

HIA REF: 145

Witness Name: Clinton Massey

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 – 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF CLINTON MASSEY

I, Clinton Massey, will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED]. I lived with my parents in [REDACTED] until I was placed in care in/around 1967. I went in to care when my parent's marriage broke up.
2. [REDACTED]

Marmion House

3. I was about ten years old when I went to Marmion House, Hollywood. I was there for six years. It was a fantastic place and I was well treated. My house mother there was called [REDACTED] and she was from the Falls Road.

Kincora House

4. I had to leave Marmion House when I left school at sixteen. I was moved to Kincora in/around 1973 when I was sixteen years old. I was frequently subjected to sexual abuse.
5. My transfer to Kincora was arranged through the social workers. My social worker was called **KIN 392**. She never wanted to come in to Kincora House even though I met her every week. I met her in her car around the corner from the home. She was a young woman, about twenty two or twenty

three and it was as if she could sense there was something not right about the place. I have had no contact with **KIN 392** since leaving the home.

6. There were eight boys in Kincora at this time. I think this was the maximum number of residents at any time in the home.
7. I saw money changing hands from staff to certain boys. I think certain boys did not suffer abuse but others did. It was the older boys in the home who were about eighteen years old who I saw receiving pound notes from the staff in the evenings. I think the staff gave them money to go out. They were allowed to go out to the pub in the evenings and they did not have to go to bed early. It seemed as if they could do what they liked. Some of these boys came from rough areas and had links with the outside world. I found them intimidating and they would use the younger boys to run errands for them.
8. I had to hand over my unopened pay packet to Mr Mains who was in charge of the home. I earned twelve pounds per week and was given one pound as my weekly allowance. One pound was placed in an Ulster Bank savings account and the staff retained the remainder of my wages.
9. I started work in the Belfast Telegraph each day at 10.00am and my roommate went to work every day at 7.00am. For a couple of hours in the morning I was the only one in the bedroom. That is when the abuse took place.
10. I was raped in the morning almost every other day by William McGrath. I was forced to suck his penis. He ejaculated over my face and most mornings I had to go and wash his semen off my face. I felt like he was rubbing my face in it to humiliate me. This treatment continued throughout my time in the home from 1973-1974.

11. I never spoke about the abuse to any member of staff, to my room-mate or to any of the other boys. I did not feel they would believe me or take it seriously and I felt too embarrassed and ashamed to mention it to the others.
12. I used to walk back to Marmion House at least four nights per week as I knew I would get love and affection there. I spent as little time as possible in the house. I never wanted to go back to Kincora as there was such an intimidating atmosphere there. I was small and timid and easy prey.
13. When you were having a bath Mr McGrath would walk in on you. When I had a bath I would be in and out in two minutes because I knew he would know and would come in.
14. I never directly saw any other boys being abused at Kincora House. It all happened behind closed doors. I never heard anything and no other boys told me anything about abuse in the home. I did not have any friends in the home and we did not communicate well with each other.
15. I finally decided to tell someone and went to Strandtown police station to report the matter. I was sixteen at the time. I do not recall the name of the officer on duty but I said I wanted to make a complaint about staff at Kincora hitting me. I did not mention sexual abuse. The Sergeant on duty would not listen to me and got another officer to escort me to the gate. The three men that ran this home were looked on as pillars of the local community, upright and church going. The Sergeant did not want to listen to me. He did not record any details of my complaint.
16. Three members of staff at Kincora were convicted as a result of investigation into abuse at the home. William McGrath was the only one who abused me. All three men went to prison. William Mr McGrath was sentenced to four years in prison. The RUC approached me prior to William McGrath's trial and I gave a brief statement confirming that I had been sexually abused by him during my time at Kincora but providing very little detail of the abuse. I

attended his trial but after two days at trial he pleaded guilty and I did not have to give evidence.

17. I recall having bought a stereo system at the time which I was paying off weekly. I thought I will still be paying off my stereo when he gets out of prison.

18. A reporter from the BBC, Chris Moore, contacted me over twenty years ago. It was several years after Mr McGrath's conviction. He was making a spotlight programme. He wrote a book about Kincora House. I appeared in the programme in silhouette.

Life After Care

19. I remained at this home for 9 months to a year leaving in 1974 when I was about seventeen. I had to wait about a year to join the Merchant Navy. It was like a five year adventure but I had to come back to reality. It was only when I was about twenty that I re-established contact with my mother. I then started to come back home on leave.

20. I lived with my mother until she died four years ago.

21. I left the Merchant Navy and I moved in with my mother and then I joined the Ulster Defence Regiment. I was in it for four years.

22. I have struggled to come to terms with the abuse I suffered at Kincora House. I have not worked in years and have been prescribed medication (Diazepam amongst other tablets) by my doctor. I have MS in my leg so I don't work now.

23. I have made several attempts to kill myself. I have taken overdoses and I threw myself under a train at a train station and injured my face as a result of this incident. This happened three years ago and I was taken by ambulance to Belfast City Hospital.

24. I have self harmed and now have scars on my arms and have also tried on several occasions to cut my penis off. The last incident of self harm was July 2012 when I cut my wrists and was taken to the Ulster Hospital for treatment.
25. I attend Action Mental Health in Newtownards five days a week. I also attend with a counsellor from Nexus every Thursday. They have an outreach centre at Newtownards Hospital.
26. I get embarrassed when family and friends ask why I have never married and worry that they think I might be homosexual when the truth is that I do not let myself get involved with people because I feel I cannot trust anyone. I have missed out in having a wife and a companion, on having children and being a grandparent. I blame it all on the abuse I have suffered.
27. My mother asked me about Kincora but I said nothing happened and I never told my mother or my sister about the abuse I suffered. I did not want to put any guilt on my mother by telling her what I went through at Kincora. Life was difficult enough for her.
28. [REDACTED]
29. I came to the Inquiry because I wanted someone official, someone from Government to hear my story. I may be a little person but I still have a voice and I want to be able to hold my head up as I know I have done nothing wrong. Being subjected to abuse during my time in care took everything from me and that is the way I see it.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

[REDACTED]

Dated

27-02-14