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12 JAN 2009

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL ANDREW BINGHAM

DATED THIS 6th DAY OF January 2008⁹ NS

I, MICHAEL ANDREW BINGHAM, 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 have been on the police force for just over 22 years and I am currently a Night Custody Sergeant with the PSNI. I joined the J2 Mobile Support Unit ("MSU") in 1995. At that time I received an initial one week search course, which covered house, vehicular and person searching. Every year there was a one or two day refresher course. In April 1997, my role was as a uniformed Sergeant and team leader in the based in Mahon Road Station, Portadown. The duties of the MSU included regular searches in response to requests from other departments for drugs, crime materials or terrorists. Our other duties would have been primarily public order duties at the weekend. Although we were based in Portadown, our duties could have taken us anywhere in the province.
3. My first involvement in the Robert Hamill case was on 6 May 1997 when the MSU searched the premises of Stacey Bridgett. My statement of 30 May 1997 at page number 778 describes that search. We were briefed by Detective Constable Keys at 7.00am in Portadown CID office. I cannot recall if I received any statements or any