

HIA REF: [LN 20]

NAME: LN 20

DATE: [18/1/16]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of LN 20

I, LN 20 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 Mr HIA 320I 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.

6. The other part of the allegation against me is simply impossible. Prison Officers had no power to send a young person to the punishment block. If a complaint was made as to the behaviour of a young person he would go before the Governor and it would be for him to decide on what, if any, punishment was appropriate. This order from the Governor could on occasions have included periods in the punishment block.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

LN 20

Dated

19/01/2016

REPORT ON AN OFFICER WHO HAS COMPLETED

- (a) PRELIMINARY TRAINING.
- WAKEFIELD TRAINING.
- INTERIM PROBATION.
- FINAL PROBATION.
- TRIAL PERIOD.

Rank V/Olt

Name. LN 20

... TYPE. SOLD. RESPONSIBLE. SECURITY ASSISTANT
 . HAVE THE OWN DECISIONS NOT AS HE GAINS EXPERIENCE THE
 PLANTS AND HOME TIPS. HANDLE TRAINING PARRY BUT PARRY.
 ... DO WELL IN THE SERVICE.

Signature [Signature]

Rank or designation T.P. Off.

24 - 1 - 1979

(a) Delete whichever is inapplicable

No. 294 24936-6-5-54

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

REPORT ON AN OFFICER WHO HAS COMPLETED

- (a) PRELIMINARY TRAINING.
- WAKEFIELD TRAINING.
- INTERIM PROBATION.
- FINAL PROBATION.
- TRIAL PERIOD.

Rank v/lt.

Name **LN 20**

Officer **LN 20** continues to make progress, although he lacks confidence in some areas. I feel he will overcome this as he gains experience.

Signature **ML 46**

Rank or designation _____
24.1.1977

(a) Delete whichever is inapplicable
No. 294 24936-6-5-54

Personnel Report

- (a) PRELIMINARY TRAINING.
- WAKEFIELD TRAINING.
- INTERIM PROBATION.
- FINAL PROBATION.
- TRIAL PERIOD.

REPORT ON AN OFFICER WHO HAS COMPLETED

Rank *U/OFC*

Name **LN 20**

An officer who has gained commendatory reports from senior members of staff. He is interested in his work and it is apparent that he is anxious to learn and to increase his job knowledge. I am satisfied with his present progress and I am sure that when he gains more experience he will be an asset to any ~~department~~.

Signature **ML 71**

Rank or designation *HG-1*

25 / *1* / 19 *70*

(a) Delete whichever is inapplicable

No. 294 24936 - 6-5-54

REPORT ON OFFICER COMPLETING PERIOD OF PROBATION TRIAL

H.M. Burnell. M. M. M. M. 24 / 19 79.

Rank U/OFF.

Name LN 20

The above named Officer having served the (1) probation trial period of 24 months,
I have to report that in my opinion he is

making reasonable progress

and to recommend that (2) his services be retained

(3) Reports from the Officers under whom the period of probation trial has been served, are appended, and the Record of Service and Medical History Sheet are enclosed.

[Handwritten Signature]
Governor

To N-0.
The

well
14/2/79

- (1) Here insert "usual," "extended," or "special" as applicable.
- (2) Here state { "His appointment be confirmed," or, "He be placed on an extended trial period of,"
"His period of trial be regarded as ended" } probation
- (naming the period,) or, "He revert to his former position," or "His engagement be terminated as having failed to pass a satisfactory probation," or, in the case of an Officer recommended for reversion to a lower rank, "He reverts to the rank of _____ from which he was promoted on trial."
- (3) (a) Cooks and Bakers. A report from the Medical Officer should be enclosed with reference to the Officer's capabilities as regards kitchen management, cleanliness of the premises, preparation of food and supervision of kitchen staff.
- (d) Hospital Officers. A report from the Medical Officer should be submitted.
- (c) Trade Assistants. A report from the Foreman of Works should be submitted.

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 [REDACTED] to see what was happening. The [REDACTED] knew he hit me and he was called [ML 71] 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.