

Robert WILSON

Died 18 October 1998

RESTRICTED

Form MG11(T)

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WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of: **WILSON, IAIN ALISTER**Age if under 18: **OVER 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **TAXI DRIVER**

This statement (consisting of 7 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signed: **I WILSON**Date: **09/03/2004**

I am the above named person and I live at the address overleaf. I live with my three children Alex 16 , Darryl 13 and Abigail aged 9 . In November 2003 my wife Brigdet sadly died. I am one of seven children, my parents had the following children, Logan (known as Robert Logan), Lesley CLARKE , Karen EDWARDS , me, Neil WILSON , Tracey HUNTINGDON and David HUNTINGDON who was adopted.

My mother is still alive, her name is Molly EDWARDS , nee HUNTINGDON. My father's full name was Robert Caulwell WILSON he was born on the **Code A** in the Glasgow area. I think he was one of four, it is fair to say that I never had a great deal to do with Dad's side of the family. I don't know much about dad's parents, I never met my grandfather and I was only a baby when I met my grandmother.

I believe that most of my uncles and aunts on dad's side of the family have also died. I am not aware of any illness or health problems on dad's side of the family.

At the age of 15 dad joined the Royal Navy and saw active service in World War II. Dad served 22 years in the Navy during which time he met my mum who was a wren.

Mum and dad started a family whilst they were in the Navy and Logan was born in Malta. In about 1964 dad left the navy and took a job in the civil service in a clerical role. He went on to work in a variety of roles mainly driving but finished his working days as a wood machinist.

In about 1982 after 32 years of marriage mum and dad got divorced. In the mid - late 1980's

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mum remarried a man called Tom EDWARDS . Tom died several years ago but mum still lives in Portchester.

Dad also remarried in about 1984, a lady called Gillian , I don't know what her previous name was. Gillian is still alive and lives locally. All through his life I would describe dad as a fit and active man. He was a ships diver and also a diving instructor whilst in the navy.

Dad was a heavy smoker from the age of 11, at his peak he would smoke 80 a day, he did however quit five years before he died. Dad was also a heavy drinker, when he was younger it was beer and spirits as he got older it was more spirits. I wouldn't describe dad as an alcoholic, but he was a heavy drinker. After he gave up smoking he was drinking a bottle of whisky a day.

After dad married Gillian I had regular contact with him, however this was to drop off. In the last 18 months of his life I would see him out and about but not so much at his home because I didn't get on with Gillian.

The first memory I have of dad being ill was when he came off his motorbike, this would have been about 1986 and it is believed dad had a mild stroke. After this his left side was his weaker side. He had problems with is left arm and shoulder.

At the end of 1996, early 1997, dad went into the QA , I don't know exactly what for but I am told it was alcohol induced. Dad was in for about 2-3 weeks but after he came out he went home again. I visited him in the QA. He seemed fine, my sister Tracey would visit him everyday. I know dad underwent a series of health tests and no serious concerns were raised.

After dad came out of hospital he was told to cut down on his drinking. I know dad continued to drink at the same levels. I would still see him in the working men's club. He certainly mellowed as he got older and seemed relaxed with life. He had no money worries and was happy with his lot.

I don't know the exact date but in about September 1998 , Gillian had gone away leaving dad on

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his own. Dad was a regular at the local working men's club and one day he didn't make it up there. Harry who was the club steward went to check on dad and found him collapsed between the bed and the wall. Dad had been unable to get up. He had been there some time.

As I said earlier dad was a fit and strong man, about 5'9" tall and about 12 stone. He had put on 4 or 5 stone in about 18 months prior to this fall. This was fat and he had ballooned up.

After dad was found an ambulance was called and dad was taken to the QA Hospital. I think he had been there about a week before I found out he was in hospital. Straight away I went and visited him. At this stage dad looked extremely ill. I asked what was wrong. I was told he had a fracture to his left shoulder. It was not life threatening and they didn't intend to reset it. The doctor said dad had given up the will to live. I was quite shocked at this.

As a result I spoke to all my siblings and with the exception of Lesley who was in America, we all went and saw him. My mum also saw him at the QA, within the family there were those who didn't get on, so we never saw him together. The upshot was that started to improve he had found the will to live again. The doctors and nurses were amazed at the progress he made. Dad was at the QA for about 3½ weeks.

It was decided that dad would need rehabilitation care short term and long term either a nursing rest home. My brother Neil and Gillian had quite a lot to do with social services. The original decision was to move him to St Christopher's in Fareham.

I saw dad the evening before he left the QA. He was happy and sat up in bed. He was able to have a joke and fully aware of his surroundings. One of the nurses told me that they knew he was on the road to recovery because he was arguing with them.

At the last minute it was decided dad would go to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. Dad was taken to the GWMH on 14/10/98 (14/10/1998) this was a Wednesday. Dad was put on Dryad Ward and was taken by hospital transport. This became a 1½ hour trip as the minibus did the rounds of local hospitals. Gillian went with dad on the journey to the hospital.

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I next saw dad on the 15/10/98 (15/10/1998), he was laid in bed in an almost paralysed state . This was quite a shock considering how well he had been 2 days before whilst at the QA. Dad was clearly distressed and confused. I don't recall him being on any lines. I didn't speak with the hospital staff because I was told that the staff only had time to deal with the 'designated' family members.

The family who were dealing with the staff at the hospital were Neil, Karen and Gillian. I was told my father was very ill and was not expected to recover. It was a female nurse who told me this.

The last thing I remember dad say to me was "Help me". I said "I can't dad you are in the best place". This was the last conversation I had with my father.

I next saw dad on the Friday (16/10/98) (16/10/1998), he was almost in a coma , unable to speak or move. I saw he was on a syringe driver at that stage. I didn't know what was in it. Lesley was coming over from LA to see dad.

I saw dad again on the Saturday and stayed for some four or five hours. This was the last time I saw my father alive. I recall on the Saturday Neil was there with Lesley and Karen.

Dad died in the early hours of Sunday 18/10/98 (18/10/1998). I know Lesley and Karen were with him when he died. Although I do not know the details Lesley and Karen were asked to leave dad's room shortly prior to him dying.

I got a phone call shortly afterwards and to the hospital I was joined by David, Neil, Tracey, Karen and Lesley were already at the hospital. I think Gillian came over as well. I wish to add that dad had been moved into a side room on the Thursday.

I don't recall really speaking with the staff that much, this was done by Lesley, Karen and Neil.

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After dad's death I saw the porters, I saw the hospital porters remove two other bodies from Dryad Ward, making a total of three deaths within the space of one hour.

My brother Neil dealt with the death certificate. It showed cause of death as congestive cardiac failure, renal failure and liver failure. Death was certified by Dr PETERS .

In the last few days of dad's life, because of our family dynamics and previous fallouts I believe the people who can give most detail are Gillian his second wife, Neil, Karen and Lesley.

I have always had concerns about my father's death from the day he died. They are:

1. How did he go downhill so quickly after he left the QA?
2. Why when dad was refusing pain killers at the QA was he put on diamorphine at the GWMH as soon as he arrived?
3. Why if he was so ill was he moved from the QA for rehabilitation?
4. Again if he was so ill was he not moved to the GWMH by ambulance?
5. I would like to know the cause of dad's renal and liver failure.

I have had no contact with Lesley or Karen since the death of my father.

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