

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 320

Witness Name: HIA 320

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 320

I, HIA 320 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] and lived at home with my parents, [REDACTED] and my brothers and sisters. I have [REDACTED] brothers and [REDACTED] sister and I am the middle child of the family. We lived in our own house near [REDACTED]. My father worked in [REDACTED] and my mother was a housewife. My father drank heavily and he wasn't very nice to my mother. She had to struggle with the house and she suffered a lot.
2. My mother used to beat me when I lived at home. I was thin as a child and I suffered a lot from allergies. I also used to wet the bed a lot so she probably viewed me as a weak child.
3. I used to sell newspapers to earn money because my father drank and I used to give the money to my mother. I also shoplifted and gave her some money made from that as well. My mother had to go to court once because I was caught shoplifting. She told the Judge that she could not cope with me and with what I was doing so they put me on remand at St Patrick's Training School in or around the mid 1970's.

PRIVATE

St Patrick's Training School , Belfast (In/around mid 1970's)

4. At St Pat's there was a daily routine. I think we got up at 8 o'clock and went down for breakfast and we were allowed to smoke even though we were underage. Then we went to school at nine o'clock. My teacher was called **BR 87** and he was a nice man although I believe he was a drinker. He was nice but I was too aggressive in class and he would not teach me. Sometimes instead I would help the cleaner, **STP 77** clean the corridors. He was an **██████████** as far as I can remember. I remember that there was a TV room and a table tennis table and a small snooker table that we were allowed to use.
5. I slept in a dormitory at first but later on the dormitories were partitioned off and all the boys got their own rooms. I cannot remember when this happened. The food was okay and was better than the bare minimum that you received in borstal. I do not recall seeing any Social Workers and Probation was not really a big thing then so I have no memory of ever seeing a Probation Officer.
6. I received visits from my mother when I was in St Pat's as my father was working at the time. My mother came up when she could as she had to keep the family going. As time went on I was able to get home leave at the weekend but I did not always go home as my home life was so unhappy. I would sometimes abscond at the weekend but I would always end up back at St Pat's either by returning voluntarily or the police catching me. The Brothers gave you gym shorts to wear if you ran away to try to deter you from running away again.
7. There were a few members of staff who were a bit vicious in the way they treated the boys. I remember that they would have belted us at times. The names that I remember are **SPT 2** who was a bit of a bully, and **STP 78** **STP 78** They were both housemasters. St Pat's was a strange lonely place and some of the staff were not very nice. If you did something wrong then they would slap you or stop your weekend parole. **BR 20** hit a friend of mine called **STP 79** and I remember he took him out of the dining hall and he beat him with a strap. There was a lot of violence in the place and people got slapped and punched. **BR 4** was a quiet big man but he would have whacked

PRIVATE

you too. BR 46 was a strict man but he was fair although he left fairly early after I was sent to St Pat's. I recall one occasion when he smacked me on my face for smoking a cigarette. There was frequent bullying going on and I ended up becoming a bully myself. There was a tier system between the boys and I was able to handle myself but I hate myself for that today.

8. I remember that we were taken to Lisburn Swimming Pool for swimming lessons. There was a member of staff and his name was DL 137 I do not know his surname but he was a DL 137 and he was just always called DL 137. There were two DL 137 DL 137 and DL 137 DL 137 looked after the boys in the evenings and took them to the pool as well as being employed as a DL 137 DL 137 kept putting his hand down my swimming pants and I really didn't understand what was going on because I was so young. As the weeks went on I started to understand a bit more. Back at St Pat's, he came up to me and he offered me cigarettes to go into the swimming pool to have sex with him but I refused.
9. He was always at me and he would corner me sometimes and let on to jokingly wrestle but I was uncomfortable with this and I was afraid of him. I believe that later he was on trial for assaulting some young people. I think he was convicted for sexual offences. I saw him on occasion wrestling with other boys in the home but we never discussed it between ourselves or reported any incidents to staff. There was a stigma attached to that type of behaviour and everyone felt that there was no point in reporting it to staff in the home as they would not have listened to us.
10. I saw DL 137 once in later years on Tate's Avenue near the Lisburn Road and I confronted him about what he had done to me. I don't know what year that was but it was in or around the late 1990's. He just said that his head was away. I've always thought about him sexually assaulting me but I've never wanted to talk about it before.
11. In or around 1976/1977 I was placed at Lisnevin Assessment Centre, Newtownards for six weeks. I was transferred from there back to St Patrick's

PRIVATE

Training School. I absconded from St Patrick's in 1978. I was out of the home for six months until I was caught by the police in February 1979 and sent to borstal in Millisle.

Millisle Borstal (February 1979)

12. I left St Pat's when I was 16 as far as I can remember and was sent to the Borstal in Millisle. I believe I was there for approximately a year but I cannot be certain. On my arrival I got assaulted by **LN 18**, a Prison Officer in the Assessment Centre, and I started screaming. Other staff had to come in as well as the Governor to see what was happening. The Governor knew he hit me and he was called **ML 71, LN 19** and was very nice to me.
13. After that first incident, there were a couple of angry Prison Officers that didn't like me and didn't make it easy for me but I had the Governors on my side. One of these officers was called **LN 20**. They slapped me in the face or put you in the punishment block and made things very difficult for me. **LN 21** was in charge of me and he was a kind man. He knew that I was getting assaulted and I think he told those doing it to stop.

Life after care

14. I suffer from depression and I have tried to commit suicide on a number of occasions. I have cut myself and have taken overdoses and I consider myself to be a troubled person. I went to see a psychiatrist in London but I didn't tell her about anything that happened to me during my time in St Pat's or Borstal even though she asked me about my background. I am taking tablets called Mirtazapine because they help me sleep and I don't sleep very well.
15. I would have to say I was a troubled young man. I was very afraid of things probably because my childhood wasn't so good. I think it now affects me in real life and I am trying to deal with it. I suffer from stress and I suppose anger and depression. I should have had counselling when I was younger but there was no one you could speak to about it at that time.

PRIVATE

16. My father died about [REDACTED] ago due to alcoholism. My mother suffers from [REDACTED] and is in a nursing home in Northern Ireland. I keep in contact with one brother who lives in England but I don't see my other siblings very often.
17. I married when I was eighteen years old. We were married for twenty years and we had [REDACTED] children but my wife and I are no longer together. My children now range in age from [REDACTED] years old. I have maintained a good relationship with all of them. I was involved in low level crime throughout my marriage, mainly theft, burglary and criminal damage. I spent periods of time in and out of many prisons both in Northern Ireland and England. During August 2000 I was arrested for assaulting a police officer and criminal damage. I moved to London to live with my brother.
18. I went to London in 2000 and thought I would leave Northern Ireland to stay out of trouble. I met a girl in 2001 and we have been together since then. We have one daughter who is [REDACTED] years old and I try my best to provide for her. I have stayed out of trouble since meeting her and I now live a very settled life. I am working as a self employed decorator because even at St Pat's I was always good with my hands and because I didn't want to be signing on the dole my whole life.
19. I still continue to suffer from depression and the after effects of being in care. I have good days and bad days.

PRIVATE

Statement of Truth

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

Signed **HIA 320**

Dated 11/04/15

08 JAN 2016

HIA REF: []
NAME: LN18 []
DATE: [01/01/2016]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of

I, LN18 [], will say as follows: -

1. I was transferred to Millisle Borstal on the [] and after a while on general duties and a period of time as assistant class officer on the Assessment Wing I was then selected as [] officer. My responsibilities were to instruct those Trainees in the routine, rules and regulations of the Closed Borstal on their committal. I also sat on the labour allocation board to report on the Trainees progress and those ready to move to other landings and work. Whilst in the Assessment Wing most of their time was taken up with cleaning duties and Physical Education.
2. I strongly deny this allegation made against me by HIA320 []
3. Staff could not place any Borstal Trainee in the punishment block as alleged without instructions from the Governor or after adjudication and if the records could be checked it would show that the punishment block was seldom used. If LN19 [] thought I had done something wrong I would have been charged and removed from the wing.

4. Many of the Borstal Trainees were anti-authority and did not like taking orders or instructions but the majority went on to become better individuals and make something of their life without reoffending.
5. I was promoted on the [REDACTED] to Senior Officer and then promoted to Principal Officer on the [REDACTED] and having served [REDACTED] years I retired on [REDACTED] and was awarded the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Statement of Truth

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

Signed **LN18**

Dated 01-01-16

HIA REF: [LN 20]

NAME: LN20

DATE: [18/1/16]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of LN20

I, LN20 will say as follows: -

1. I worked in the capacity of Prison Officer at HMP (Closed) Borstal Millisle between 1977 and 1980 when I left and went to Hydebank.
2. I have read the relevant portion of the statement made to the Inquiry by HIA320 I have no recollection whatsoever of any young man of that name during my time at Millisle.
3. I never at any stage slapped or physically abused any young person under my control and categorically deny the allegation made. I certainly was never approached by or spoken to by a colleague who had concerns over my treatment of a young person.
4. This was a time before proper training in, or any formally regulated policies for the use of restraint and physical force in dealing with violent inmates. However I never used or indeed witnessed anything but reasonable force being used, and only in those circumstances which absolutely demanded it.
5. The main form of restraint used at that time, as I remember it, consisted of physically pushing a boy into his room and locking the door behind him.

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

**FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RESPONSE BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO
WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA320 (HIA 320)**

I, Stephen Davis, have been authorised to make this statement on behalf of the Department of Justice. I am the Director of Operations (Northern Ireland Prison Service), a senior civil servant in the Department. The information contained in this statement is based on a review of files undertaken by staff under my supervision.

The Department of Justice will say as follows:

1. The Department has submitted a separate statements relating to HIA 320's allegations about his time in St Patrick's Training School (see SPT-106 to SPT-118) and his comments in relation to Lisnevin Training School (see LSN-228 to LSN-233).
2. We have conducted an extensive research of our records in relation to HIA 320's time in Millisle Borstal. However, we have been unable to locate a personal file for HIA 320.
3. The Department notes HIA 320's comments at paragraphs 12 and 13 of his statement to the Inquiry. HIA 320's criminal record can be found at SPT-26258 to SPT-26269. SPT-26259 shows that HIA was sentenced to Borstal training on 19 February 1979 for a series of offences including assault, disorderly behaviour and theft.
4. Records show that LN 18 joined the Prison Service on [REDACTED] he was transferred from HMP Maze on [REDACTED] and he commenced working in Borstal on [REDACTED]. He left Borstal on [REDACTED]. LN19 left the Prison Service on [REDACTED] (see Exhibit 1). LN20 [REDACTED] who could be the [REDACTED] mentioned in HIA 320's statement to the Inquiry commenced working in Millisle

Borstal on [REDACTED] and was transferred to Hydebank on [REDACTED] (see Exhibit 2).

5. The Department, to the best of its knowledge, has supplied all relevant information it could find in its possession in relation to HIA 320. If additional information is discovered by the Department, it will be drawn to the attention of the Inquiry immediately.
6. The Department has not received a civil claim in respect of HIA 320. The Department has not received a request for disclosure of personal data (Form 81) from the PSNI.
7. The Department condemns without reservation any act of abuse which may have been perpetrated against any individual at Millisle Borstal. Those who were placed in that facility had every right to expect that they would be cared for with dignity and respect, treated compassionately and protected from abuse. Those who operated the Borstal facility on a day-to-day basis or who were responsible for its management, ought to have been fully aware of the high standards expected of them when caring for young people. They should have known that acts of physical, sexual or emotional abuse were unacceptable. They ought to have known that allegations of abuse, where they were raised, should have been reported to the appropriate authorities. The Department condemns the perpetrators of any such abuse as well as those who may have ignored the abuse or tolerated its occurrence.

Statement of Truth

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



Date: 15 December 2015