

STATEMENT OF WITNESS



STATEMENT OF GORDON WALTER COOKE

DATED THIS 8th DAY OF December 2008

I, GORDON WALTER COOKE, 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. In April 1997, I was a Police Constable attached to Portadown Police Station. I had joined the RUC in 1981 and I been stationed in Portadown since 1991. On the night of 26 April 1997, I was the driver of a mobile patrol vehicle on general patrol in the Portadown area. I was accompanied in the vehicle by Reserve Constables Paul Warnock and James Murphy. Before going out on patrol we were briefed by Sergeant **P89**. I had quite a lot of previous experience policing Portadown and one tended to get general late night assaults and incidents of a sectarian nature where Protestants and Catholics confronted one another in the town centre.
3. There has been produced and shown to me a copy of the statement I made dated 27 April 1997 containing pages **6363-6365**. In that statement I say that at 01.47 we were in the support vehicle when we heard call sign Juliet Delta 81 on the radio. It was not clear what was being said, it was more shouting and I recognised the voice of the officer making the transmission as Constable Cornett.
4. I knew Reserve Constable Cornett was on public order duty in the town centre so I knew there was some problem there. We headed off to the town centre and