

Statement of **Dennis** to the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry

1. In early November 1975, as a Sergeant in the Intelligence Corps, I was posted to Northern Ireland in the role of Liaison Intelligence Non-Commissioned Officer (LINCO) based at RUC Castlereagh, Belfast. My role was to act as liaison on all intelligence matters concerning East Belfast between: locally based Army units (primarily the Intelligence Sections of 2 Regiment Royal Military Police based at RUC Castlereagh and the Province Reserve battalion at Palace Barracks); various RUC departments and the Intelligence Section & G Intelligence Staff at HQ 39 Infantry Brigade in Lisburn. Although my operational 'boss' was Captain Brian Gemmell, Intelligence Corps (OC of 123 Int Section, HQ 39 Bde) I could also be directed for specific orders/taskings by the G-Int Staff Officers at 39 Bde. Apart from my liaison role, my duties also included acting as the advisor to the local Army units on: screening/interrogation & source targeting/recruitment/handling. I was also responsible for developing/handling my own sources.
2. This was my second, long tour of NI having previously served as a Desk NCO at HQ Northern Ireland (HQNI) from December 1970 to October 1972. On that occasion my primary role had been collation and analysis of intelligence on Loyalist paramilitary organisations – Province wide.
3. Although there was an active, albeit small, Republican enclave centred around the 'Short Strand', the major influence in the area was the development and activities of the Protestant Paramilitaries - Ulster Volunteer Force {UVF}, Ulster Defence Association {UDA} and the Red Hand Commando {RHC}.
4. On taking up my post as LINCO I had a handover/takeover briefing with my predecessor – Sergeant **R** Int Corps. Among a variety of documents, I was shown a copy of a report into an investigation concerning TARA and the activities of various personalities associated with it, which had been produced by the LINCO / CONCO in March 1975. I recall being somewhat interested in its subject matter as I already had, due to my previous tour, a

good background knowledge of Loyalist paramilitary and associated organisations but had never heard of TARA before.

5. I have been provided with a redacted, three-page copy of this report and acknowledge that this was the same document I was shown. However, I distinctly recall other elements of the report which have either been redacted or the copy I have been shown is incomplete. The missing elements I refer to concerned details of the TARA organisation, including: it's background, it's aims, it's 'Doomsday' remit {as a replacement government structure in the event of a sell-out of NI by Westminster}; it's recruitment policy, including the professional, social and financial requirement for potential members and the preference that they should already have a legally-held firearm. There was also reference to several leading members of the organisation having homosexual tendencies.
6. I also recall Sgt [REDACTED] R [REDACTED] commenting that the report had been passed 'up the chain' and that the instruction came back that no further action was to be taken. I personally did not question this at the time; however, I later had several discussions with Captain Gemmell at HQ 39 Bde during one of which he described how the report had been disseminated up to HQNI, in the normal way, but that a strongly worded rebuke had come back from them to drop the matter immediately – whether this rebuke was in written or verbal form, or by whom, I do not know. I do know from other, later, discussions with him that he continued privately to pursue the matter of TARA and reports of the abuse of boys at the Kincora premises. Capt Gemmell eventually left the Province, I believe prematurely, and I later heard that he had resigned his commission.
7. On one occasion, the date of which I cannot recall – although it would have been in the period of early 1976 – I was instructed to drive and escort an individual into East Belfast from HQ Northern Ireland. Such instructions were not unusual and there were several occasions when I, and others in similar roles, were instructed to drive and escort visitors from outside the Province, both military and civilian, to specific addresses or areas in Belfast. In such circumstances, it was normal procedure for the driver/escort to receive advance details of the address/location to be visited so that a risk assessment and route plan could be conducted. However, on this occasion I did not receive any advance

notification of the address, only that the unnamed visitor required to be driven into East Belfast and I would receive my directions from him at the time. It was usual for such instructions to come from 39 Bde as they were my operational controllers; however, I cannot now recall if this was the case in that instance.

8. My instructions were to pick up the individual at the front entrance of HQ Northern Ireland at a specific time in the evening – although I cannot be precise I believe it was in the region of 1900hrs. I remember it being already dark, which would indicate the timeframe to be probably before March 1976. I arrived driving my issued civilian vehicle and drove to the front entrance of HQNI where I was met by a man already standing and waiting. He was aged approximately mid-40s with somewhat curly dark hair, about 5ft 7ins in height, slim build, pointed features and wearing what appeared to be a suit under a fawn-coloured raincoat. The man had been provided with my name but at no time did he identify himself. He occupied the front passenger seat beside me and directed me to drive towards the Newtownards Road area of Belfast but did not identify the ultimate destination. During the journey, there was minimal small-talk but I remember forming the distinct, albeit subjective, opinion that he was not military but most probably civilian. This was not unusual and I thought little of it, presuming that he was from one of the civilian agencies or MOD. I drove via what was then known as the 'back road' to Belfast, via the Hillhall Road, Newtownbreda and Knock, which was generally regarded as the safer option.
9. It was only after we had joined the Upper Newtownards Road at Knock that he directed me to turn left towards Belfast and eventually instructed me to stop and turn right into a large detached house which sat on a road junction. The house had gates and a driveway to the left-hand-side and was positioned immediately on the junction of Upper Newtownards Road and a side road, the name of which I do not recall. On stopping to turn across the road I found that I could not gain access to the driveway as it was blocked by another vehicle and there was at least one behind that. I was thus forced to turn right on the side street, execute a U-turn and then turn left at the junction back onto the main road, to be able to position my vehicle on the footpath parallel to the wall. This was not an ideal situation from my perspective for security purposes but the best available option given the circumstances. The man then exited the vehicle and indicated that he would be approximately an hour or

possibly less. He then walked up the driveway towards the house but passed out of sight due to trees and bushes. I remained with the vehicle and alternated with occasional checks on foot along the side and front of the house. I did not enter the grounds at any time. There were no incidents and eventually the man returned to the vehicle. I do not recall how long he was away but I do not remember it being significantly longer or shorter than an hour. I did not observe anyone else in or around the house during the period in question. I then drove via the same route back to Lisburn and dropped the man off at the perimeter entrance of HQNI. There was again minimal small talk during the return trip. I did not see this man again.

10. Although I did not realise the significance of the house at that time, I did later become aware that it was the Kincora premises. I do not recall whether Brian Gemmell was still in post at that time.
11. Towards the end of 1976 I moved from East Belfast to take over as LINCO Belfast City Centre and my territory and responsibilities changed accordingly.
12. I confirm that in the early to mid 1990's I spoke to Chris Moore about the above events. I confirm that from reading the extract from Chris Moore's book on Kincora I am confident that I am the person who he refers to as "Dennis" (at pages 144 and 145). I further confirm that I believe that Mr Moore misrepresented what I told him in certain aspects. The above account is the accurate account of what I told Mr Moore.

I confirm that this statement is true to the best of my knowledge and memory.

Dennis



21 December 2016