

Media Release

18 June 2014

The Chairman of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry, Sir Anthony Hart, has met with Ministers to seek an extension of one year to the date by which the Inquiry must submit its report. If granted, this would mean that the report would not now be submitted until 18 January 2017. Sir Anthony said

“We make this request to extend the life of the Inquiry for one year with considerable reluctance, and only do so after detailed considerations of the implications. However on the basis of our experience to date we are now in a position to calculate how many sitting days it will take to call all the witnesses who wish to give evidence from every institution and each individual whom we will, or will probably, investigate.”

“Should our request for an extension of one year be granted, we will of course continue to make every effort to complete our work in a shorter time should that be possible.”

If successful, this request will require an amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry, which will be brought before the Northern Ireland Assembly. No decision is expected before the autumn.

ENDS