

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF ELEANOR ATKINSON

DATED THIS SECOND DAY OF JANUARY 2009

I, Eleanor 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 it the relevant reference.
2. I was arrested shortly after arriving at my place of work on 10 April 2001 for allegedly being involved in a conspiracy to pervert the course of justice in connection with the Robert Hamill murder investigation. I was arrested in full view of some of my work colleagues which was very distressing.
3. I am the wife of Robert Atkinson and we have been married for 31 years. We have two children. I have been working for the Northern Ireland Electricity Service for some 34 years.
4. On 9 October 1997, I voluntarily went to Lurgan Police Station where I made a Witness Statement which is contained in document 9195 to 9197. I was aware, at that time, that my husband had been interviewed by Police about his actions during the incident of public disorder in Portadown town centre in the early morning of 27 April 1997 and was also questioned about telephone calls made from our home to the Hanvey home on the morning of that date and on 2 May 1997. I volunteered to provide a statement outlining who had made the calls.
5. I recall that my husband was detailed for a late turn of duty on 26 April 1997 and I was aware that I would not expect him home until at least after mid-night, though it was not unusual for his shift to be further extended until mid-morning.