

**STATEMENT OF STEPHEN DAVIS TO THE HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL
ABUSE INQUIRY JANUARY 2016**

Career History

1. My name is Stephen Davis and I am currently the Acting Director of Operational Policy within the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS). A position I have held since June 2015.
2. I have been asked by the Inquiry to provide an explanation of the basis upon which I have furnished statements to the Inquiry, to outline my career history and to clarify whether I have any direct or working knowledge of the operation of the Millisle Borstal.
3. Having regard to my grade and job functions, I am the senior person within NIPS with the authority to sign general statements relating to NIPS for the Inquiry.
4. The information contained in the statements on Millisle Borstal that have been provided to the Inquiry and signed off by me, are based on a review of files, reports and literature undertaken by staff under my supervision.
5. I have been a member of the Northern Ireland Prison Service for more than 30 years, joining as a 'direct entrant' Assistant Governor Trainee in September 1985.
6. While I was classed as a 'direct entrant' Assistant Governor Trainee, my initial training required me to attend induction and train as a Basic Grade Officer. To progress I was required to satisfactorily complete the full induction training as applied to all officer recruits before commencing specific training designed to equip me for my future role as an operational Governor within the Northern Ireland Prison Service.
7. My induction into the Northern Ireland Prison Service commenced with a week-long job familiarization at Belfast Prison, which included general matters such as getting a uniform, instruction in general expectations and behaviours and gaining

experience of 'the prison environment' by shadowing officers in different situations engaged in a range of tasks.

8. This general introduction into NIPS was followed by a 6-8 week Officer Training Course at the Prison Service College, PSC Millisle. By the time of my induction into NIPS the Millisle Borstal had closed and the buildings that had previously provided this function were by that time used exclusively for staff training and development.
9. My initial induction training course was aimed at ensuring that all individuals were equipped to perform the role of a Main Grade or Basic Grade Officer within NIPS.
10. From my recollection the course included:
 - The structure of NIPS including the nature and role of each of the 5 operational establishments.
 - The role and responsibilities of the role of a Basic Grade Prison Officer, their legal authority, the historic development, their position within the structure of the Prison Service and the legal status of prisons.
 - The legislation from which the power of an officer is derived and the sentencing policy within Northern Ireland. This included the regulations which apply to the different categories of prisoners.
 - Briefing on the security situation within Northern Ireland and the restrictions that this placed upon members of the Prison Service. The challenging behaviours of paramilitary prisoners and what could be described as counter –conditioning training.
 - The application of general operational and security procedures/systems within a prison. Such training included the operation of security equipment, how to conduct different types of searches, the maintenance of different journals, completion of simple reports, general prisoner supervision arrangements, conduct of different types of escorts etc.
 - Training on the role of an officer within the disciplinary process including

the provision of written reports and the presentation of evidence.

- The law and the Prison Rules regarding the use of force, including an explanation of the terms minimum and necessary. Control and Restraint techniques were taught. This included the nature of the equipment, the application of wrist and arm-locks, removing a violent prisoner from a cell, operating as a 3 person team and use of a baton. Breakaway techniques were also taught.
- Training in the code of conduct and discipline as it applied to prison staff.

9. Upon completion of this Officer Induction programme at PSC Millisle all recruits destined to be officers were informed of their respective establishments. In my case I was posted to HMP Belfast as an Assistant Governor Trainee. As a 'direct entrant' Assistant Governor Trainee, it was envisaged that my training would last a total of two years. This was broken down into periods of training at PSC Millisle, familiarisation with operational duties, periods of secondment to organisations such as Probation Board for Northern Ireland as well as a period with another Prison Service in the UK. I was also required to undertake a range of special projects and extended study, known as 'the Yellow Pages' so named because of the coloration of the paper they were written on. These were designed to be pieces of work unique to the establishment at which the A/G was working and were designed to provide in-depth knowledge and understanding.

10. While it was originally envisaged that Assistant Governors would spend up to 2 years training I commenced the full range of operational duties, at HMP Belfast, shortly after 12 months. A synopsis of my roles within the Northern Ireland Prison Service is as follows:


- 1985 -1987 – Posted to HMP Belfast as an Assistant Governor Trainee (AG(T)) made an operational Assistant Governor within approximately 12 months and had responsibility for Residential Functions and Security.
- 1987 – 1992 – Transferred to HMP Magilligan as an Assistant Governor under 'Way Forward' restructuring arrangements I was re-graded to Governor V in 1989. I held a range of positions in Residential and

Security.

- 1992 -1997 – Transferred to HMP Maghaberry as a Governor V was temporary promoted for 12 months to Governor IV. I was substantively promoted to Governor IV in July 1997.
- 1997 – 2000 – Transferred on promotion to HMP Maze as Head of Operations.
- 2000 – 2002 – Transferred to HMP Maghaberry as Governor IV Head of Operations following the closure of Maze Prison.
- 2002 – 2003 - Transferred to HM YOC Hydebank Wood as Deputy Governor.
- 2003 – 2007 - Promoted to Governor III and took over as Governing Governor HM YOC Hydebank Wood. In 2005 I was promoted to Governor II when the in-charge position of Hydebank Wood was re-graded following the closure of Mourne House and the transfer of the women to Hydebank in July 2004.
- 2007 – 2009 – Transferred to HMP Maghaberry as Governor II Deputy Governor.
- 2009 – 2010 – Seconded onto the Organised Crime Taskforce within Northern Ireland.
- 2010 – 2012 – Transferred to Prison Service Headquarters as Head of Professional Standards.
- 2012 -2015 – Transferred to HMP Magilligan as Governing Governor.
- 2015 – to-date – Temporarily promoted to Acting / Director of Operational Policy at Prison Service Headquarters.

11. As can be seen from my career history I joined the Northern Ireland Prison Service after Millisle Borstal closed and have no knowledge of the operation of that facility. Further, my first involvement with Hydebank Wood Young Offenders

Centre and male young offenders occurred after 1995, commencing in 2002.

Handwritten signature of Stephen Davis in cursive script.

18/12/15

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
STATEMENT TO THE HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

MILLISLE BORSTAL

18 December 2015

Declaration

This statement to the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry (HIAI) has been prepared on behalf of the Department of Justice (DOJ) in response to the Rule 9 request from the Inquiry, dated 20 November 2015.

The statement has been prepared on the basis of information contained in files currently held by the DOJ and information in the public domain. Should further information become available, it may be necessary to provide to the HIAI, revised or supplementary statements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Davis", with a horizontal line underneath it.**Signed****18 December 2015**

Stephen Davis (on behalf of the Department of Justice)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
STATEMENT TO THE HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

MILLISLE BORSTAL

Department of Justice Declaration

I, Stephen Davis, will say as follows:

This statement has been provided on behalf of the Department of Justice (DOJ) in response to the Rule 9 request of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry (HIAI) dated 23 December 2015. It has been prepared on the basis of information contained in the files currently held by the Department. If further information becomes available, it may be necessary to provide to the HIAI, revised or supplementary statements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Davis", is written over a horizontal line.

Signed

Stephen Davis

Date 11 January 2016

In response to the Inquiries request for information on listed Officers in respect of:

1. When they worked in Millisle Borstal?

2. What role they performed?

We cannot be specific about the roles the listed officers performed but where possible we have supplied information on the grade(s) they held.

- (i) [REDACTED] Officer Skillen – we have not been able to identify from [REDACTED] personnel records when Officer Skillen worked at Millisle or what role/grade he was. However, I have sought and obtained further information in relation to Officer Skillen (and other officers as set out below) from Duncan McLaughlan, who was Governor at the Borstal between 1974 and 1981. He has recalled that Officer Skillen was a Basic Grade Officer who worked in the laundry and also that he was the Officer who was responsible for administering corporal punishment. A statement was supplied to the Inquiry in relation to Officer Skillen on 19 November 2015. The personnel file was destroyed in 2000.

Mr McLaughlan has also advised that in his experience, [REDACTED] Officer Skillen was a caring man who, to his knowledge, had positive relationships with Borstal trainees and was someone who had his respect. Mr McLaughlan was content with [REDACTED] Officer Skillen performance of his duties.

- (ii) **Officer** ML 7 - worked at Millisle between 18 March 1978 and 30 September 1980 as a Basic Grade Officer. Personnel Files are available for Officer **ML 7** and have been supplied with this statement.

Mr McLaughlan recalls **ML 7** as an officer who carried out routine prison officer duties with nothing in particular to make him stand out from the other Borstal staff.

- (iii) **Officer** LN 18 – worked at Millisle between 18 March 1978 and 30 September 1980 as a Basic Grade Officer. Personnel Files are available for Officer **LN 18** and have been supplied with this statement.

As with Officer **ML 7** Mr McLaughlan remembers Officer **LN 18** serving at Millisle but does not recall anything in particular about him.

- (iv) **Officer** ■ – worked in Millisle between 29 February 1964 and 8 April 1973, and again between 4 September 1978 and 4 August 1985. He held the post of Basic Grade Officer between 29 February 1964 and 1 June 1969; Senior Officer between 2 June 1969 and 26 July 1970; and Principal Officer between 27 July 1970 and 8 April 1973 and again between 4 September 1978 and 4 August 1985. His headquarters personnel file was destroyed in 2000 and his local file was destroyed on 11 July 2010.

- (v) **Officer** ML 8 was a Principal Officer at Millisle during Mr McLaughlan's time at the Borstal. His recollection is that Officer **ML 8** took his job seriously and when in charge of his shift he had Mr McLaughlan's trust and confidence.

- (vi) **Officer** **LN 22** – we have not been able to identify an Officer **LN 22** who worked at Millisle. We note that the Inquiry has not provided us with a first name for Officer **LN 22**. However, Mr McLaughlan recalls an Officer **LN 22** working at Millisle and that he did not stand out from any of the other Borstal staff.

The Department has been able to identify two officers by the name of ■ who were employed within the Northern Ireland

Prison Service pre-1980. The Department has a personnel file for one of these officers, which shows that he joined the service in 1979 and served in Belfast before transferring to HMP Maze in 2000. He never served at Millisle, according to the records contained on this file. The file for the other Officer was destroyed in 2000.

- (vii) **Officer ML 3** - the Department holds files in relation to a **ML 3** (date of birth . Officer **ML 3** served at Millisle from 6 January 1977 to 30 September 1980. The file for **ML 3** does not contain any information of interest to the Inquiry.

Mr McLaughlan has a memory of an Officer **ML 3** but cannot remember his first name. Mr McLaughlan is fairly sure that he served at Millisle, beyond which there is nothing he can add in relation to Officer **ML 3**

- (viii) **Officer ML 4** – worked at Millisle between 6 November 1977 and 9 November 1980 as a Basic Grade Officer. His personnel file was destroyed on 9 July 1988.

Mr McLaughlan recalls an Officer **ML 4** but cannot offer further information.

- (ix) – we have not been able to identify an Officer as being employed by the Prison Service or working at Millisle.

Mr McLaughlan does not recall an Officer serving at Millisle.

- (x) **Officer LN 20** – we have been unable to trace an officer of that name on our records. However, we have been able to trace an Officer **LN 20** who worked at Millisle between 18 March 1978 and 30 September 1980 as a Basic Grade Officer. A Personnel File is available for Officer **LN 20** and has been attached to this statement.

Mr McLaughlan recalls an Officer **LN 20** as serving at Millisle but does not recall anything in particular about him.

- (xi) **Officer MZ 1** – worked at Millisle between 9 February 1979 and 7 October 1979 as a Senior Officer. Personnel Files are available for Officer MZ 1 and have been attached to this statement.

In Officer MZ 1 annual report dated 14 August 1978 to 13 August 1979 whilst at Millisle, the Chief Officer noted that he had an “*overbearing manner*” and did not fully meet “*the requirements of a Borstal regime*”. **ML 71** noted that he had “*neither the personality or the flexibility of attitude which is required to be a successful officer in the Borstal concept*” and “*he is not suited to work with young offenders*”.

Officer MZ 1 file notes that he had requested a transfer back to Belfast as he felt he was unsuitable to work with Borstal trainees and the Governor agreed with him. He then withdrew his request but the Governor maintained his view that Officer MZ 1 was unsuited to work in the Borstal and he would be better suited to working in an adult prison service establishment. Officer MZ 1 personnel record shows that he was transferred to the Young Offenders Centre at Hydebank on 8 October 1979 and then onto the Maze on 5 January 1981.

3. What the DOJ can say about the allegations levelled at each?

The Department was unaware of any allegation of abuse in relation to any of the aforementioned officers in connection with their service in Millisle until it received statements of complaint from the Inquiry.

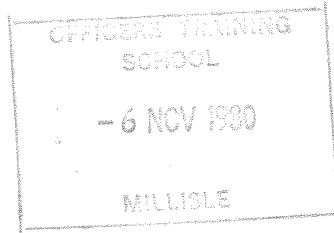
For the avoidance of doubt, the Department has found no record of allegations or complaints of abuse against any of these officers, and no civil claims have been raised in relation to their interaction with any inmate of the Millisle Borstal.

In the absence of any allegations, complaints or civil claims the Department (or its predecessors so far as we are aware) has never had cause nor opportunity to investigate the complaints which are now raised in the context of this Inquiry.

Therefore, the Department is bound to adopt the position that there is no information available to it upon which it could make any comment which would directly assist the Inquiry in relation to its investigation of the allegations. The Department would, however, highlight the fact that in respect of those officers for whom a personnel file remains in existence, there is no document contained on those files to indicate that any of those officers came to untoward notice during their service in Millisle apart from the information provided above in relation to Officer **MZ 1** and his unsuitability for work with young offenders.

The Department adopts the position which it has taken throughout this Inquiry that it 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 Millisle 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. If such abuse occurred the Department would condemn the perpetrators of it as well as anyone who may have ignored the abuse or tolerated its occurrence.

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE



REPORT ON
THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE PRISON SERVICE
1979

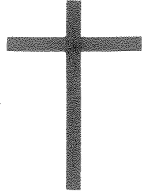
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Prison Act (Northern Ireland) 1953*

*Ordered by The House of Commons to be printed
7 November 1980*

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These serving members of the prison service died following terrorist attack in 1979:—

Assistant Governor Class I

Chief Officer Class I

Senior Officer

Prison Officers

Clerk Officer

Principal Officer who had recently retired, and his
also died at the hands of terrorist attackers.