

HIA REF: []

NAME: [**ROBERT BUNTING**]

DATE: [28th June 2016]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Supplemental Witness Statement of Robert Bunting

I, Robert Bunting, will say as follows: -

1. On the 23rd June 2016 I submitted a statement to the HIA Inquiry by way of providing context and explanation with regard to the use of Kincora Hostel (Kincora) for younger children.
2. At paragraph 12 of that statement, reference is made to the Castle Priory Recommendations. This statement is now filed to detail further information and explanation in relation to this.
3. Duty hours are based on the waking day and the hours that the children are in the home. In the case of a hostel the boys were working and were out from 8am until 5pm, which considerably reduced the duty hours, although at least one member of staff had to be there during the day, if some boys were not working and also to respond to social workers contacting the hostel etc.
4. The peak times for staff were therefore 7am to 9.30am and the evening from 5pm to 11pm and weekends, though at weekends most of the boys were out involved in recreational pursuits. Also, their holidays were around three weeks each year, which was another factor to be taken into account.
5. In relation to Castle Priory recommendations for hostels their duty hours were based on the waking day from 6am until midnight, whereas ours were from 7am until 11pm. Also, for a 12 bed hostel an additional care staff allowance was included to allow for the Officer in Charge managing a team of staff. This was not the case for smaller hostels such as Kincora, established for 9 places, where the Officer in Charge was also involved in providing care, as was the Deputy.

6. This meant that from 1971 until it closed, the hostel had 3 care staff, compared with 4.2 care staff for a 12 bed hostel as recommended by Castle Priory in 1972. (3.15 for 9 beds). However, the management staff, particularly the Deputy, who would have had some involvement in care, depending on their management duties would have increased the number of care staff. The Deputy post was required to ensure that there was always a senior member of staff present in the hostel.
7. The staff: young person ratio for hostels was 1:6 during duty hours. This meant that there were always 2 staff on duty, in a 12 bed hostel, whereas with Kincora it would have been 1.5 when there were 9 residents. It would have been preferable to upgrade this to 2, though in effect there were usually 2 at peak periods i.e.mornings and evenings. In the mornings this would have included either the Officer in Charge or Deputy, who would have been on sleeping in duty and Mr McGrath who did not undertake sleeping in duty.

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

Signed R. Bunting

Dated _____