved in