

Press Release

Inquiry's final module to consider Kincora Boys' Home and Bawnmore Children's Home, Newtownabbey

Issued: 27 May 2016

For suggested use from 00.01 hours on 31 May 2016 but no embargo

Note: pool facility filming and photography arrangements are in place and we have issued details of those separately.

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

The Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry will commence its fifteenth and final thematic module of public hearings at **10.00 hours (GMT), Tuesday, 31st May 2016 at Banbridge Courthouse, Banbridge, Co. Down, Northern Ireland.**

Module 15 will consider evidence in respect of Kincora Boys' Home and Bawnmore Children's Home, Newtownabbey.

The proceedings will commence with an opening address from the Inquiry's Chairman, Sir Anthony Hart. He will outline the matters which the Inquiry will address during the module, including those concerning Kincora Boys' Home. Junior Counsel to the Inquiry, Joseph Aiken, will provide a detailed overview of the Kincora Boys' Home in opening the module ahead of witness evidence being heard. Later in the Module Christine Smith QC, Senior Counsel to the Inquiry, will provide a detailed overview of Bawnmore Children's Home, Newtownabbey. The module is expected to continue until the beginning of July.

The Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry was formally established in January 2013 by the Northern Ireland Executive. It has a remit to investigate child abuse that occurred in residential institutions in Northern Ireland over a 73-year period from 1922 to 1995.

In total, the Inquiry is expected to hear from more than 450 witnesses during the course of the public evidence sessions.

Under the Inquiry's revised 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 17th January 2017.

HIA Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry

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Applications to participate in the Statutory Inquiry and Acknowledgement Forum are now closed. By the closing date, 526 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.

A total of 22 institutions in Northern Ireland are under investigation by the Inquiry in relation to allegations of historical institutional abuse and/or neglect and have been or will be the subject of public hearings. In addition, there are a small number of other homes or institutions where the Inquiry has identified specific issues which it considers need to be investigated, but which do not justify being investigated in full-scale public hearings.

The Inquiry's Chairman, Sir Anthony Hart, is a retired senior High Court judge who practised in Northern Ireland. The other members of the Inquiry are Geraldine Doherty, who was formerly the Head of the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work in Scotland, and David Lane, who was formerly Director of Social Services in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, England.

The Inquiry's hearings are open to the public. Details of forthcoming proceedings will be posted regularly on the Inquiry's website: www.hiainquiry.org

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. The Opening Hearing to the public evidence sessions for Module 15 will take place commencing at **10.00 hours GMT on Tuesday, 31st May 2016 in Banbridge Courthouse, Victoria St., Banbridge, Co. Down, BT32 3DH, Northern Ireland.** We would ask all media to be seated by **9.50 hours.**
2. A **pool arrangement** is in place with the BBC and UTV to enable all accredited broadcast media outlets which have provided sufficient advance notice to the BBC to have timely access to footage and audio material from the morning's proceedings at the Module 15 Opening Hearing, and with Pacemaker to have timely access to photographs of the same where sufficient notice to Pacemaker has been given. **No other filming or audio recording, and no photography, is permitted anywhere within Banbridge Courthouse or within its gates.**
3. **The Kincora Boys' Home** (or hostel as it was officially known) was located at 236 Newtownards Road, Belfast. It was opened by the Belfast Welfare Authority in 1958 and closed in October 1980.
4. **Bawnmore Children's Home** was situated on the Whitewell Road, Newtownabbey and catered solely for boys. It was opened by the Belfast Welfare Authority in the mid 1950s and operated until 1977. The Northern Health and Social Services Board managed the home from 1972 until its closure in 1977.

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5. On Friday 27 May the **Court of Appeal** upheld the decision of Mr Justice Treacy (8 April 2016) dismissing an application for judicial review brought against the Inquiry and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland by an applicant to the Inquiry.
6. The Inquiry will hear evidence from a number of applicants who were resident in either one or both homes.
7. 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.
8. Opening Remarks by the Chairman and Counsel will not be released in advance.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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>
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. For the purposes of this Inquiry "child" means any person under 18 years of age; "institution" means anybody, 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

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made provision for the day to day care of children; “relevant period” means the period between 1922 and 1995 (both years inclusive).

17. 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.
18. 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 and Junior Counsel to the Inquiry, and other members of the Inquiry team are available on the Inquiry website: www.hiainquiry.org
19. The Chairman announced on 4 November 2015 that the Inquiry would be investigating an additional 6 homes or institutions in relation to alleged historical institutional abuse and/or neglect. The full list of homes/institutions is as follows:
 - **Local Authority Homes**
 - Lissue Hospital, Lisburn
 - Kincora Boys’ Home, Belfast
 - Bawnmore Children’s Home, Newtownabbey
 - Fort James and Harberton House, Londonderry (added May 2015)
 - **Juvenile Justice Institutions**
 - St Patrick’s Training School, Belfast
 - Lisnevin Training School, County Down
 - Rathgael Training School, Bangor
 - Hydebank Young Offenders’ Centre (added May 2015)
 - Millisle Borstal (added November 2015)
 - **Secular Voluntary Homes**
 - Barnardo’s Sharonmore Project, Newtownabbey
 - Barnardo’s Macedon, Newtownabbey
 - **Roman Catholic Voluntary Homes**
 - St Joseph’s Home, Termonbacca, Londonderry
 - Nazareth House Children’s Home, Londonderry
 - Nazareth House Children’s Home, Belfast
 - Nazareth Lodge Children’s Home, Belfast
 - De La Salle Boys’ Home, Rubane House, Kircubbin
 - St Joseph’s Training School for Girls, Middletown, Co Armagh (added November 2015)
 - Institutions run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Derry/Londonderry, Belfast and Newry (added November 2015)
 - **Church of Ireland**
 - Manor House, a children’s home near Lisburn (added November 2015)

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The Inquiry also conducted public hearings into two other matters that were relevant to the way children were treated in the residential children's homes in Northern Ireland that fall within the Terms of Reference.

- The first considered the practice of child migration, where children were sent from Roman Catholic, Protestant and local authority homes in Northern Ireland to homes in Australia.
- The second related to Fr Brendan Smyth, a member of the Norbertine Order, who was convicted of offences relating to children in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and who was alleged to have abused children within a number of children's homes within Northern Ireland.

In total therefore the Inquiry is investigating 22 homes and conducting two additional hearings into related matters.

20. 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.

21. **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**