

HIA REF: [HIA199/R3]

NAME: [HUGH QUINN]

DATE: [7th June 2016]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of the Health and Social Care Board

Marian Hall, Children's Services Project Manager, assisted in the drafting of this statement.

The Health and Social Care Board (the "Board") will say as follows: -

1. The Applicant, Hugh Quinn, was born on the [REDACTED]. Admission records for Kincora Boys Hostel (Kincora) confirm the Applicant was first admitted to Kincora on the 22nd February 1960 until the 6th June 1961. A re-admission is recorded for 19th June 1961 and then again on the 8th August 1962 after which the Applicant is noted to have been discharged to "*Royal Belfast G/Club*" on the 5th August 1963, see **KIN 11818 - KIN 11819**.
2. A record found in the "*Register of Residents*" at **KIN 11806** states, "*Hugh Quinn discharged Sun 15th July 62' To National Sea Training*". The records confirm that with the exception of 2 short periods of leave, the Applicant's time in Kincora was extended over a three year period.
3. The Board notes a further entry for the Applicant in the admission and discharge book at **KIN11858-11859**. This indicated the Applicant was in Kincora between the 22nd December 1965 and 2nd January 1966. The words "on holidays" have been completed in the "remarks" section. At paragraph 13 of his statement, the Applicant states that after leaving Kincora he "*did come back the following Christmas (i.e. December 1965)*"

4. At paragraphs 2 and 3 of his Statement, the Applicant states he was born into a workhouse and that he was in a series of homes in the Belfast area, including Williamson House, with the exception of a 5 year period when he was “*adopted by an elderly couple who lived in Armagh*”.
5. The Board notes that from the admissions records, at the time of admission his mothers’ whereabouts was unknown and that the details for “*nearest relative or friend*” have been stated as “ [REDACTED], [REDACTED] ”
The Board believes this may be why the Applicant came to reside in the Armagh area.
6. With regard to the statement by the Applicant that he was “*adopted*” during this 5 year period, the Board notes that in his evidence to the Hughes Inquiry he refers to suffering “*cruel and aggressive behaviour*” from his “*foster parents*” rather than adoptive parents, see **KIN 71305**
7. At paragraph 3 the Applicant states that it was from Williamson House that he came to be in Kincora. The Admission record for the Applicant states his former address, prior to admission, as “Purdysburn Hospital Belfast” indicating in brackets, that the Applicant was under a Doctor from Rathlin ward. The name of the Doctor given is not clear.
8. Whilst the Board have been unable to identify any residential or fieldwork file in respect of the Applicant to date, checks have been carried out in in the Admission Register for Williamson House and the Board has been able to identify a record for the Applicant confirming his residence in Williamson House at various times throughout 1959, see **Exhibit 1**.
9. The record identified at **Exhibit 1** indicates three occasions when the Applicant was transferred from Williamson House, the last of these being on the 29th November 1959 with the address on Departure noted as Gransha House Purdysburn Hospital. Brief periods in Bawnmore Boys Home and St Patrick's training school are also noted.
10. The Applicants’ recollection with regard to his time in Purdysburn is recalled by him at paragraph 12 of his statement wherein he states that he had been sent there as part of a punishment he had received during this time in Kincora. He

goes on to indicate in Paragraph 13 that it was this time in Purdysburn that gave him the “*incentive to pursue a career as a nurse working in mental health*”. In the absence of any other records at this time, the Board is unable to comment as to whether the Applicant did spend any other period in Purdysburn other than that confirmed as above.

11. The Board notes the Admission Record for the Applicant in Williamson House states the Applicant as being “*Troublesome*”. In his statement provided to the RUC on the 18th May 1980 the Applicant states he “*had a bad temper and had temper tantrums*” see **KIN 10154**.
12. He further accepts in his evidence to the Hughes Inquiry at **KIN 71305** that he was a “*troublesome boy*” and had “*violent outbursts of anger*” and suggests his placement in Kincora was a result of being asked would he like to go to Kincora or “*go to a Borstal Institution because I was an uncontrollable child*”.
13. The Applicant states that he was singled out by the “*Chief Warden Joseph Mains from the outset*” and that the first assault on him took place upon his arrival. Joseph Mains was convicted in December 1981 of one Count of buggery and one count of gross indecency towards the Applicant **HIA 702 par 3.52**.
14. At paragraph 5 of his statement the Applicant states that when he was there, the only staff members were Joseph Mains and a Housekeeper, Mrs McCullough. He states that William McGrath and Raymond Semple did not work at the home during the period he stayed there.
15. The Board has at paragraphs 13-32 of its Overview Statement dated the 29th May 2016 (Overview Statement) and found at **KIN 1088 – KIN 1092** set out in detail the circumstances relating to staff members at Kincora. Paragraph 29 confirms the employment of a Mrs McCullough as the House Keeper.
16. The Applicant states that he recalls “*Semple worked for St John’s Ambulance... and would have visited Kincora on occasion*”. At paragraph 22 of its Overview Statement the Board notes that prior to the employment of Raymond Semple as Assistant Warden in September 1964, he had been working on a Voluntary Basis for 3 years. A record in the visitors log for Kincora dated 29th November 1962 and found at **KIN 11742** provides an example of an occasion where Raymond

Semple visits the Home. Raymond Semple would however had been in post as Assistant Warden at the time when the Applicant returned to Kincora for the Christmas Holidays in December 1965. The Applicant states he was never abused at any time by Raymond Semple.

17. The Applicant states at paragraph 7 that he was at one point sent to stay in a boy's home in Kircubbin. The Board believes, if this is correct, the home he refers to was Rubane, however the Board have not been able to identify any records to date, to confirm if indeed the Applicant did spend any time at Rubane.

18. The Applicant refers to his time at "*National Sea Training School, Gravesend, Kent*" at paragraph 9 of his statement. He states that he was only there for "*two weeks*" as he was abused by one of the officers who worked there and so he "*ran away*". The admission records do confirm that his time spent at the Sea Training School was brief, however in the absence of any other records the Board is unable to comment on the circumstances relating to his return to Kincora.

19. At paragraph 9 the Applicant states that after running away from the Sea Training School he "*hitched a lift from Gravesend to Coventry*" to see his mother after obtaining an address for her from Joseph Mains. The Board notes that in the admission register at **KIN 11806** it confirms that the Applicant's mother had made written contact and did appear to have provided an address in Coventry. Whilst the Applicant states that his visit to his mother occurred in 1961, given that it is known he did not attend the Sea Training School until August 1962 and that his mother only made contact in June 1962, it is likely if such an incident occurred, it would have been during the period 15th July 1962 and 8th August 1962.

20. In the absence of any other records or information the Board are unable to make any comment about a **KIN 342** from the Welfare Office having to go and collect the Applicant.

21. At paragraph 11, the Applicant states that he worked for a time for the BBC and that during this time he was "*placed in digs on the Ormeau Road which were appalling and insanitary*". Although no dates of given of this, the Board believes this could have been in and around June 1961 on the basis of correspondence dated 15th July 1961 from Kincora to a Miss Veitch, at the BBC informing her that

the Applicant is now boarded out, **see KIN 78190** . A further document at **KIN 78191** indicates that by the 21st June 1961 the Applicant had returned to Kincora. This short period of “boarding out” is consistent with the admission records and if the accommodation was as described by the Applicant, then this would have been in keeping with a return to Kincora, as assessment of “digs” would have been carried out.

22. It is noted by the Board that when giving evidence to the Hughes Inquiry with regard to the comments contained in the report by Mrs Wilson at **KIN 78191**, the Applicant at that time was unable to recall from where he had returned, see **Kin 71313**.

23. The Applicant states that the abuse he suffered at Kincora was “*systematic*” and “*entailed a pattern of punishment and reward*”. At paragraph 17 the Applicant states that the “*privileges came with the abuse and there was no one you could turn to to report what was going on*”.

24. In his evidence to the Inquiry found at **KIN 71304 – KIN 71343** the Applicant described further the nature of the rewards he received and states that Mains bought him a dog for his 16th birthday and that there “*were always gifts available*”. The Applicant's reference to “gifts” was not just in respect of those he received from Mains, it would appear that at this time, boys in the home were also given gifts by the Belfast Welfare Committee.

25. In correspondence dated the 6th March 1963 the Board notes an approval given to the Belfast Welfare for approval for a gift not exceeding £5 to be made to Hugh Quinn for assistance given in redecorating the Home. The nature of the request to the Ministry did cause some debate however as prior to the approval, it was questioned whether the Ministry needed to be asked in the first place, see **Exhibit 2**. The Board believes the gift for which approval was given was the watch which the Applicant refers to receiving from the Belfast Welfare Authority in his evidence to the Hughes Inquiry, **KIN 71310**.

26. The Applicant states two further occasions when he returned to Kincora after leaving in 1964. Once in 1965 as previously indicated and a second time in 1979 which he states was his last. On both occasions he states there was no further

sexual contact between himself and Mains. The Applicant recalls during his last visit, the presence of **R 18** and also states that he would have stayed with **R 2**.

27. **R 2** was resident at the same time as the Applicant as confirmed by the admission records at **KIN 11812-KIN 11813**. It is known that **R 18** was admitted to Kincora on the 12th May 1977, however it is not clear for how long he remained there.

28. The Applicant states that he never spoke with any of the other residents when he was in Kincora about the abuse as during the time he was resident "*there as no gossip about abuse amongst the boys*" and at paragraph 19 he goes on to state, he never "*saw a social worker or anyone from social services*" he could have reported to.

29. At the time the Applicant was resident in Kincora, the requirement for visits to Kincora would have extended to the Children's Officer and a Welfare Committee member. There was no statutory requirement for a child in residential care to be visited by a Social Worker but this was the practice.

30. The records do confirm visits were being carried out by Mrs Wilson, described as the Home Officer in the visitors book at **KIN 11745**. In his evidence to the Hughes Inquiry the Applicant stated that the only person he confided in was Mrs Wilson, **KIN 71329**. However as previously highlighted by the Board at paragraphs 3 & 4 of its Missed Opportunities statement dated 6th May 2016, the Hughes Inquiry concluded that between 1960 and 1964 there was no evidence available to the authorities about Mr Mains' homosexual activities and that "*R3, for whatever reason decided not to complain*" see **KIN 1001-KIN 1002**

31. In his statement the Applicant denies the allegation made by **KIN 1** in his statement to the Police in 1980 and the allegation made by Joseph Mains in his statement in 1980 that the Applicant interfered with both **KIN 1** and **KIN 2**.

32. The Board can confirm that both **KIN 1** and **KIN 2** were residents of Kincora. Admission for **KIN 1** can be found at **KIN 11834**. It would appear from these that both the Applicant and **KIN 1** would have been in

Kincora together for a period not exceeding 3 months. Some records have been identified by the Board in relation to **KIN 1**, however there is no relevant information with regard to his time in Kincora.

33. With regard to **KIN 2**, the admission records at **KIN 11826-11827** confirm that he was in Kincora between 25th July 1961 and 12th February 1963. No relevant records have been identified for **KIN 2** with regard to his time in Kincora.

34. At paragraph 15 the Applicant states that he brought a claim against the Eastern Health and Social Services Board, which was settled out of court. This has been dealt with the Board at paragraph 86 of its Overview Statement **KIN 1109**

Statement of Truth

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

Signed 

Dated 7th June 2016

WITNESS NAME: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BOARD

DATE: 7th June 2016

The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1955



HUGH QUINN

Exhibit 1

REGISTER OF

| | NAME | | FORMER ADDRESS | SEX | DATE OF BIRTH | DESCRIPTION <small>IN THE CASE OF AN ADULT, STATE CALLING, (IF ANY); IN THE CASE OF A CHILD STATE WHETHER ORPHAN, DESERTED, ILLEGITIMATE, ETC.</small> | RELIGIOUS CREED |
|--|------------|-------------------|----------------|------------|---------------|---|-----------------|
| | SURNAME | CHRISTIAN NAME(S) | | | | | |
| | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | | | [REDACTED] | |
| | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | | | | [REDACTED] |
| | Quinn | Hugo | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | | [REDACTED] |
| | " | " | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | | [REDACTED] |
| | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | | | | |
| | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | | | | |
| | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | | | | |

RESIDENTS.

CAT. NO. N.A. 6. SHAW & SONS LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C. 4. PH. 80. 5782 (E)

| NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEAREST RELATIVE OR FRIEND | DATE OF RECEPTION | DATE OF DEPARTURE | ADDRESS ON DEPARTURE | REMARKS |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| [REDACTED] | | | | |
| [REDACTED] | | | | |
| | 23. 1. 59. | 17. 4. 59 | Trans to Blunmore Children Home, | Very troublesome |
| | 26. 6. 59 | 30. 6. 59 | St. Pabeta Training School, | |
| | 3. 9. 59 | 27. 11. 59. | Graham Home (Puncheon Hospital) * | |
| [REDACTED] | | | | |
| [REDACTED] | | | | |

WITNESS NAME: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BOARD

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HUGH QUINN

Exhibit 2

T.480

6th March, 1962.

Dear Sir,

I write with reference to your letter of 22nd February, 1962, and to convey approval to your Committee's decision to make a gift not exceeding £5 to Hugh Quinn, in respect of assistance given by him in re-decorating Kinora Working Boys' Hostel.

Yours faithfully,

for Secretary

The Welfare Officer,
Belfast C.B. Welfare Authority,
16 College Street,
Belfast, 1.

1480

Mr. Sterling,

Please see below letter from

Belfast C.B.W. Dohy. Surely it is not up to
 the Ministry to approve this sort of thing. If the
 W. C. C. wanted to give something to this boy,
 they could do so without raising the matter
 in this way. For your comments please

W.H.C. Parke
 27/2/62.

Mrs. Fyfe

I think Section 90(5) of the Act probably
 does bring this into our jurisdiction. This is
 the sort of thing a natural parent would do for
 a son who had given outstanding assistance.
 Unfortunately we have no indication of what the boy
 has done and although we probably could rely
 on the discretion of the Welfare Committee it
 would be helpful if you could throw some light
 on it.