



INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995


WITNESS STATEMENT

I, Alex Younger, will say as follows:

1. I am the Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). I was appointed to this post in November 2014, having been in the Service since 1991. I am the only serving member of the Service who is officially named in public, and am SIS's Accounting Officer. I am also responsible for SIS operations and the ongoing efficiency of the Service.
2. I confirm that I have no personal knowledge of matters relating to, or connected with, the Kincora Boys Home. Given the passage of time, any SIS account of the period in question is reliant on our corporate written record.
3. I confirm that I have delegated authority to the Service's Deputy Director responsible for compliance to assist the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995 (the HIA Inquiry) with its investigation into Kincora. I have directed him and his team to provide the Inquiry with the Service's full cooperation; to answer all their questions as accurately and fully as possible; to conduct searches based on the terms provided to us by the Inquiry and show to them all material identified as potentially relevant from the results of those searches; and to make available to the Inquiry all material deemed relevant for public disclosure by the Inquiry in a form that will allow that to happen.
4. I am assured by him, and therefore believe, that all this has been done. I know that SIS officers have, in doing so, also made the Inquiry aware of the capabilities, nature and operation of our file management systems.
5. I have seen the detailed SIS statement based on the material deemed relevant and am content that it is an accurate and full representation of the Service's position in respect of Kincora. I have directed the Deputy Director to speak to that statement if this is considered necessary by the Inquiry and can confirm that he can speak with authority in respect of historic matters relating to Kincora on behalf of the Service. It is the longstanding policy of SIS that the identities of its officers, other than the Chief of the Service, are not publicly disclosed, for operational reasons and in order to ensure the safety of them and their families. He will instead sign that statement with a cypher – details of his identity will be provided to the Inquiry at a higher classification.

6. SIS takes seriously its obligations to cooperate with inquiries and investigations. I confirm that SIS remains committed to ensuring that the HIA Inquiry can conduct a full and complete inquiry, and will continue to assist it in any way possible.

Signed



Alex Younger, Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service

Date

27 May 2016.