

HIA REF: [HIA 532]

NAME: **HIA 532/B1/R13**

DATE: [6th June 2016.]

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

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**Witness Statement of the Health and Social Care Board**

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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. This is the second statement submitted in respect of the Applicant, **HIA 532/B1/R13** who was born on [REDACTED]. The first statement was dated 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016 (First statement) **BWN 275 – BWN 310**. The purpose of this statement is to address the Applicant's time in Kincora and the Applicant's experiences he describes at paragraphs 37-52.
2. The admission records confirm the Applicant's recollection of the dates when he was in Kincora, **KIN 12008-12009**. The first period was for 16 months, between 8th April 1972 and 26th August 1973. The second period was for approximately 6 weeks and this was between 8th September 1973 and the 29th October 1973. The third and final admission was for a 2 month period from the 6th December 1973 until the 25th February 1974.
3. At paragraph 38 the Applicant states that he recalls the names of staff members in Kincora and identifies "Joe Mains" "Raymond Semple and " William McGrath". The Board have at paragraphs 16-28 of its overview statement dated 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and found at **KIN 1088 – KIN 1092** set out in detail the circumstances relating to the recruitment, dismissal and release of each of these staff members.

4. The Applicant also states at paragraph 38 of his statement that he only suffered abuse at the hands of McGrath. Details of the convictions of which Mr McGrath was subsequently convicted have been detailed by the Board at paragraph 43 of its overview statement **KIN 1096**, although it is understood that the DPP directed no prosecution in relation to the charge of indecent assault as recommended by the RUC in respect of the Applicant.
5. At paragraph 39 of his statement, the Applicant states that when he came to Kincora, as a result of his experiences in Bawnmore he was extremely wary of William McGrath and he "*was desperate to get away from him*". The Applicant goes on to state at paragraph 43 that there were occasions when he would not go back as he "*hated the place and McGrath's behaviour*".
6. Social Worker recordings for the Applicant during his time in Kincora highlight a number of occasions when the Applicant requests to move from Kincora and two periods when the Applicant did leave:-
  - i. 25<sup>th</sup> October 1972 – the recordings state that after getting a job as a handyman back in Bawnmore, the Applicant indicated he wanted to reside there, and talks of "*helping to mind the Bawnmore boys*", the Social Worker however further records that such an idea was "*unlikely to be entertained by Bawnmore Staff*", see **KIN 78250**
  - ii. Despite being previously rejected by the Army, the Applicant makes a further Application in January 1973, **KIN 78253**. More information in relation to this application will be covered later in this statement.
  - iii. In the July 1973, the Applicant requests a move to "*digs*" at 70 Dee Street. **KIN 78261**. The recordings indicate that in receiving this request, his Social Worker had some discussion with the Applicant about this, inviting him to consider such things as "*keeping sensible hours*" and a "*balancing responsibility in behaviour*". It would appear that following receipt of a court summons for behaviour in June of that year, Social Services were not prepared to make a decision about him moving until after the court hearing.
  - iv. Following a verdict of six months imprisonment, suspended for two years for intimidation and disorderly behaviour, it was decided that it would be

“more in HIA 532/B1/R13 interest to remain a Kincora”, **KIN 78265**. The Applicant however thought differently and it was reported by Mr Mains on the 24<sup>h</sup> August 1973 that he had gone into digs “on his own initiative”. Staff at Kincora did not appear to know where these digs were and had not informed the Children’s Officer of his “unauthorised leave”. It was not until the 4<sup>th</sup> September when the Applicant's Social Worker had been able to see him at work that details of this address were given and that he was asked to return to Kincora, **see KIN 78268**. The Applicant returned to Kincora on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 1973. The Board believes this is the first occasion which the Applicant is referring to when he states he left “twice”

v. A request is made by the Applicant in October 1973 for him to go and live at home. Despite concerns about previous failed attempts [**KIN 78274**], the recordings confirm that on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 1973 it was agreed amongst other things what the Applicant would return home on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 1973 subject to permission from the Department, and would remain under an Fit Persons Order until he was 18. The Board believes this was the second occasion referred to by the Applicant about leaving “twice”

7. The Applicant refers to what his is his second rejection from the Army at paragraph 43 of his statement. He states that although he passed all the tests, he eventually got word he could not join. That he did not get a letter, but rather McGrath told him about it and “took great satisfaction in telling me, it made his day”.
8. The Social Worker recordings dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1973 found at **KIN 78252** confirm that the Applicant passed a “medical” and also “academic and intelligence tests”, The Board notes the references that the Applicant obtained in support of his army application. Mr Mains, from Kincora and Mr Bone who is described as “an architect for NI Hospitals whom HIA 532/B1/R13 knows and whom he is to meet today in Belfast at 11.00am”. It is not clear how the arrangements for the Applicant to meet with Mr Bone had been made, however it is noted this was 10 months after leaving Bawnmore.
- 9 As stated by the Applicant he did receive confirmation of his acceptance into the Army on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1973. The Applicant's Social Worker did

however comment that “if <sup>HIA 532/B1/R13</sup> does actually get into the Army his first impulse is likely to be to get out of it again”, see **KIN 78253**.

10. Shortly after being verbally informed of his acceptance into the Army, the Applicant got himself in trouble with the Army and this, together with a number of other reasons such as “*political grounds*”, and the “*record of the Doctors earlier involvement in <sup>HIA 532/B1/R13</sup> first application*”, were suggested by Mr Mains as being the reasons why the Applicant was subsequently rejected. The recordings note that it was Mr Mains who communicated this to Social Services **KIN 78526**.
11. There is no further indication of the Applicant discussing the matter or how he had been told of his rejection by Mr McGrath with his Social Worker. The matter is however recalled by William McGrath himself a year later, when he informs the Social Worker that it was the London Department which had turned the Applicant down and that <sup>HIA 532/B1/R13</sup> was then told apparently that *there were no vacancies*”.
12. At paragraph 41 of his statement the Applicant states that the abuse he suffered by William McGrath was “*always in the mornings*” and that one day “*I completely lost my temper and wrecked the bedroom*”
13. The Applicant’s Social Worker records state that on the morning of 7<sup>th</sup> February 1973, **KIN 78254** Mr McGrath had phoned to say that <sup>HIA 532/B1/R13</sup> had been very disturbed that morning” and had indicated this was “*because of the pressure he felt at his involvement with one of the local organisations*” Mr McGrath went on to say that he was “*breaking up a bit*” he’d wrecked his bed: *something which had never happened at Kincora before*”. There is no evidence from the Social Worker recording as to whether this incident was further discussed with the Applicant or enquiries made as to the reasons for the Applicants’ outburst.
14. The Board does note that the Applicants behaviour during his time in Kincora did cause some problems. He found himself in trouble with the Police resulting in the conviction for Intimidation and disorderly behaviour as referred to above at paragraph 6. In January 1974 it was noted that Mr Mains

complained he had been “*giving us an awful time*” and goes on to state that because of outside associations has to be “*handled very cautiously*”. Mr Mains asks for the matter of him turning 18 in few weeks to be treated as urgent. It is suggested by Mr Mains that the increased difficulties they were having with his behaviour a result of the Applicant wanting to be thrown out of Kincora .**KIN 78275**

15. The Board believes that the “*outside associations*” referenced above are likely to refer to the Applicants involvement with the UDA which he himself states he had during this “*time at Kincora from 1974*”. The reasons he gives for such involvement was to “*encourage McGrath to leave me alone*”
16. The Board has noted in hand written recording sheets on Kincora made by Mary Jane Wilson following visits she had undertaken in her capacity Principal Social Worker (Residential and Day Care) that on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1972 she records “*some of the boys are involved with the UDA and attend their demonstrations, but apparently there is only one, (HIA 532/B1/R13) who is a regular member*” **KIN 114012**.
17. A further recording eight months later, on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 1973 states that “*(HIA 532/B1/R13) is the main cause for concern as he is involved with local UDA and has been questioned by special branch regarding robberies in the area*” **KIN 114013**. Both visits are recorded in the visitor’s book at **KIN 11767** and **KIN 11764** respectfully. These would suggest the Applicant become involved with the organisation shortly after being placed in Kincora and before 1974.
18. At paragraph 46 the Applicant states that it was generally known amongst boys what William McGrath was like, and that he did tell some of the boys including his brother, **KIN 300**, to watch out for him. **KIN 300** was placed in Kincora on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 1975 and discharged 12<sup>th</sup> June 1976, **KIN 12026-KIN12027**.
19. The Board notes that in his statement to the Hughes Inquiry the Applicant states he did eventually tell Joseph Mains, but that he could not remember what he [Mains] said about his complaint **KIN 75630**. In this current

statement, he states, he never reported "*this abuse to anyone in Kincora*". The Applicant did not tell his Social Worker or his parents. Comments by the Applicant in relation to the extent and nature of his Social Worker visits have been highlighted by the Board at para 46-47 of its "Missed Opportunities" statement dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016 **KIN 1010**, wherein it is stated that the Applicant in his evidence to the Hughes Inquiry accepted that even if the nature of his contact with his Social Worker had been different, he probably would not have confided in them.

20. The findings at the Hughes Inquiry also confirmed that in relation to the Applicant, there was nothing to suggest that Mr McGrath's offences could have been detected by the Authorities, **para 3.106 HIA 723**.

21. The Applicant states that he has been told that his Social Worker whilst he was in Kincora was "*called Benson*". The Board believes the Applicant's Social Worker was indeed a Mr Christopher Benson who provided a statement to the Police on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 1980. In this, Mr Benson confirms that he supervised the Applicant for his whole stay in Kincora and under his supervision the Applicant did not make any complaint about staff or anyone else in Kincora, see **KIN 10228**

22. The Applicant's reference at Paragraph 55 to a civil claim against Kincora has been dealt with by the Board at paragraph 23 of its First Statement.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed



Dated 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016