

**Initial Police Interview: Statement (not tape recorded)**

**24<sup>th</sup> September 1994**

**Interviewing police officers A Chishom and A MacKenzie**

**Also present: Edmund Ross (Michael's father)**

*"I live with my parents at the above address.*

*I am a pupil at Kirkwall Grammar School and I am currently in Class 5(7)*

*I have been asked if I can remember where I was on the afternoon of 19 May 1994 (190594).*

*I can't remember where I would have been on that date but about that time I would have been given study leave in order to prepare for exams.*

**The headmaster of Kirkwall Grammar School confirmed that Michael was on study leave from 5 May to the 3 June 1994 and during this period only attended school to sit exams. He did not have an exam on either 19 May or 2 June.**

*I don't remember if I was in school or on study leave on the 19th (190594).*

*When I was on study leave I would have been at home most of the time but may have gone into the town to see my pals.*

*I would certainly not have been hanging about in Papdale woods waiting for them to come out of school.*

*I did have a balaclava. It was black material with two separate eye holes and a mouth hole.*

*My dad bought a couple of them and I used to use mine when I went away on exercise with the Cadets.*

*One day after the murder happened I told one of my mates that I had a balaclava. I think it was [REDACTED], Kirkwall. He asked me to take it in to show him it.*

*I took it into the school to show to [REDACTED] but he was off school that day. I just left it in my schoolbag and my mother found it and told dad. He gave me a row. Because of this a couple of days later I threw it in the sea below the house. My schoolbag is black and purple and green with 'Head' written on a green flap. It has two straps quite like a small rucksack.*

*That is the only time I had the balaclava to school and had never taken it in before the murder.*

*I have walked through the woods at Papdale but I've definitely never been in there wearing my balaclava. I do not own a navy blue jogging top.*

*On the day of the murder (020694) I think I was probably in school but I can't really remember now.*

*After tea at about 6.30 (1830) I left home on my bike to come into town. I was on my own and riding my Raleigh Mustang Mountain bike which is black and maroon in colour.*

*I cycled in the Orphir road and up Nicholson Street. I then cycled up past my granny's house on [REDACTED]. I didn't go in to see her. I then went on up to Bignold Park Road and up The Meadows into the Papdale East scheme.*

*At about 7pm (1900) or just after I met two of my mates on Eastabist. They were [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. I spoke to both of them for about five minutes or so. I then cycled back out the road to my house.*

*I did not go down to the town centre and was nowhere near Kiln Corner or Bridge Street.*

*As I was passing the gate to Bignold Park I heard the sound of sirens in the distance. I then just cycled back home and arrived there about the back of eight o'clock (2000). There was no-one at home as dad had been called out to work and mum was working.*

*When I was out that night I was wearing a grey canvas sports top with a patch flag on the front, blue grey and red in colour (no hood), blue jeans and black combat coots.*

*I have never been to the Indian Restaurant for a meal and do not know any of the waiters there.*

*I am very keen on the Army and I'm in the Army Cadets. I don't have any firearms of my own but I am a member of the Orkney Full Bore Association and have used my dad's 9mm pistols on the firearms range at Orphir. I've also fired other members' guns at the range as well.*

*I have no objection to the Police taking photographs of my clothes."*

PRODUCTION NO.:	2 PHOTOS OF WATCH	1 PHOTO OF GREY TOP
	2 PHOTOS OF SCHOOLBAG	1 PHOTO OF WHITE T SHIRT

**This interview was a voluntary witness statement and was unrecorded. Michael was not offered access to a solicitor. During this interview, Michael incriminates himself in 3 respects:**

- **Admits to owning and disposing of a balaclava**
- **Discloses membership of a gun club and admits using 9mm weapons at the club**
- **Lies about behaving suspiciously in Papdale woods (Michael's father was present throughout the interview)**

**PLEASE NOTE:** *On 24 September, the day of this interview, police were fully aware that it had been Michael Ross in Papdale Woods on 19 May 1994. They did not disclose this to Michael during this interview. His identity as the 'man' in the woods had been confirmed on 8 & 9 September 1994.*