

STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: Patrick VERNON

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agitated. His demeanour was in marked contrast to that shown in his earlier consultation. I asked him what was wrong and he indicated that he continued to refuse to answer questions but that interviewing officers intimated that his name may become known to the LVF. He said that this was put across in such a way as to pressure him to make a statement or to answer questions. My impression was that this was being done to make him make admissions. I then advised him strongly not to make any admissions, statements or answer questions unless he was formally cautioned where upon I would have taken a pre-prepared statement from him and submitted it on his behalf. He also indicated that comments had been made to him to the effect that Rosemary Nelson herself had not come down to see him because he wasn't that important to her. He didn't make any comment on this but it was my impression that these comments were made in order to undermine DONNELLY'S confidence in our firm. He couldn't specify which officers said the comments or made the threats except that it was a pair of interviewing officers and it was this same pair that made comments about Rosemary Nelson and intimated his name may become known to the LVF. The consultation took about an hour but I remember dragging it out as long as possible so as to leave as little interviewing time as possible because of the state he was in. He was very frightened. I did not make a complaint that day on behalf of DONNELLY and I am not aware if he had made a complaint himself. I didn't take any further action in relation to this case that day. The following morning I discussed the case in the office with Rosemary. She immediately sent a fax complaining about the conduct of the case to Castlereagh. I think she also sent other faxes to other organisations however I was not in the office long as I was out to court. I was aware that there had been a phone call to the office later that day asking me to return to Castlereagh but before I left the office I had received information that he had been released. I have been asked if I had any contact with officers involved in the investigation or interviewing of Mr DONNELLY. I have not. In relation to the second consultation of Mr DONNELLY I made contemporaneous notes which are also with his file at my office. I am willing to provide copies of these notes to investigating officers. I would like to add that DONNELLY said that his name may become known to LVF in Portadown and also to a member of that

SIGNATURE OF STATEMENT MAKER: P. VERNON

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