

Press Release

Inquiry Chairman announces future plans

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All media requests for information should be directed to the Inquiry's Press Officer, Liz Fawcett, on 028 9020 0811 or 0771 943 5662, or at liz@lizfawcettconsulting.com

Today the Chairman of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry, Sir Anthony Hart, announced the names of a further 6 institutions to be investigated by the Inquiry, bringing the total number to 22. He stressed that the Inquiry, which has already held 157 days of oral hearings in Banbridge Courthouse, will still complete its investigations by July 2016 and submit its report in January 2017.

The additional institutions are: Manor House (a children's home near Lisburn); Millisle Borstal; St Joseph's Training School for Girls at Middletown, Co Armagh); and three Good Shepherd convents at Londonderry, Belfast and Newry. In the case of the latter, the Inquiry will only investigate the allegations made to it by those witnesses who were under the age of eighteen.

The Chairman said that in drawing up this list of 6 additional institutions the Inquiry had carefully considered information in respect of 54 homes and institutions in relation to which at least one person had made an allegation. However to hold hearings in respect of each of these could take a further two years and cost at least another 8 million pounds without significantly adding to the Inquiry's understanding of the nature and extent of systemic failings.

Sir Anthony also spoke of the Inquiry's views on redress for victims and stated:

"Because our investigations are not complete we are not yet in a position to say what our findings of systemic failings will be, or what all our recommendations will be. However, what we can now say is that from the evidence we have heard so far we will recommend that there should be a scheme to award financial compensation to those children who suffered abuse in children's homes and other institutions in Northern Ireland between 1922 and 1995."

The Chairman went on to announce that the Inquiry would be conducting a targeted consultation to gather further views and suggestions on redress from all the applicants who had contacted either the Inquiry or the Acknowledgement Forum.

The consultation period will run until Friday 8 January 2016. Further details can be found on the Inquiry's website.

The Chairman emphasised that the final decision on redress did not rest with the Inquiry, commenting that:

HIA Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry

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“Although our Terms of Reference provide that the Inquiry will make recommendations and findings on a number of matters, the final decision as to whether there should be any form of redress, and what form it may take, are matters for the Northern Ireland Executive to decide.”

Sir Anthony acknowledged that some individuals may be disappointed that public hearings will not be held for every home or institution against which allegations have been made. However he added that the decision not to hold a public hearing in respect of a home or institution did not mean that the Inquiry had decided that abuse did not occur in those locations. He also clarified that it would not have any effect on any recommendations that may be made for compensation or other forms of redress.

“Any recommendations that we make for any form of redress, including compensation, will apply to any person who was abused within a children’s home or other institution within our Terms of Reference, whether or not that home or institution was investigated by the Inquiry.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors.

1. The Inquiry is going to investigate 6 homes and institutions that have not been named before. These are:
 - Manor House, a children’s home near Lisburn associated with the Church of Ireland.
 - Millisle Borstal, Co Down.
 - St Joseph’s Training School for Girls at Middletown, Co Armagh run by the Sisters of St Louis.
 - Three Good Shepherd Convents at Londonderry, Belfast and Newry.
2. All media personnel attending must sign a declaration that they have read the Inquiry’s Media Protocol which has been issued with this release (see **note 3 below**).
3. The Inquiry has issued a **Media Protocol** and **three** legally-binding **Restriction Orders** of relevance to the media. **It is essential that all editors, journalists, photographers and camera crews involved in covering the Inquiry’s public evidence sessions read these documents**, a copy of which is also displayed in the media room in Banbridge Courthouse.
4. A copy of the Chairman’s statement will not be released in advance but will be made available after he has finished speaking.
5. In Banbridge Courthouse, each witness is accompanied by a witness support officer from their arrival until they leave. A trained counsellor provided by Contact NI is also on site and available to everyone in attendance.
6. In addition, a wider support service has been established through the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister. This service provides support and advice to victims and survivors of institutional abuse, can offer counselling and advice on a wide range of issues. It is being operated by Contact NI in partnership with Lifeline and Advice NI. They can be on 028 90 750131.

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7. Following an inter-departmental task force report, the Northern Ireland Executive, on 29 September 2011, announced there would be an Investigation and Inquiry into historical institutional abuse.
8. On 31 May 2012, the First Minister and deputy First Minister announced the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry, and advised the Assembly of the Chair of the Inquiry and of the Panel Members for the Acknowledgement Forum.
9. An amended terms of reference to widen the scope of the Inquiry from 1922 - 1995 was announced by the First Minister and deputy First Minister on 18 October 2012. See <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news-ofmdfm-191012-ministers-widen-historical>
10. On 12 June 2012, the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse Bill and the associated Explanatory and Financial Memorandum were laid before the Assembly. The Bill passed through a number of stages and, on 11 December 2012, the 'Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse Bill' was passed by the Assembly. Following Royal Assent, the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 became law on 19 January 2013. The Inquiry is formally established under this Act.
11. Sir Anthony met with Ministers in the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister in April 2014 to seek an extension of one year to the date by which the Inquiry must submit its report. This was subsequently granted in January 2015 and, therefore, under its amended Terms of Reference, the Inquiry is required to complete its hearings and all investigative work by mid-summer 2016, and has to submit its report to the Northern Ireland Executive by 17 January 2017.
12. The Inquiry has a remit to investigate physical, emotional and sexual childhood abuse, and childhood neglect which occurred in residential institutions in Northern Ireland over a 73-year period up to 1995.
13. For the purposes of this Inquiry "child" means any person under 18 years of age; "institution" means any body, society or organisation with responsibility for the care, health or welfare of children in Northern Ireland, other than a school (but including a training school or borstal) which, during the relevant period, provided residential accommodation and took decisions about and made provision for the day to day care of children; "relevant period" means the period between 1922 and 1995 (both years inclusive).
14. It should be noted that the Inquiry has been tasked with examining whether there were institutional failings in respect of historical abuse and neglect. The Inquiry has no legal power to find anyone guilty of criminal acts.
15. The Inquiry is chaired by Sir Anthony Hart, assisted by Panel members Geraldine Doherty and David Lane. Acknowledgement Forum Panel members are: Beverley Clarke, Norah Gibbons, Dave Marshall QPM and Tom Shaw CBE. Biographical details for these individuals, Senior Counsel to the Inquiry, and other members of the Inquiry team are available on the Inquiry website: www.hia inquiry.org
16. In total, the Inquiry is expected to hear from more than 300 witnesses during the course of the public evidence sessions.
17. Applications to participate in the Statutory Inquiry and Acknowledgement Forum are now closed. By the closing date, 524 individuals (excluding duplicate applications) had made a formal application to speak to the Inquiry and/or its Acknowledgement Forum. Most of the applications (330) have come from individuals residing in Northern Ireland. The Inquiry's Acknowledgement Forum has now completed its interviews and met with 428 applicants.

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18. The final list of institutions under investigation by the Inquiry in relation to alleged historical institutional abuse has been extended and is as follows.

Local Authority Homes

- Lissue Children's Unit, Lisburn
- Kincora Boys' Home, Belfast
- Bawnmore Children's Home, Newtownabbey
- Fort James Children's Home, Derry/Londonderry
- Harberton House Assessment Centre, Derry/Londonderry

Juvenile Justice Institutions

- St Patrick's Training School, Belfast
- Lisnevin Training School, County Down
- Rathgael Training School, Bangor
- Hydebank Wood, Young Offenders' Centre, Belfast
- Millisle Borstal, Co Down

Secular Voluntary Homes

- Barnardo's Sharonmore Project, Newtownabbey
- Barnardo's Macedon, Newtownabbey

Roman Catholic Voluntary Homes

- St Joseph's Home, Termonbacca, Derry/Londonderry
- Nazareth House Children's Home, Bishop St., Derry/Londonderry
- Nazareth House Children's Home, Belfast
- Nazareth Lodge Children's Home, Belfast
- De La Salle Boys' Home, Rubane House, Kircubbin
- Good Shepherd Convents at Londonderry, Belfast and Newry
- St Joseph's Training School for Girls at Middletown, Co Armagh

Church of Ireland Voluntary Homes

- Manor House, a children's home near Lisburn

The Inquiry is also investigating the following matters:

Child Migrant Scheme - Australia

Father Brendan Smyth

19. Further background information on the Inquiry is contained in a background briefing paper which includes practical arrangements for the media and is available from the Inquiry's Press Officer. Further information is also available on the Inquiry's website.
20. **All media requests for information should be directed to the Inquiry's Press Officer, Liz Fawcett, on 028 9020 0811 or 0771 943 5662, or at liz@lizfawcettconsulting.com**