

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 272

Witness Name: HIA 272

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

ADDENDUM TO WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 272

I, **HIA 272** will say as follows:-

1. Having taken time to consider the contents of my witness Statement dated 24 February 2015, I wish to make an addendum to that Statement in order to provide details of other incidents which occurred during my time in custody.

Millisle Borstal

2. I absconded from St Pat's Training School in 1973 and when I was located I was remanded in custody to Crumlin Road prison. I was put in a wing of the prison which was controlled by Republican paramilitary prisoners. They controlled their wing of the prison and we had to abide by their rules. I found this particularly frightening as I was only 16 years old at the time and was imprisoned in a wing with bombers and gunmen.
3. I was there for approximately 2 months before I was brought back to Court and I was sentenced to Borstal and transferred to Armagh Prison. The magistrate accepted the evidence of two Christian Brothers who believed that Borstal was the best option as I was beyond their control and a bad influence on others in St Patricks. I spent three months at Armagh and it was a harsh but fair environment. I did not experience any bullying or sexual advances during my time there despite being one of the youngest there.
4. I was transferred to Millisle for good behaviour. However, I remember a few hours after I arrived I was told to get my new uniform and laundry by a member of staff called Mr Skillen who was known as "Punchy". He was bald

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and stocky and looking me up and down. He was so close to me that I could smell his breath. He suddenly grabbed my testicles and head-butted me at the same time. I was so shocked that I just stood there and did not react. Another officer and prisoner were present and they laughed as well.

5. There was a large clothes dryer in the laundry and Mr Skillen and two other members of staff bundled me in to the machine and shut the door. One of them turned the machine on for a second and scared me to death. It was a terrifying experience and one which I will never forget.
6. I complained to the Governor about this incident the next morning. I was told that the matter would be investigated. At 10 am, I was allocated a job scrubbing floors. I was on my hands and knees for 8 hours. I had to scrub the dining hall from one end to the other by lunchtime. I scrubbed as fast as I could and I managed to finish by lunchtime.
7. The other inmates came into the dining room in order to have their lunch and afterwards they all went back to their jobs. However I was told that I had to scrub the dining floor again by **LN 22**. I told him that the floor had been checked and passed by another officer as clean. He grabbed me by my ear and brought me back to the dining hall leaving black marks on the shiny floor as he went. He kicked the bucket of dirty water over the floor and told me to get it cleaned up by suppertime.
8. I had to scrub it again with a 9 inch scrubbing brush, a bar of soap and water. I only had a piece of foam for knee protection. This routine continued for approximately one month and I was becoming depressed. My hands and knees and back were all very painful, although never painful enough to be excused from work. I could not believe an officer could be so callous.
9. After a month, I was told I was moving to another job. Initially, I was relieved, but in fact I was just asked to start scrubbing the front of the building by Mr **LN 23**. I was warned to look at the floor if any ladies came into the office or I would be punished. I was at breaking point at this stage. I complained to

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one of the staff members, [REDACTED] LN 24 as I felt I was being punished even though I had not done anything wrong. He shrugged his shoulders and said "We Officers stick together". I understood this to mean that my treatment was because I had reported Mr Skillen for assault.

10. After 2 months of scrubbing, I snapped and refused to do anymore. I was reported to the Governor and punished by receiving 5 days in solitary confinement and 28 days of loss of night time association. When I was in solitary confinement, I had to stand facing the wall for 2 or 3 hours at a time and answer questions on the Bible which was the only reading material I had.

11. When I was released from solitary confinement, I was placed in the kitchen helping out and I was happy there during the day. In the evening, I had to sit in a small metal box with a narrow seat from 6 until 10 pm for a month until by punishment was complete. It was called the doggie box as it was in the same shape as the starting boxes at a greyhound race-track. This was an isolating and depressing experience. I had no-one to chat to in the evening.

12. Millisle was rife with sexual predators at night time. I was aware of people being raped when the lights were out. I remember once I heard another inmate being forced to give oral sex to older inmates. This was never reported. I remember my time there as being hell. Eventually, I absconded and I spent the rest of my sentence in Long Kesh together with an additional sentence of 12 months for escaping from lawful custody.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed [REDACTED] HIA 272

Dated 9.3.15

J 588

MAGISTRATES' COURTS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1964
(Rule 19 - Form 143)

CERTIFICATE OF CONVICTION OR ORDER

Superintendent Thompson, Complainant
of the R.U.C. Belfast.

Petty Sessions District of Belfast

HIA272 (Young Person) Defendant.

County Borough of Belfast.

I certify that upon the hearing of a Complaint, that

Defendant on the 15th day of January 1973 at Belfast being a person in lawful custody at St Patrick's Training School, did escape from such custody, Contrary to Section 140 Sub-section 1(A) of the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968.

an Order

a Conviction was made on the 14th day of February 1973, by

the Court in Summary Jurisdiction against the said HIA272

of [redacted] to the following effect, viz.:

Defendant HIA272 being a young person under the age of 17 having been brought before the Court under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the ground that on the 15th day of January 1973 he escaped from St Patrick's Training School, Belfast in which he was detained;

It is hereby ordered that he, having attained the age of 15, be sent to a Borstal Institution and he shall be lodged in accordance with part VI of the Prison Rules (Northern Ireland) 1954 in the Prison at Belfast and thereafter conveyed to the said Institution and there delivered to the person in charge thereof in order that he may undergo a period of Borstal Training.

COMPARED WITH ORIGINAL
AND CERTIFIED CORRECT

[Signature]

A. G. Mc...
Recorder of the Court of Petty Sessions
& of Clerk of Petty Sessions.

This 8th day of February 1974

Prison.

General Register

B518 W1164 Da161/4 9 Bks 6,32 S3920 W & S M

Former Reference	No. of Times		No.	NAMES	DESCRIPTION					Marks on Person	Weight on		Where Born	Last Residence	Next-of-kin with Name and Address	Trade or Occupation	
	C.	M.			Age	Height		Hair	Eyes		Complexion	Admission Lbs.					Discharge Lbs. (cf. 353)
						Feet	Inches										
12/73				HIA272	16	5	8"	D BR	BR	Fresh						Schoolboy	

of Prisoners.

HMP 2/1/1/24 P18

Married or Single	Religion	Degree of Education	Date of Committal <small>Cir. Memo. of 31st October, 1965</small>			OFFENCE	Court from which Committed	Sentence	Fine, Bail, or Hard Labour	Expiration of Sentence	After Reference	FURTHER REMARKS
			On Remand	For Trial	Under Sentence							
S	le			14/2/73	Escape from T.S.	Belfast PS. 14.2.73.	B.T.					Woburn 18.4.73
					ABSCONDED # 30/6/73. APPREHENDED BY RUC DONEGALL PASS 5.2.74 REMANDED BELFAST PRISON - FURTHER CHARGES							

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Laundry.

Mr. Skillen is to be highly commended for the efficient way he runs the laundry. Since the serious disturbance at the Maze Prison he has taken on additional laundry from that establishment and this has greatly increased the work load.

Administration.

The administration department under the control of Mr. J. Lyons has maintained its usual high standard of efficiency during 1974.

Chaplains.

Our four Visiting Chaplains have faithfully attended to the spiritual welfare of our trainees throughout the year. On Sunday mornings boys go to their respective churches and are well received by the congregations.

Visiting Committee.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Eves - Chairman and members of the Visiting Committee for all the valuable help and assistance they have given throughout the year. We were sorry to lose Dr. McGarry and Mr. Rhodes both of whom resigned. Dr. McGarry was appointed to a post which fully occupies his time and Mr. Rhodes left to take over a business in England. We wish them every success in their new ventures. We were deeply saddened by the death of Mr. E.B. Mitchell, D.L., B.A. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word and had given long and faithful service. We sympathise with his wife and family in their sad loss. Mr. J. Smith, Cloughey was appointed to the committee during the year.

Reviewing Body.

Members of the Reviewing Body met monthly to consider the progress and response to training of all trainees.

Probation Service.

We are grateful to Mr. McMahon - Chief Probation Officer and all members of the Probation Service for their help and co-operation. Trainees are visited regularly and supervising officers are most helpful in finding employment for trainees on release.

Visitors.

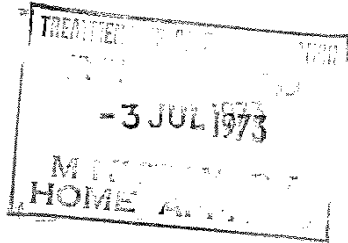
As in previous years we had many visitors, Mr. Van Straubencee - Minister of State spent an afternoon with us in January. Lord Donaldson paid a similar visit in May. Messrs Jack and Shearer - Resident Magistrates also visited in May and two High Court Judges - Mr. Justice Kelly and Mr. Justice McDermott came to see us in August. We were pleased to welcome these gentlemen and other members of various professional bodies who visited during the year. All showed great interest in the work which is going on in Borstal.

In conclusion I wish to record my sincere thanks to all members of staff for their loyal support during the year 1974, and in particular Mr. Smith - Assistant Governor II, Chief Officers W.S. Chambers, ML 46 and Steward - Mr. J. Lyons.

I certify that the Rules governing the administration of Borstal Institutions have been adhered to.

ML 57

ML 57 - Governor.



H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle.
2nd July, 1973.

HIA 272

I have to report that the above named trainee escaped from this establishment on Saturday afternoon, 30th June, 1973.

HIA272 and another trainee had been working in the kitchen making tea for visitors. When a check took place after visits were over he was reported to be missing. On investigation it was found that he had escaped by sawing through a bar in the window of the kitchen store.

The usual abscond routine was put into operation and the R.U.C., informed but to date there has been no trace of the trainee.

The Ministry will be kept informed of any further developments.

ML 57

/s/ Governor.

The Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Dundonald House,
Belfast BT4 3SU.

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of [redacted]

Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21") Over 21 years,

Occupation of Witness Police Constable.

Address R.U.C. Station, Donaghadee, Co. Down.

I am a Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, stationed at Donaghadee, Co. Down. On the 19th. March, 1974, I made a deposition at Newtownards Magistrates Court. I preferred the present charge against HIA272 [redacted] and cautioned him. After caution and in reply to the charge, he said, " Nothing to Say. " I have not yet completed my enquiries into the case and pray a remand until the 2nd. April, 1974, to enable me to do so.

I made further depositions at Newtownards Magistrates Court on the 2nd. April, 1974, and on the 16th. April, 1974, requesting further remands until the 30th. April, 1974, to enable me to complete my enquiries.

I refer to these depositions and further state that when I interviewed the defendant, HIA272 [redacted] at Her Majesty's Prison, Crumlin Road, Belfast, on the 6th. February, 1974, in connection with the charge now before the Court, he replied, after caution, " I have nothing to say other than I wanted a transfer from the Borstal at

Millisle. "I declare that this statement signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 18th. day of April, 19 74.

Signature of member by whom statement was recorded or received.

Signature of Witness

The said Witness being unable to read the above statement, I declare that I of read it to before he/she signed it and he/she assented to it in accordance with Section 3(3) of the Criminal Procedure (Committal for Trial) Act (Northern Ireland) 1968.

Dated this day of 19 [redacted]

Signature of Reader

Reference

Northern Ireland Office
 Dundonald House
 Upper Newtownards Road
 Belfast BT4 3SU

DOWN COUNTY COURT AT NEWTOWNARDS ON 13 MAY 1974

The Clerk of the Crown and Peace
 County Courthouse
 Downpatrick
 Co Down

REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 7(2) OF THE CRIMINAL
 JUSTICE ACT (NI) 1953 AS TO THE SUITABILITY OF A PERSON
 TO UNDERGO A SENTENCE OF BORSTAL TRAINING

DEFENDANT

HIA272

AGE

17 years. DATE OF BIRTH

MEDICAL REPORT

Fit for Borstal Training.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The defendant is the [REDACTED] of a family of 2 girls and 5 boys whose ages range from 21 years to 6 years and normally resides with his parents in a 4-bedroomed Northern Ireland Housing Executive house at [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. The home is said to be well kept. His father is in regular employment as [REDACTED] his mother is engaged in household duties. The defendant's younger sister and 3 younger brothers are attending school.

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

The defendant has never been in regular employment.

BORSTAL GOVERNOR'S
REMARKS

HIA272 was received in the closed institution at Armagh on 15.2.73 and was transferred to Woburn House on 18.4.73. After a short period on general cleaning duties he was allocated to work in the kitchen. On Saturday afternoon 30.6.73 HIA272 and another trainee had been working in the kitchen making tea for visitors. When a check took place after visiting time he was reported to be missing. On investigation it was discovered that he had escaped by sawing through a bar in the window of the kitchen store. He was unlawfully at large until 6.2.74 when he was apprehended by the RUC and remanded to prison. On 26.2.74 he appeared at Belfast Petty Sessions charged with offences committed whilst he was unlawfully at large and received a sentence of 4 months' imprisonment.

This young man never made any attempt to settle down in Borstal and was only waiting for the opportunity to escape. It was perfectly clear that he intended to follow the same pattern he set up in the Training School where he had already absconded about 26 times.

Considering the length of time HIA272 was at large and that he is now serving a prison sentence it is my opinion that Borstal is not the answer in this case. Some other form of custodial treatment will be necessary.

PRISON GOVERNOR'S
REMARKS

Non-co-operation; due to his attitude and the nature of the offence I cannot recommend Borstal Training.