

HIA REF: [HIA 409/R14]

NAME: [RONALD GRAHAM]

DATE: [8^h 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, Ronald Graham was born [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. At paragraph 3 he states that following a beating from his father, "Welfare stepped in" and he was taken into care.
2. At paragraph 4, the Applicant states that he was placed in Bawnmore Boys' Home between October 1971 and January 1974. A list of boys who were in Bawnmore in October 1973, confirms the Applicant as being resident at this time. It would appear the Applicant's placement in Bawnmore was on a Voluntary basis as his father had become ill and his mother had previously deserted him. He is described in the document as a "quiet boy", see **BWN 5697**
3. A Social Worker Report completed by a [REDACTED] **KIN387**, which the Board believes to have been some time in 1975, indicates that although the Applicant's placement was originally intended to be on a short term basis, after his father was discharged from hospital it was decided he should stay in Bawnmore as his behaviour prior to admission had been difficult, see **Exhibit 1**
4. The Applicant states he enjoyed his time in Bawnmore and makes no allegations of abuse occurring whilst he was resident, however it is noted that in the Report

at Exhibit 1 he would appear to have been become unhappy and “*begged to be allowed home*” . He was subsequently discharged to home on the 18th January 1974. It is known that the period 1973/1974 was an unsettling time at Bawnmore. Reference to this has been previously dealt with by the Board at paragraphs 62 and 63 of its Bawnmore Overview Statement dated 6th May 2016, see **BWN 114-BWN 115**.

5. It would appear the Applicant found it difficult to also settle at home as History Sheets contained with the Applicants Social Care file note he spent time in both North Road, from where he absconded, and Manor House, **See Exhibit 2**.
6. The Applicant's circumstances prior to his admission to Kincora were clearly difficult. **KIN387** in her report states that following the admission of his father to hospital, “*Ronald became very upset and appeared to have severe guilt feelings about his father's illness. As he was rejected by his grandparents and other relatives it was decided to receive him into care and place him in Kincora*”. He was initially placed under section 103 of the Children's and Young Person's Act 1968 **KIN 76680**.
7. At paragraph 8 the Applicant details the occasions in which he was in Kincora. The admission records found at **KIN 12022 - KIN 12023** confirm he was admitted from his home address on the 2nd December 1974 for a period of one month until the 4th January 1975. The second period of admission was for one night only on the 10th January 1975 and his third and final admission is recorded as being between the 13th February 1975 and 10th June 1975.
8. His Social Worker at the time of admission is identified as a **KIN386** and it states in the “remarks” section, “*this boy has an anti-social behavioural problem*”. This is in contrast with the earlier description of the Applicant a year previously as highlighted in paragraph 2 above.
9. At paragraph 11, the Applicant identifies Joesph Mains as the Warden, Raymond Semple as the Assistant Warden and William McGrath as Housemaster in Kincora. Details of all three members of Staff have been previously dealt with by the Board at paragraphs 16-32 of its Overview statement dated 27th May 2016 (Overview Statement), **KIN 1088 – KIN 1092**

10. At paragraph 17, the Applicant recounts his first experience of abuse suffered by William McGrath after indicating that McGrath had *"initially"* come across as caring and gentle. William McGrath was convicted of 1 count of Buggery, 1 Count of gross Indecency and 1 count of Indecent Assault against the Applicant. Details of this have previously been dealt with at paragraph 43 of the Overview Statement, **KIN 1096- KIN 1097**.
11. The Applicant confirms that visits by his Social Worker did take place, but states that he was warned by McGrath not to say anything to her. He describes at paragraph 21 of his statement that he cut his wrists after the first sexual assault as a *"cry for help"* but that his Social Worker did not *"read the signs"*. There is no reference to this within the Social Worker recordings which have been made available to date or is it referenced in any other report which has been made available in respect of the Applicant.
12. At paragraph 42 the Applicant confirms his Social Workers to be **KIN386** and **KIN387**. Records confirm that **KIN386** was a Senior Social Worker and **KIN387** a Social Worker who both operated out of the North & West Division of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board. The Applicant states that neither **KIN386** or **KIN387** were aware of the abuse suffered by him.
13. The Board is aware that on 11th April 1980 **KIN 387** made a statement to the RUC wherein she confirmed that she had been the Applicant's Social Worker while he was in Kincora. She further stated that while she knew he was not happy at Kincora and did not get on with staff, that he never made any complaints to her regarding sexual activity in the home. **KIN 10270**
14. At paragraph 44 the Applicant states that he told **KIN386** a few times that he did not want to stay at Kincora but did not say why, however he *"might of plucked up with courage and opened up had shequestioned me more closely"*. The records do confirm that the Applicant had been indicating as early as January 1975 indicating to his Social Worker *"he was not going to stick Kincora for much longer"* and did, after stating this, refuse to return to Kincora on that occasion and went to stay with his siblings instead, **KIN 76686**

15. The Board notes that he was able to indicate to the Consultant Psychiatrist who he attended in February 1975 that *“he did not get on well with the Staff [at Kincora] and alleges that they were always threatening they would get him sent to Muckamore”*. See **Exhibit 3**. This was evident as early as after the first occasion when he was admitted to Kincora, however the difficulty between himself and Mr Mains appears mostly to have been with regard to his bad language and disruptive behaviour, **KIN 76685**. In his statement to the Police in March 1980 the Applicant states that no one else [other than McGrath] interfered with him, **KIN 10276**.
16. As stated at paragraph 7 the second admission recorded in Kincora is for one night on the 10th January 1975. **KIN387** in her Report of 1975 does record the Applicant as remaining *“adamant that he does not wish to return [to Kincora] even though it was explained to him that there was nowhere else to go. On foot of this outburst, the Applicant was sent to Rathgael on a Place of Safety Order for 5 weeks **KIN 76689** and a request for assessment on the basis of low IQ and hyperactivity was made, see **Exhibit 4***
17. The conclusions reached in the Psychiatric report exhibited at Exhibit 3, were that the Applicant’s IQ was much higher than the suggestion by the Social Background Report, that he had coped remarkably well given the fact of his unhappy home circumstances and the recent loss of his father and that the physical examination showed him to be a healthy young man. The report goes on to state he *“should continue to live in the community and go to work. He takes pride in being employed and self- supporting and these assets of his personality should be encouraged”*.
18. The Court Report prepared in anticipation of the Applicants Court hearing following his Place of Safety Order reiterated the conclusions of the Psychiatric report, stating that although the Applicant's behaviour had been immature, he had a *“good capacity for affection”* and the recommendation was that he was not suitable for a Training School **KIN 76678**.
19. In light of the Applicant being described *“cordially”* in the Rathgael report a Fit Persons Order was granted and the Court indicated he would have to go back to Kincora, **KIN 76690**. The Applicant in his statement to the Hugh Inquiry indicated

that although his Social Worker was in Court when he indicated to the Magistrate that he did not want to go back to Kincora, she never asked anything further about it **KIN 75617**.

20. The Social Work recordings however show that in light of the Applicants objections at going back to Kincora, enquires would be made in both the "*N'ards hostel and Firmont, Antrim*". It is also noted that the Magistrate himself asked about boarding houses or living-in employment **KIN 76690**. On the basis that the Applicant was however returned to Kincora, the Board must conclude that none of these options proved viable.

21. It would appear that other options were considered, but as is confirmed he was returned to Kincora and was now the subject of a Fit Persons Order as from the 13th February 1975.

22. The Board notes that whilst the Applicant was stating his reluctance to return to Kincora during the period January to February 1975, as he himself states at paragraphs 44 and 46, he did not tell either of his Social Workers the reasons for this. It did however appear to be persistent.

23. Three days after being returned to Kincora following the granting of the Fit Persons Order, the Applicant indicated he had been involved in an incident with regard to stealing a car and was concerned about some older boys with whom he had had a scuffle with would find him in Kincora and so he wanted an immediate move **KIN 76691**. A further complaint by the Applicant about having to remain in Kincora was made on the 28th March 1975, the Applicant was noted to be spending a lot of time Palmerston, **KIN 76692**.

24. It is clear from the experiences described by the Applicant that these continued throughout his time in Kincora until he left on the 9th June 1975 after being Boarded Out with a [REDACTED], **See Exhibit 5** which unfortunately only lasted for a few months before he was sent to Rathgael, see **KIN 10276**.

25. The Applicant confirms at paragraph 65 that he took a civil claim and he received £35,000, however it felt like it was "dirty money". The Board has previously commented on the Applicants civil claim at paragraph 86 of the Overview Statement however at the time of submission as no records have been identified

to date by the Board in relation to these proceedings the amount of compensation paid out to the Applicant was unknown.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

 Roger Hall

Dated 8th June 2016

WITNESS NAME: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BOARD

DATE: 8th June 2016

The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1955



RONAL HUGH GRAHAM

Exhibit 1

GRAHAM FAMILY,
FORMERLY OF [REDACTED]
BELFAST.

Father: [REDACTED]

Mother: [REDACTED]

Children: [REDACTED]

Ronald Graham 16 Rathgael

Grandparents: [REDACTED]

This family have been known to this department since 1971. In April, 1970, Mrs. Graham deserted her husband and since then her whereabouts have been unknown. There has never been a legal separation or any contention for the custody of the children. Mrs. Graham seems to have been satisfied to leave them in the care of her husband. It is thought that she is cohabiting with a Catholic in the New Lodge area and thus has been totally cut off from relatives in the Shankill area, who have in effect disowned her.

Mr. Graham was a registered diabetic and in October, 1971 he had to be admitted to hospital. As there was no one to look after the children, they were admitted to care under Section 103, Children and Young Persons Act, and all were placed in Thorndale House, except for Ronald who was placed in Bawnmore. Mr. Graham discharged himself from hospital because of anxiety about the children's welfare and the children from Thorndale were discharged to him.

It was decided at this time that Ronald should remain in Bawnmore as his behaviour prior to admittance had been rather difficult to control and he had responded well to the institutional setting.

[REDACTED] attended a residential school in England for two years and since her return to Belfast has lived most of the time with her mother's sister in Green Island.

Mr. Graham appeared to cope well with caring for the children with some support from his parents. He was also given a lot of help from [REDACTED] who undertook a great deal of responsibility for the practical care of her younger siblings. Mr. Graham was admitted to hospital on a number of occasions for short periods but [REDACTED] coped with the care of the family with some help from her paternal grandparents.

On 18.1.74 Ronnie was discharged from Bawnmore. Mr. Graham had resisted accepting him back into the family for sometime on the grounds that his behaviour would cause tension for the whole family. However, Ronnie repeatedly begged to be allowed home. He was very unhappy at Bawnmore which was going through a very unsettled period due to staff shortages, and so Mr. Graham agreed to have him home-on-trial.

There were considerable tensions in the family following Ronnie's return home as he refused to accept [REDACTED]'s authority and there tended to be a split with [REDACTED] and himself taking sides against [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. However, when Ronald started work in the Russel Court Hostel, a job which he seemed to enjoy, the tensions in the family appeared to be considerably lessened.

On 10th December, 1974 Mr. Graham died having been eight days in a coma. This was a time of tremendous strain for all the members of the family. The strain was increased by the uncertainty as to the children's future. It was hoped that relatives would volunteer to care for them, however this did not happen. Mr. Graham's family were resentful that the children's mother had not cared for them and appeared to reject them because of her. They were particularly rejecting of Ronnie who they

- 2 -

described as hard to control and even at the funeral they did not befriend him as one of the family.

At present it appears that there are no relations prepared to care for the children and attempts to contact Mrs. [redacted] Graham have been fruitless.

Present Situation:

[redacted] has been placed in Ettaville since 10.1.75 and has settled well there. [redacted] and [redacted] are in Palmerston Assessment Centre.

Ronald:

When Mr. Graham was admitted to Royal Victoria Hospital, Ronald became very upset and appeared to have severe guilt feelings about his father's illness. As he was rejected by his grandparents and other relatives it was decided to receive him into care and place him in Kincora.

Ronald's of low I.Q. - although at the upper end of the E.S.N. level. He is hyperactive and inclined to become rather excitable. He was very unsettled at Kincora and could not get on with Mr. Mains the superintendent. The evening of his father's funeral he insisted on going to Liverpool to take up the offer of a home from an actor whom he had met during his employment at the Russell Court. He felt he was not wanted by any of his relatives. He returned a few days later and said he would not be happy separated from his brothers and sisters. He went back to live at Kincora for a few days but returned home later. He started a new job as lift boy in Anderson & MacAuley and the Personnel Manager described him as capable but 'loud' in his approach. On 10.1.75 [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] were taken into care and Ronnie was most upset that the family were being separated. He spent Friday 10th January in Kincora and next morning left to go and see [redacted] in Palmerston. He wanted [redacted] to come with him to see his mother, but when [redacted] refused he became very upset. He was taken to Rathgael on a Place of Safety Order by a Social Worker on duty.

Rathgael reports, suggest that his behaviour is not so abnormal considering his recent experience of rejection and they feel that he is definitely not suitable for training school. He has no record of delinquent tendencies.

Mr. Mains is reluctant to accept Ronnie back to Kincora and Ronnie has remained adamant that he does not wish to return there. I feel that to insist on his being returned to Kincora would increase Ronnie's feeling of rejection.

It appears that no places are available at Westwinds Hostel, Newtownards and Firmount Hostel, Co. Antrim are reluctant to accept him because of their staff problems.

KIN387

Social Worker.

WITNESS NAME: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BOARD

DATE: 8th June 2016

The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1955



RONALD HUGH GRAHAM

Exhibit 2

WITNESS NAME: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BOARD

DATE: 8th June 2016

The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1955



RONALD HUGH GRAHAM

Exhibit 3

PURDYSBURN HOSPITAL

R.1505

Telephone No.
Belfast 649191

NOTE—This report is strictly confidential and is for the information only of the person to whom it is addressed. No responsibility can be accepted if it is made available to any other person including the patient.

GRAHAM CLINIC FEMALE (A)

SAINTFIELD ROAD
BELFAST BT8 8BH

NOT TO BE READ OUT IN OPEN COURTPSYCHIATRIC REPORT

Re: Ronald Hugh Graham, D.O.B. [REDACTED]
Former Address: [REDACTED]

I examined the above-named while he was on remand at Rathgael School. I received a copy of [REDACTED] KIN386 Senior Social Worker's report about the family background and Ronald's previous history. Ronald was sent to Rathgael five weeks ago on a Place of Safety Order. In a letter dated the 29th January, [REDACTED] KIN386 asked for a psychiatric assessment of the patient.

As you will have read in the family background report provided by the Social Services Department, Ronald is the second in a family of five. His father aged 43, died on the 10th December 1974 from a brain haemorrhage in hospital. Ronald informed me that he stayed with his father in hospital until he died. His mother left home seven years ago. According to Ronald, she was associating with another woman called [REDACTED], and his father did not approve of the company that his mother kept, and put her out of the house. He informed me that he sees his mother from time to time, and last saw her about four weeks ago outside the City Hall. He is not sure where she lives, but arranges to meet her in town. His eldest sister [REDACTED] aged 19 [REDACTED] lives with an aunt in Greenisland. His younger siblings [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are living in the Palmerston Children's Home at present.

He was born in Belfast and spent his childhood in Walton Street. He attended Edenderry School from 5 - 11, and then went to Mount Vernon from 11 - 16. He said that he liked school and enjoyed being there. In 1971 he went to Bannmore. According to Ronald his father gave him a hiding and this was noticed when he went to school, and the headmaster of Mount Vernon arranged for him to go and live in Bannmore. Ronald said that he enjoyed his time at Bannmore. He was in the scouts and was a member of the Army Cadet Force. He eventually returned to live at home in July 1974, and got a job as a waiter in the Russell Court Hotel on the Ligon Road. He worked there for three or four months, but his father told him to give up the job because he had to work until the early hours of the morning and then come home to Tennent Street. From the Russell Court he went to Mackies, where he was an apprentice fitter. He stayed there until his father died. He was upset by his father's death and he did not want to work in Mackies any longer, because it was so near his former home. Therefore he sought and obtained his present job in Anderson & McAuley's as a lift boy. Since his father's death he has lived in Kincora. He informed me that he does not get on well with the staff there and alleges that they were always threatening that they would get him sent to Luckamore.

Prior to being sent to Rathgael, he went to visit his other siblings at Palmerston and while there became upset and excited. He was taken back to Kincora, but went out again the same evening and was picked up by the police at 1 am, on the request of the staff of Kincora, and was brought to Rathgael.

PURDYSBURN HOSPITAL

Telephone No.
Belfast 649191

GRANAM CLINIC FEMALE (A)

SAINTFIELD ROAD
BELFAST BT8 8BH

- 2 -

Previous Medical History: He sustained a broken nose in an accident in July 1968 and spent some weeks in hospital. He has a perforated left ear drum. He attended the ear hospital in March 1974 and was put on the waiting list to have a repair operation to his ear drum.

As regards his interests he likes meeting people, reading history and adventure stories, going to the cinema, and watching serial television programmes, such as Crossroads, Coronation Street and Opportunity Knocks. He does not drink or smoke, giving as his reason, that they both caused his father's early death. As regards his ambitions, he wants either to join the army or to be a milkman.

He has never shown any criminal propensities, and has never been before the Juvenile Court for theft, breaking and entering, or non-attendance at school. Since leaving Mount Vernon, he has had a remarkably good work record for a boy who comes from such a disturbed home background. He has liked all the jobs he has had, and has left them for good reasons.

On examination of his mental state I found him a talkative, pleasant boy, who required a lot of attention and reassurance. I found no evidence of depression or schizophrenia. Educational and psychological tests performed at Rathgael School show him to have a much higher I.Q. than was suggested by the social background report. On his last testing he was shown to have an I.Q. of 90, which places him within the range of average intelligence. This would be confirmed by the fact that he was able to work as a waiter, an apprentice fitter and a lift boy.

Physical examination showed him to be a healthy young man. He is a nail biter. There was no abnormality in the cardiovascular, respiratory, or alimentary systems. He is post pubertal. His tonsils are enlarged and he has a perforation of the left ear drum. An E.R.G. recording on the 10th February 1975 was normal.

In my opinion Ronald has coped remarkably well, considering the fact that he comes from unhappy home circumstances, and has recently lost his father. His talkativeness and attention seeking is due to basic insecurity, and a desire to be accepted by those around him. May I respectfully suggest that he should continue to live in the community and go to work. He takes a pride in being employed and self-supporting, and these assets of his personality should be encouraged.

A. S. CLEGGAN

A. S. CLEGGAN, M.D., D.P.M., F.R.C.Psych.,
Consultant Psychiatrist

11th February, 1975

WITNESS NAME: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BOARD

DATE: 8th June 2016

The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1955



RONALD HUGH GRAHAM

Exhibit 4

R. 1505

Handwritten: [unclear] 13.2.75

Eastern Health and Social Services Board
North and West Belfast District



WEST DIVISION
86 Clifton Street
Belfast BT13 1AB
Tel. 23822/5

*If telephoning,
please ask for:*

our ref: SK/AC

your ref:

29th January, 1975.

Dear Mr. Smith,

Re: Ronald Graham [redacted]
[redacted] Belfast

I would be grateful if you could arrange for a psychiatric assessment of the above boy. He is of low IQ and is hyper-active. He had been showing some signs of disturbance prior to admittance to Rathgael. Please find enclosed a social report on his family.

Yours sincerely,

KIN386

[redacted]
Senior Social Worker.

Mr. Smith,
Principal,
Rathgael Training School,
Rathgael Road,
BANGOR.

WITNESS NAME: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BOARD

DATE: 8th June 2016

The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1955



RONALD HUGH GRAHAM

Exhibit 5

Application for financial assistance for clothes & HolidayRe: Ronnie Graham D.O.B. [REDACTED]

Ronnie Graham is under a Fit Person Order from 13.2.75 and has been boarded out with Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] since 9th June 1975.

He is working in a wholesale clothier, Millar Boyd & Reid, 9-11 Calendar Street, Belfast and earns £12.85 clear.

Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED] had arranged a holiday for ten people before Ronnie was placed with them. The family unanimously agreed to take Ronnie with them, since they have an extra seat in their mini-bus.

The holiday is from 3rd August - 25th August spending one week touring in France and two weeks in a villa in Spain. The extra cost involved in taking Ronnie is £40 boat fares and his keep for the three weeks which would cost about £20.

Ronnie himself is thrilled at the prospect of going on holiday with Mr. [REDACTED] family and has already saved £10 towards the cost.

Our Department does not supplement Ronnie's contribution towards his maintenance. He gives Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED] £8.43 for his lodgings and has about four pounds for pocket money, bus fares, lunches and saving. Whilst in our care since December 74 he has not received financial help.

At present he is in need of footwear and several items of clothing. An approximate price list is as follows:

1	pair	Shoes	£6.50	(he has only 1 pair of boots)
1	pair	Sandals	£3.50	
3	pairs	Underpants	£1.50	(has two)
3	pairs	Socks	£1.00	(has four pairs in holes)
1		Jacket	£10.00	
1	pair	Jeans	£5.99) Already purchased by Mr. Hill
1		Sports Shirt	£1.99	
1	pair	Lightwt Trousers	£6.00	
1	pair	Shorts	£3.00	
2		T Shirts	£3.00	
2	pair	Pyjamas	£7.00	(has none)
			<u>£49.48</u>	

The most urgent items are footwear, socks and pyjamas and the above list takes into account the unsuitability of his present wardrobe for warmer weather.

When Ronnie left Kincora Boys Hostel on 9th June 1975 his worldly possessions were transported in one case. Since he was offered this holiday abroad he has saved and could purchase some items of clothes himself by the beginning of August. I would be grateful if you would consider financial assistance towards clothing and his holiday.

KIN387