

**THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995**

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF HUGH QUINN**

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I, Hugh Quinn, will say as follows:-

**Personal details**

1. I was born on [REDACTED]. I have previously given evidence to the Acknowledgement Forum back in 2013. Since then further matters have arisen during the ongoing Inquiry whereby an allegation has been made against me directly by another and I make this statement in relation to that and further to any previous evidence I have provided.
2. I was born into the workhouse on the above date. I never knew my mother. I grew up in a series of orphanages and welfare homes. I was moved on every few years. This continued until I left Kincora at the age of 18. I was in a series of homes in the Belfast area apart from a period of 5 years when I was adopted by an elderly couple who lived in Armagh. They were a cruel couple with no formal checks or qualifications and I was subjected to neglect, ill treatment and physical abuse on an almost daily basis.
3. I remained with them from 7 – 13 years of age. I asked Mrs Wilson who worked at Williamson House if I could be taken from this family and returned to care. I was then resident at Williamson House, from which I went on to Kincora at the age of 14. This was a Working Boy's Hostel on the Upper Newtownards Road and it took 12 resident boys at any one time.

**Kincora (22 February 1960 – 6 June 1961/19 June 1961 – 15 July 1962/6 August 1962 – 6 August 1963/22 December 1965 – 2 January 1966)**

4. I was singled out by the Chief Warden Joseph Mains from the outset when I arrived at Kincora. The first assault took place upon my arrival when Mr Mains had me strip naked in front of him and gave me his "medical examination" which entailed him putting his hand around my testicles and telling me to cough.
5. William McGrath and Raymond Semple did not work at the home during the period I stayed there. There was only Joseph Mains and a housekeeper, Mrs McCullough, there at the time. However, I recall that Semple worked for St John's Ambulance at the time and would have visited Kincora on occasion. I was never abused at any stage by Raymond Semple.
6. The abuse continued and quickly escalated to him inviting me to his bedroom on the first floor. This was not an invite I could refuse. It was always late at night and I was made to perform varying sexual acts including but not limited to masturbation on Mr Mains, self-masturbation and anal sex. He would also force himself on me kissing me and shoving his tongue into my mouth.
7. It was made clear to me from the outset that I could not complain nor mention this to anyone. I was made aware of how well connected both privately and politically Mr Mains was. I was also advised that I would be sent to Borstal if I even dreamed of causing a fuss. I recall at one point I was in fact sent to stay at a boy's home in Kircubbin but I do not recall the name of the home or the dates I was sent there but I stayed there for about two or three months. I have no complaints to make about my time in that particular home. Mains would threaten to send me to borstal if I did not comply with the sexual demands that he made on me.
8. After my first period of time at Kincora I applied to be admitted to National Sea Training School, Gravesend, Kent. I only stayed there two weeks as I was abused by one of the officers who worked there so I ran away within two weeks and left without a penny in my pocket.
9. I had obtained an address for my mother from Joseph Mains whilst I was in Kincora and I knew that she had moved to Coventry in 1951 so I hitched a lift from Gravesend to Coventry to see her. She had married and had two daughters but her husband did not want to look after me so a **KIN 342** from the Welfare Office come to collect me and I was returned to Kincora for a year. This was in 1961.
10. Joseph Mains arranged for me to get a job at the Royal Belfast Golf Club. This job only lasted a few months as my boss there was ex-military and I found it extremely difficult to work for him.
11. I also worked for a period of time for the BBC. They had done a documentary on Kincora in the 1960's which was very misleading to the public and told

nothing of the abuse that took place there. They advised that they had jobs for office boys and I went to work there. I was placed in digs on the Ormeau Road which were appalling and insanitary and I was then returned to Kincora.

12. The abuse continued and it was systemic abuse which also entailed a pattern of punishment and reward. This would mean along with the sexual abuse I would receive "privileges" such as days out and treats like being taken to restaurants or the theatre. I would also receive terrible punishments for no reason as if to remind me what was at risk. Once I was actually sent to a mental institution, Purdysburn Hospital where I had to remain for some weeks but I am not sure of the dates I stayed there.
13. It was this spell in a mental hospital that gave me the incentive to pursue a career as a nurse working in mental health. At the age of 17 I applied for and obtained a position as a student nurse at a hospital in London. I wanted this because not only was it a chosen career path for me but also it came with student residency so it got me out of Kincora and Ireland. Before I took up this position, I travelled to London and worked for a period of some months as a barman in Mill Hill. I am not certain of the exact date when I left Kincora. I now believe however, that it was in May of 1964 because I have been told this was the case. I didn't return for at least a year. I did come back the following Christmas (i.e. December 1965). I would do this because all the other student nurses left for their families and homes at that time and I had nowhere else to go. I knew no-one in London and I used to enjoy being in the home at Christmas time. Kincora was sadly the only home that I had known.
14. Upon anytime that I returned to Kincora there was no further sexual contact between Mr Mains and myself. I made it clear to Joseph Mains after I had left the home that there was to be no more physical contact between us if I visited and Mains did not touch me again. My last visit to Kincora was in 1979. I recall during that visit that **R 18** was running around Kincora with some of his gay friends and I felt it was all a bit "in your face" so to speak. He seemed to have quite a lot of freedom to come and go as he pleased with his friends. During that visit I slept on a camp bed in Mains' room. Sometimes I would stay in the attic in Kincora. On a few occasions I stayed with **R 2** at his house in Dundonald.
15. **R 2** was a resident at Kincora at same time as me. He was also subjected to similar abuse as myself. **R 2** and I never spoke about this at the time but we both spoke about it for the first time when we gave evidence at the Hughes Inquiry in 1980. Unfortunately **R 2** suffered a great deal coming to terms with his treatment at Kincora and his abuse by Mains and I think I heard that he committed suicide. The Hughes Inquiry was a white wash. It followed on from the criminal prosecution of Joseph Mains and two other members of staff again in the early 1980's. They all pleaded guilty. There was also then a claim brought by me, against the Eastern Health and Social Services Board which was settled out of court.

16. Mains and Semple were not effeminate in nature but I was aware of Mains meeting some people when we were out at restaurants or the theatre who would be described in this way but at that age I would not even have been aware of what the term "gay" meant. I was never introduced by Mains to any of his acquaintances for sexual purposes.
17. Joseph Mains gave a statement to the police dated 1 April 1980 and I saw this statement for the first time during my consultation with the HIA Inquiry. I was extremely upset upon reading the contents of this statement. Mr Mains was suggesting that his bisexual problem first came to light with myself and as a result of his drinking. He noted that I came to him when my dog had died and that he offered me comfort and our sexual relationship started from there. His statement is totally untrue. Mains would suggest I was using him to have an easy time at Kincora. That suggestion is ridiculous. I had to accept my treatment from Mains, the privileges came with the abuse and there was no-one you could turn to to report what was going on. No-one would have believed me. I went to Kincora totally innocent of sex and/or relationships and Mains abused his position over me. I totally disagree with the interpretation Mains gave of our relationship. I constantly felt under pressure from Mains. I explained this when I gave evidence to the Hughes Inquiry.
18. The boys at Kincora did not know each other very well. Boys went to work all day and they would watch TV or chat about football in the evenings. We never talked about girls or the abuse that took place in the home. I thought I was the only one who had been singled out for this treatment and I felt that throughout my stay and right up until I left Kincora. There was no gossip about abuse amongst the boys when I was resident at Kincora.
19. Throughout my time at Kincora I never saw a social worker or anyone from social services that I could have spoken to or reported to about the difficulties I was experiencing there.
20. When I was contacted and asked to give evidence at this current Inquiry I agreed to do so and once again I bared my soul. I have now been advised that an individual by the name of **KIN 1** has given a statement to the police and suggested that along with Mr Mains, I was also an individual who abused him during his 18 month stay at Kincora. I have had sight of portions of a statement of his which was also given back in 1980. I have never heard of this individual and I categorically deny that which he alleges.
21. Boys would come and go from Kincora on a regular basis, some would only stay for a period of weeks by order of a court for example. Some, less, would stay as long as myself and **R 2**. There were four boys to a room of varying backgrounds and ages. Due to the time that has now passed and the regular changing of residents I do not recall anyone very well aside from Mr Mains, other staff and **R 2**.
22. What **KIN 1** describes as the abuse he suffered is very much in line with that which happened to myself at the hands of Mr Mains. I have never been

on the staff of the home as suggested and after I left Kincora. I did not return until after this boy, [KIN 1] had left, apart from the visits that I have referred to above. According to the available documentation [KIN 1] was in Kincora from May 1963 until November 1964 so there would have been a period of overlap between the two of us. However, I cannot imagine why he has alleged these things against me but to be accused of such matters after all that I have been subjected to in my life is almost too much to comprehend. I have photographs of myself at that time. I would like to know whether this man can identify me. I do not know him. I do not remember anyone by that name and I am amazed that he can recall who I am after such time has passed.

23. Joseph Mains gave an interview to the police alleging that I had interfered with [KIN 1] and [KIN 2]. Mains stated that both [KIN 1] and [KIN 2] complained to him about this but I totally deny these allegations. What they are alleging never took place. Mains never at any stage mentioned these complaints had been made or raised the matter with me. I was not asked about any allegations concerning [KIN 1] or [KIN 2] during the Hughes Inquiry.
24. Another matter I feel it is important to raise is that of the women in Mains' life. The first I wish to mention is [BAR 1]. She was in charge of a Barnados home. She was a visitor to Kincora on many occasions. She considered herself Mains' girlfriend. She would attend staff parties at the Welfare offices and I would make her tea when she attended Kincora. Next there was [REDACTED]. She was in charge of an old peoples' home which I visited with Mains. She also came to Kincora and also considered herself his girlfriend. I feel it is important to mention these people because I now believe that this was part of a "front" that Mains sought to put forward in an attempt to conceal his real criminal behaviour. I feel it is particularly important to mention [BAR 1] since I understand that she has subsequently been successfully prosecuted in the late 1980's for sexual activity with children and served a prison sentence as a result.
25. I am willing to attend the Inquiry once more to answer questions in relation to these matters that have arisen only because I am so angered and distressed by these allegations in the first place.

### Statement of Truth

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_



Dated \_\_\_\_\_

3-06-2016