



INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT

I, SIS Officer A, will say as follows:

1. I have been employed by the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) since August 1989 in a range of roles in the UK and overseas. I became a Deputy Director in 2012 and, since October 2015, have been Deputy Director responsible for compliance and disclosure matters. It is the longstanding policy of SIS that the identities of its officers, other than C, are not publicly disclosed, for operational reasons and in order to ensure the safety of them and their families.
2. In my current role, I oversee the compliance of SIS operations with the law and other relevant guidance and directives. This role includes overseeing the Service's response to legal cases and disclosure requests related to a range of issues, including legacy matters in Northern Ireland. In this capacity, I provide assurance to C, the Service's Accounting Officer, that we are effectively meeting our legal obligations.
3. SIS has received requests for disclosure from the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry. SIS takes its disclosure obligations seriously and I am satisfied that the searches carried out by officers in our compliance team constitute a reasonable and proportionate search for relevant material on the SIS corporate record. These officers, and SIS legal advisers, specialise in disclosure matters and regularly conduct searches of this type; they also consulted the SIS records management team to ensure a sufficiently broad search was conducted. I know that SIS officers have made the Inquiry aware of the capabilities, nature and operation of our file management systems.
4. The search terms used to conduct searches include those listed in Annex B of the letter from Sir Jonathan Stephens, Permanent Secretary at the Northern Ireland Office, to Whitehall colleagues, dated 18 November 2014. Further search terms identified from open source research were also added. A full list of search terms used are:

Bawnmore
Bernados
Ravelstone Parade

Palmerstone
Rathgael
Raymond Semple

"Boys Home" and abuse	Rubane
Brian Gemmell	TARA
"Child abuse" and "Northern Ireland"	Valetta
Colin Wallace	William McGrath
Hughes inquiry	Williamson House
Institutional abuse	William McGrath
James McGuigan	Williamson House
Joseph Mains	Manor House, Lisburn
Richard Kerr	Roy Garland
Kincora	James Miller
Mike Taylor	John McKeague
Nazareth Lodge	

5. We are committed to ensuring that the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry can conduct a full and complete inquiry and have made potentially relevant sensitive intelligence material available for review by the Inquiry.
6. Where the public disclosure of information would be prejudicial to national security and/or the safety of individuals concerned, it has been redacted with the agreement of the HIA Inquiry, but with the aim, as requested by the Inquiry, of making as much information publicly available as possible. Where redactions have been made a gist of the redacted material has been included in the witness statement. The Inquiry has nevertheless been able to review the complete versions of those documents. Should any further relevant material be identified, it will be made available to the Inquiry.

Signed

SIS Officer A

SIS Officer A

Date

27 MAY 2016