

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle.

2nd November, 1976.

Draft Minutes of the Visiting Committee Meeting held at H.M. Borstal,
Woburn House, Millisle on Monday, 1st November, 1976, at 3 p.m.

Mr. Eves took the chair and the following members were present - Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Macrae, Miss Boyd, Miss Berner, Messrs Brown, Douglas, Smyth, Murray, Sherrard and Hewitt. The Governor - Mr. McLaughlan was also present.

Apologies were received from Mrs. Croves, Mrs. Eves Messrs O'Driscoll, McMahon and Savary.

Mr. Eves began the meeting by welcoming Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Macrae on to the committee saying that he was sure they would be a valuable asset to the committee and would find the work both interesting and rewarding.

The minutes of the last general meeting and one special meeting were then read out and passed unanimously.

Rota reports made by Miss Berner and Mr. Douglas were then read and Mrs. Russell and Mr. Brown were appointed to the visiting rota for the current month. Arising from her rota report Miss Berner remarked that she too felt the V.T.O.'s were now too busy with the new system of training. Replying Mr. McLaughlan informed the committee that he would deal with Miss Berner's comments in his monthly review.

Referring to his rota report Mr. Douglas stated that he had been very impressed with the workshops and training but he felt that the work was not varied enough. Mr. McLaughlan then informed Mr. Douglas that some jobs of a more varied nature were in the pipeline.

The Chairman then requested that the Governor and Mr. Leitch withdraw from the room and the new arrivals be brought before the committee.

Trainees

were then interviewed by the committee.

The meeting re-convened with the Governor giving his monthly report. Mr. McLaughlan stated there are now 76 trainees in custody with a total of 6 absconders. Since last month's meeting 6 trainees had been discharged and a total of 6 trainees had been received from H.M. Prison, Maze and H.M. Prison, Magilligan. One trainee had been recaptured and was at present residing in H.M. Prison, Belfast. Referring to the new training schedules Mr. McLaughlan informed the committee that Mr. Strain who is in charge of all V.T.O.'s had offered to attend the next committee meeting to hear comments and explain the system to the committee. Mr. Eves agreed that this would be a good idea. Mr. McLaughlan continued with the news of the two canoes at present under construction and informed the committee that two members of staff were about to undergo a canoe instructors course. The Governor then informed the committee that Mr. Barker the V.T.O. Engineer was now appointed on a permanent basis.

Miss Berner then told the committee that she had attended the conference of Boards of Visitors/Visiting Committees at Benburb over the week-end. Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Croves were also present at the conference. Miss Berner and Mrs. Russell

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle.

7th March, 1977.

Draft minutes of Visiting Committee Meeting held at H.M. Borstal
Woburn House, Millisle on Monday, 7th March, 1977, at 3 p.m.

Miss Boyd presided and the following members were present - Mr. Brown, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Murray, Mr. O'Driscoll, Mrs. Eves and Mrs. Russell.

Apologies were received from Mr. Eves, Mr. Savage, Miss Berner and Mrs. Greaves.

Minutes of the last meeting and special meeting were read and considered satisfactory.

Visiting rota reports were read and considered satisfactory. Miss Boyd and Mr. Smyth were appointed to the rota for the current month.

On the point of interviewing new boys the committee in general felt that it served no useful purpose. Mr. Douglas proposed and Mr. Murray seconded a proposal that such interviews be discontinued. The committee discussed this proposal and decided, in the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Eves, that they would postpone a vote until the next meeting. It was decided however, that in the meantime they would not interview the current batch of committals.

In his monthly report the Governor - Mr. McLaughlan gave the figure at unlock as 72. It had been a quiet month for the establishment and he had nothing much of interest to report.

No correspondence.

Under general, Miss Boyd told the committee that she had talked to the woman's group as outlined at the previous meeting and felt that she had, perhaps, cleared up some misapprehensions and shed some light on the penal system, as per Millisle for them.

Mr. McLaughlan informed the committee that he had been advised by the Chief Probation Officer, Mr. Griffiths, of his intention to delete Millisle from his list of attendances on committees. Mr. Griffiths said that attendances at committee meetings were adversely affecting his normal work load and he felt that, however, reluctantly, such attendances had to be cut down.

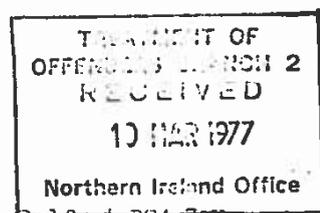
The following trainees were considered suitable for release during March, 1977.



There being no further business the meeting closed.

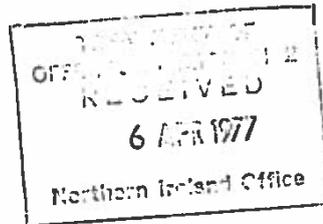
Submitted.

N.I. Office,
Dundonald House, Belfast BT4 3JU.



[Signature]
Governor.

ML 71



H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle.

4th April, 1977.

Draft Minutes of Visiting Committee Meeting held at H.M. Borstal Institution, Woburn House, Millisle on Monday 4th April, at 3 pm.

Mr. Eves presided and the following members were present - Miss Boyd, Miss Berner, Messrs. Brown, Murray, O'Driscoll and Sherrard. The Assistant Chief Probation Officer - Mr. Dykes was also present.

Apologies were received from Mrs. Greeves, Mrs. Eves, Mrs. Macrae, Mrs. Russell, Messrs Smyth and Douglas.

Minutes of the last general meeting and one special meeting were read and considered satisfactory.

Arising from the minutes of the previous meeting Mr. Dykes said that he would like to clarify the position of the Chief Probation Officer not attending any further meetings at Millisle. Mr. Dykes explained that it is Mr. Griffiths intention to meet as many people in the Province as possible and he is at present trying to develop a new strategy for the department. However, in a few months time this workload will hopefully ease and liaison between the Probation Service and Woburn will continue.

Mr. Murray then informed the Chairman that at the last meeting the committee in his absence had discussed the interviewing of committals and once again had come to the conclusion that it served no useful purpose. The committee discussed the pros and cons of interviewing committals and came to the decision that they would not interview the committals but would leave the matter in obedience until the closed borstal opens.

The rota report made by Miss Boyd during the month of March was then read. When asked if she had any further comments to make on her visit Miss Boyd replied, "No", except to say that she had been most impressed.

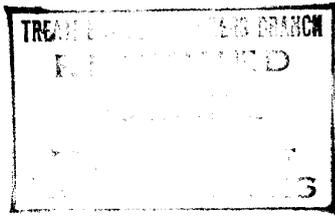
Miss Berner and Mr. Douglas were then appointed to the visiting rota for the month of April.

Mr. McLaughlan then gave his monthly report stating that it had been another quiet month and giving the figures at unlock this morning at 74 + 1 in hospital. The Governor also informed the committee of Mr. Truesdales impending promotion to Director of Prison Operations.

Under general Mr. Sherrard enquired if many difficulties were being encountered when trying to place boys in jobs when released. Mr. McLaughlan replied, there is very little difference between now and five years ago.

Mr. Eves then referred to the meeting of the prison visitors association scheduled to take place on 5th April, 1977, stating that he would be unable to attend and enquired if anyone would like to go in his place. Miss Boyd then elected to go instead.

The following trainees were considered suitable for release during April, 1977:-



H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle.
5th January, 1972.

Draft minutes of Visiting Committee Meeting held at H.M. Borstal Institution, Woburn House, Millisle on Monday 3.1.1972.

Mr. F.M. Eves presided and the following members were present - Mr. Ward, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Greeves, The Principal Probation Officer - Mr. McShane, Deputy Governor - Mr. McLaughlan and the Governor - Mr. Cunningham, were also present.

Apologies were received from Mr. O'Hara and Mr. Savage.

Minutes of the previous meeting and visiting rota reports were read and considered satisfactory.

The Governor in his monthly review reported the numbers as 102 in custody, 2 trainees in outside hospital, 3 absconders at large and 2 absconders in custody elsewhere. During the month there had been 4 committals and 8 discharges under supervision.

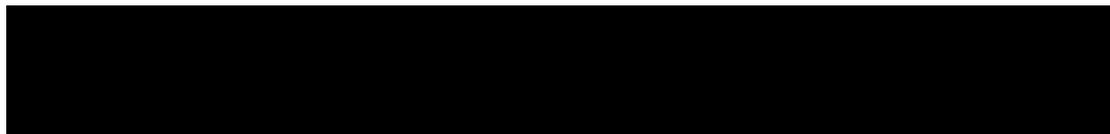
The continued progress in the new boilerhouse made it now possible for steam to be available from this source around mid-January.

In the engineering Shop work was continuing on the making of wrought iron gates to be used at both entrances to the Institution. Another contract had been received from Police Radio Section for the manufacture of Prackets.

All other work in the institution was being carried out as normal.

At this point Mr. Platt Principal Officer, M.P.A. joined the meeting.

The following trainees were submitted by the Reviewing Body as suitable for release when employment had been found for them.



After reading reports and interviewing these trainees all were considered suitable for release.

The following members were appointed Visiting Rota for the current month.

Mr. D. Mitchell and Mr. P. Savage.

Under General the Chairman proceeded to give a brief summary of the recommendations submitted by the committee on various occasions to the Ministry these were:-

1. The proposed visit by members to Borstal Institutions in England.
2. That a meeting be arranged between a Minister of State and members of this Committee to discuss the proposed new closed Borstal, also the difficulties being experienced at present due to the lack of this facility.
3. Revision of Borstal Rules.

The Chairman stated that the Committee as a whole felt despondent that no apparent action had been taken on their recommendations.

- 2 -

Correspondence.

A reply from the Ministry to their recommendations made at the previous monthly meeting held at Woburn on 5.4.1972 concerning Trainee [REDACTED] was read by the Secretary.

After discussing the contents of the minute the committee were at a loss to find that having previously spent a great deal of time looking into this particular trainee's case and having made their recommendations to the Ministry, that once again they would have to repeat the process. A motion proposing that a separate letter regarding the subject be sent by the Secretary to the Ministry was passed unanimously.

Under General the Chairman gave a detailed account on the visit made by himself, Mr. Ward and Mr. Savage to establishments in England. Mr. Ward and Mr. Savage congratulated the Chairman on his exposition and emphasised the point that H.M. Borstal, Woburn compared most favourably with the best they had been privileged to visit in England.

Under any other business, the Governor submitted a report on Trainee [REDACTED] expressing some concern at his lack of co-operation to the training programme, which resulted in lack of any progress. The Committee decided to interview [REDACTED] personally and administer a serious warning regarding his future behaviour and his attitude to Borstal Training.

The following members were appointed visiting rota for the current month:-

Mr. Brown Mr. Atkinson.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

Ron Eric Ken

Secretary.

Submitted please.

Governor.

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



H.M. BORSTAL INSTITUTION

Woburn House Millisle Co Down

Telephone Millisle 379/0

The Secretary,
N.I. Office,
Dundonald House,
Belfast BT4 3SU.

Your reference

Our reference

Date 5th February, 1974.

Sir,

Arising from the Visiting Committee Meeting today, I have been asked by the members to write to you concerning visits by members of the judiciary to Woburn House.

The meeting felt that many Judges and Resident Magistrates and especially those recently appointed might like to see something of the aims of Borstal Training in practice.

The Committee feels that given your approval we might write to individuals and inform them that they were free to visit the establishment at their own convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

- 5 FEB 1974

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House, Millisle.

Visiting Committee Rota Visit Report.

Date of Visit 4th May, 1973.

Time of Visit 5 p.m.

Department.	Comment.
Living Accommodation	Checked. New paintwork is great improvement.
Workshops.	Inspected paint shop. Woodwork and metal work.
Laundry.	-
Kitchen and Food	Saw kitchen as food was being served. Tasted chips, kitchen very clean and tidy.
(1) Garden	In good order. Wondered if garden centres who might employ boys had been asked to advise on training.
Grounds.	Tidy.
School.	Closed.
Staff and Trainees.	Staff very helpful. Trainees looked as if morale was high.
New Development.	-
Surgery.	-

(2) General Remarks:- The standard of work in paint shop is very high and it is a negation of all we are trying to do if efforts are not made to find these boys proper jobs. As we only produce a maximum of 8 per year I believe negotiations should be entered into with the trade unions to have these boys accepted into the trade union as fully trained painters to give them a chance in life.

X spoke to the Governor on both these points
I found they had been mentioned at meetings
of the U.C. although no comment in minutes
(Signed)
(1) The problem about such employment is
the low wages offered to employees; boys can
earn a lot more money in other employment.
(2) This is not a practical proposition to put to
T.U.S. An apprentice painter has to serve 4 years before becoming a fully qualified painter
(with criminal records) as fully trained painter
and raise many difficulties for the
work

Bill C. Davis

Visiting Committee Rota Visit Report.

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House, Millisle.

Date of Visit 28/6/72

Time of Visit 8.30 am

Department.	Comment.
Living Accommodation	Fine. Still showing signs of riot
Workshops.	3 Boys in the Joinery Workshop. Engineering Workshop was not in operation
Laundry.	Very good administration in the Laundry. Boys are happy to work there.
Kitchen and Food	Breakfast over + all the dishes cleared away. General cleaning before preparing lunch
Garden	Did not visit the garden
Grounds.	In excellent condition
School.	5 Boys in Remedial Class - Involved in reading practice
Staff and Trainees.	—
New Development.	Very impressed with Painting Vocational Shop. Would like to see existing area doubled
Surgery.	7 Boys waiting to be attended - All minor ailments.

General Remarks:-

I should like some consideration to be given to fitting doors on the row of lavatories, used by the boys, on the ground floor.

(Signed)

Thelma Brewes

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle.

7th January, 1975.

Draft minutes of Visiting Committee meeting held at H.M.
Borstal Institution, Millisle on Monday 6th Jan., 1975.

Mr. Eves presided and the following members were present - Miss Boyd, Messrs. Hewitt, Mahon, Smith and Douglas. The Governor - Mr. McLaughlan was also present.

Apologies were received from Mr. Savage, Mrs. Groeves and Mr. O'Hara who were unable to attend.

The minutes of the last general meeting and one special meeting held on 24th December, 1974, were read and passed unanimously.

The committee decided to defer discussion on the heated indoor swimming pool and the Governor agreed to bring the subject up at the next planned building programme meeting.

The Governor reported that there were 53 trainees in custody, 10 absconders and one in hospital.

Mr. Hewitt and Mr. Douglas were appointed Visiting Rota for the current month.

The following trainee was considered and recommended for release when suitable employment has been found.



There being no further business the meeting closed.

I. B. [Signature]

Secretary.

[Signature]

Asst. Com. in charge.

Submitted please.

F.I. Office,
Bundonald House,
Belfast BT4 3DU.

Draft Minutes of Visiting Committee Meeting held at H.M. Borstal Institution, Woburn House, Millisle on Monday 2nd December, 1974.

Mr. Eves presided and the following members were present - Mrs. Greeves, Miss Boyd, Messrs. Brown, Smyth and Hewitt. The Governor - **ML 57** and Assistant Governor - Mr. J. Smith were also present.

Apologies were received from Mr. O'Hara and Mr. Savage who were unable to attend.

The minutes of the last general meeting and two special meetings held on 18th November and 21st November, 1974 were read and passed unanimously. Thanks were conveyed to **ML 57** through the committee from the Staff of Lisnevin Training School for the help and advice given to them during visits to this establishment.

After hearing the reply from the N.I. Office (P.I. 4592 dated 27.11.1974 refers), to their earlier questions about the heated swimming pool at Woburn House, the committee expressed concern at the tone and content of the letter. As the matter had not been raised with the Dept. of Finance since 1969, they could think of no good reason why now, some five years later it could not be brought up again. If the N.I. Office require reasons why the committee considered it still necessary these could be supplied to them. However, it would appear self evident that a project envisaged in 1957, partially completed a few years later and bringing forth comments from visiting dignitaries including Lord Bonalton required little in the way of further explanation. It was then proposed by Mr. Hewitt and seconded by Mrs. Greeves that the N.I. Office be requested to approach the Department of Finance and then acquaint the members with the reply from that Department. This matter was carried unanimously.

The Governor reported that there were 54 trainees in custody, 8 committals, 3 discharges, 3 absconders, 2 failed to return from parole. The Staff movements were as follows - 25.11.1974 Mr. Allport transferred to Belfast Prison - Replaced by Mr. Leitch. 1.12.1974 - Chief Officer **ML 33** transferred to Officers Training School Replaced by Chief Officer **ML 46**.

The Governor reported that projects under way in the workshops included (woodwork shop), the making of 18 table tennis tables for other establishments. (Paint shop), the finishing of table tennis tables. (Engineering shop), identification discs for Belfast Prison, Electric lighting standards and covers for heating pipes in the laundry (Garden), winter digging in progress and almost completed. (Trades maintenance), painters have completed the painting of the passages and at present are engaged in the painting of the administrative offices. Work on the new stores block is delayed due to hold ups in the supply and delivery of building materials. Work on the new cell block and officers training school, both being built by outside contractors is progressing satisfactorily and should be completed by the end of January.

Mrs. Greeves and Mr. Brown were appointed visiting wets for the current month. Mr. Brown to be informed by post.

The Governor informed the committee that Major Shields of Cregagh Presbyterian Church requested that he be permitted to attend a Carol Service in the Church on Sunday 15th December, 1974.

Christmas Parole has been granted for 25 trainees from Tuesday 24.12.1974 to Monday 30.12.1974. An allocation of £40., Christmas Grant from Borstal Association Funds was made by the committee to Woburn House and Armagh Borstals.

The following trainees were considered and recommended for release when suitable employment had been found.

[REDACTED] **[REDACTED]**

There being no further business the meeting closed.

J. B. Leitch
Secretary.

ML 57

[REDACTED]
Governor.

Submitted please.

N.I. Office,
Dundonald House,
Belfast BT4 3SU.

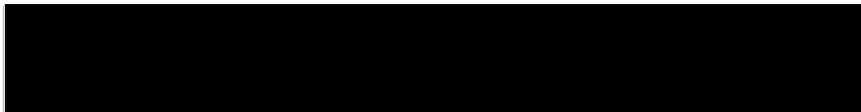
Mrs. Greaves congratulated Mr. McLaughlin on his forward thinking in letting the Special Grade Boys out for a Sunday afternoon walk.

Mr. Hewitt stated how pleased he was to hear the Governor's plans on the boys being allowed to work outside the Institution.

Re the written submissions regarding the building of an indoor swimming pool the Committee directed that all references made by them over the past months regarding the building of a swimming pool should be forwarded to the Northern Ireland Office.

See below.

The following trainees were considered and recommended for release when suitable employment had been found.



The Committee also gave permission for [redacted] to change his religion from Church of Ireland to Presbyterian.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

J. B. Rittel
Secretary

Submitted please

J. J. [Signature]

Governor

Northern Ireland Office,
Treatment of Offenders,
Dundonald House,
Belfast. BT4 3BU

Note

The proposal regarding an indoor heated swimming pool has been abandoned once again on financial grounds. It is estimated that approx. £100,000 would be required to complete the project and this is out of the question in the present economic climate.

[Signature]

13/5.

FI.4529

Northern Ireland Office
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST BT4 3JU

Secretary to the Visiting Committee
HM Borstal Institution
Woburn House
MILLISLE
Co Down

I refer to the queries raised in the minutes of the Visiting Committee meeting held at HM Borstal, Millisle, on Monday 5 May 1975:-

1. Shortage of Building Materials - paragraph 3

This related to materials for the erection of the new stores/garage block which is being built by trainees under WFO and Trades staff supervision.

Work on the stores/garage was suspended for a period earlier this year during the building of a new cell block (on which an outside contractor was employed) and when work resumed in March there was a period of a few weeks when materials were slow to arrive on site. However, work is now proceeding normally and materials are being supplied as and when required.

2. Indoor Swimming Pool

The proposal regarding an indoor-heated swimming pool has been abandoned once again on financial grounds. It is estimated that approximately £100,000 would be required to complete the project and this is out of the question in the present economic climate.

F Skitt

29th May 1975

JR

MIL-332



H.M. BORSTAL INSTITUTION
Woburn House Millisle Co Down
Telephone Millisle 379/0

Visiting Committee.

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

RECEIVED
- 8 JUN 1973
MINISTRY OF
HOME AFFAIRS

Your reference

Our reference

Date 7th June, 1973.

Sir,

I have been instructed by the Visiting Committee to draw your attention to the minutes of the meeting held here on 4.6.1973.

The topic of single rooms was widely discussed and although difficulties were envisaged in making structural changes to the existing building, the principle was unanimously agreed. Members would like to see 12 or so single dormitories provided as soon as possible as a pilot scheme.

Secretary - Visiting Committee

will be considered on P.1 12064.

*Y.S.
11/6/73*

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle.
21st January, 1976.

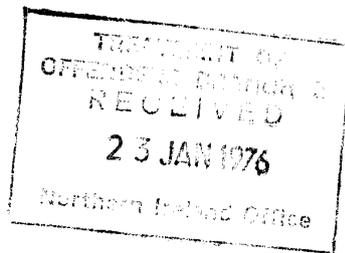
At the monthly meeting of the Visiting Committee held at H.M. Borstal Institution, Woburn House, Millisle on Monday, 5th January, 1976, the Committee directed that a letter be written to N.I. Office enquiring into the possibilities of trainees in need of psychiatric help being transferred to an Institution in England where such specialist treatment is available.

Referring to the case of [REDACTED] ML 59 who was before the Committee only that day charged with Gross Personal Violence against another trainee the Committee asked me to express their concern that trainees such as [REDACTED] ML 59 should be held in places like Woburn where they are not only a danger to other trainees and staff but also to themselves.

As there are no Institutions in the Province equipped to deal with such cases the Committee therefore feels that some effort should be made to have them transferred to an Institution better equipped to deal with them.

G. B. Litch

Treatment of Offenders Branch,
N.I. Office,
Dundonald House,
Belfast BT4 3SU.



H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House, Millisle.
6th March, 1973.

Draft minutes of Visiting Committee meeting held at H.M. Borstal Institution, Woburn House, Millisle, on Monday, 5th ^{March} Feb., 1973.

Mr. Eves presided and the following members were present Mrs. Greeves, Miss Boyd, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Corry, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Hewitt - Senior Probation Officer attended in place of Mr. McMahon. Governors ML 57 and Deputy Governor ML 46 were also present.

Apologies were received from Mr. Savage, Mr. O'Hara, Mr. Graham, Mr. Atkinson, Dr. McGarry and Mr. Brown. Minutes of previous meetings and Visiting Rota Reports were read and considered satisfactory.

In his monthly review ML 57 reported the numbers as 50 in custody. There were 11 committals and 4 discharges during the month. In addition two trainees (a recent committal) and (recaptured absconder) had been transferred back to Armagh. Two absconders and at large, although it was reported that the latter was in custody in England. Staff movements during the month saw Mr. Ross take up duties in place of Mr. McCracken - transferred to H.M. Prison, Mage. Temp. Officer Bailie took up duties here on 12.2.1973. Trades Officer ML 19 and Mr. Melville were still on Temp. Duty in H.M. Prison, Belfast.

Work on toys for the N.S.P.C.C. was progressing and as the first order had been completed, work on the second order was commencing. Delight with the finished products had been expressed by the Organisation. Cold frames in the garden were nearing completion. Kit racks and seating in the gymnasium were now completed. Painting of dormitories was progressing. A new cooker for the kitchen is on its way from England. The hoped for improvements in the external lighting would start soon and this would be a considerable aid to security.

ML 57 then announced an increase in the ration of bacon and dripping and the introduction of chicken to the menu.

Saving the good wine till last, ML 57 then produced the new statutory rules and orders N.I., which amends the existing Prison Rules concerning Borstal Training. These came into effect on 5th March, 1973. Considerable pleasure was expressed by members that the long awaited changes in the rules had now been approved.

Mr. Eves asked the secretary on behalf of the committee to convey its good wishes to Dr. McGarry in the event of his illness.

The following members were appointed as Visiting Rota for the current month:-

Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Graham.

Wide ranging discussion initiated by Mrs. Greeves took place regarding the use of the Gymnasium for open functions, P.T. Display, Basketball Matches etc. It was felt that in the absence of Sports lay some other way of allowing parents to see what was happening in the Institution should be devised. An Open Day was mentioned. The Governor in reply felt that these matters were all worthy of consideration but in relation to the Gymnasium events he pointed out that owing to the small number of boys in Training, it was impossible to afford the time for training of teams. However he did anticipate an increase in numbers and agreed that it should be given further consideration then. The difficulty of holding any event during the working week was also discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE AND MINUTES ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT FROM MILLISLE VISITING COMMITTEE

- 31.1.75
Flag A Mr Westhead: letter to Mr Eves saying that Lord Donaldson objected to corporal punishment and asking the VC to suspend its use until Lord Donaldson met the VC.
- 3.2.75
Flag B Meeting of VC - Minutes: Mr Eves reported a telephone call from Mr Westhead saying that Lord Donaldson has asked them to suspend corporal punishment until he had time to consider the matter.
- 3.3.75
Flag C Meeting of VC - Minutes: Miss Boyd and Mr Eves had had a meeting with Lord Donaldson and had agreed to suspend corporal punishment for a trial period but they had been speaking only for themselves. Miss Boyd stated that "Lord Donaldson had reiterated that he had no intention of changing the rules relating to corporal punishment".
- ? March
Flag D Visiting Committee met Lord Donaldson at Stormont.
- 18.8.75
Flag E Special meeting of VC - Corporal punishment awarded. Referred to in minutes of 1.9.75.
- 1.9.75
Flag E Meeting of VC - Minutes: Discussion of events of meeting of 18.8.75. Lord Donaldson had asked for the award of corporal punishment to be withdrawn so that the one-year trial period could be completed - Committee agreed.
- 6.10.75
Flag F Meeting of VC. Further discussion on corporal punishment. Committee members present agreed on suspension, but Mr Eves said this did not bind the 3 absent members.

Copies: PS/Lord Donaldson

ML 30

Mr Robinson

Mr Westhead

Mr O'Dowd

T. M. O'Sullivan
7.10.75

ENCS

- 2 -

Members discussed the problems that would occur if they insisted on keeping to the Ministers agreement of February, 1975; they accepted that the Draft Order would say one thing and that the existing Prison Rules would say another and that this would not be a satisfactory state of affairs.

General discussion followed and the Chairman and others said that they had been presented with a fait accompli and that it was difficult to know, in view of this, why this meeting had been called. He felt that it was too late to talk at this stage. Mr. Sherrard added that it would seem that the Committees views were immaterial. The Chairman expressed the view that the real purpose of the meeting was for the Committee to agree that they would not raise any objection to their agreement with the Minister being broken.

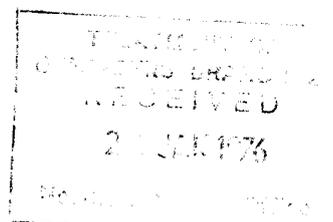
Mr. Smith raised the question of what other deterrent would the Committee have when sitting on adjudication.

The Governor pointed out that during the period from 1st March, 1975, and compared with the previous year, a greater number of trainees had been at Millisle, but that the abscond rate had been reduced from 36 to 26, cases of trainees found guilty of offences that included violence had been reduced from 22 to 6, and whilst the number of trainees on Special Grade Parole had increased from 58 to 83 the number failing to return from their parole had only increased from 2 to 3. The Governor said that it would seem that the deterrent was not in fact Corporal Punishment.

The Chairman, whilst accepting the figures, said that in fact they were a red herring and not relevant to the point of the meeting and again asked why the meeting had been called. Mr. Savage made the observation that if Parliament accepted the Draft Order then there was nothing the Committee could do or say to influence matters. Mr. Westhead said that the Minister had wanted to hear the Committees views but that the Committee would have to decide whether they were happy to accept the arrangements as proposed by the Minister, or, if they felt strongly opposed to this that they would wish to have further time to discuss the matter.

The Chairman then put it to the meeting that they should agree not to object to the course of action that the Minister was determined to pursue; he felt that if they were to be steamrollered they might as well suffer it with good grace. This was unanimously agreed to.

Signed: D. McLoughlan - Governor.



CORRESPONDENCE AND MINUTES ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT FROM MILLISLE VISITING COMMITTEE

- 31.1.75
Flag A Mr Westhead: letter to Mr Eves saying that Lord Donaldson objected to corporal punishment and asking the VC to suspend its use until Lord Donaldson met the VC.
- 3.2.75
Flag B Meeting of VC - Minutes: Mr Eves reported a telephone call from Mr Westhead saying that Lord Donaldson has asked them to suspend corporal punishment until he had time to consider the matter.
- 3.3.75
Flag C Meeting of VC - Minutes: Miss Boyd and Mr Eves had had a meeting with Lord Donaldson and had agreed to suspend corporal punishment for a trial period but they had been speaking only for themselves. Miss Boyd stated that "Lord Donaldson had reiterated that he had no intention of changing the rules relating to corporal punishment".
- ? March
Flag D Visiting Committee met Lord Donaldson at Stormont.
- 18.8.75
Flag E Special meeting of VC - Corporal punishment awarded. Referred to in minutes of 1.9.75.
- 1.9.75
Flag E Meeting of VC - Minutes: Discussion of events of meeting of 18.8.75. Lord Donaldson had asked for the award of corporal punishment to be withdrawn so that the one-year trial period could be completed - Committee agreed.
- 6.10.75
Flag F Meeting of VC. Further discussion on corporal punishment. Committee members present agreed on suspension, but Mr Eves said this did not bind the 3 absent members.

Copies: PS/Lord Donaldson

ML 30

Mr Robinson

Mr Westhead

Mr O'Dowd

ENCS

Mr. Eves then explained why Miss Boyd and himself had agreed to suspend awarding Corporal Punishment but told Mr. Savage that when they agreed to the 12 month suspension they made clear to Lord Donaldson that they spoke only for themselves and not for the Committee as a whole. Mr. McLaughlin then explained that at the end of the 12 month trial period Lord Donaldson could very well accept that in some cases Corporal Punishment was relevant.

Mr. Savage then stated that he was willing to suspend Corporal Punishment Awards in the hope that it will give greater consistency to punishments awarded. All other Committee Members present also agreed to the 12 month trial period. Mr. Eves then emphasised that the three members not at the meeting were not bound by the aforesaid decision. Mr. Eves went on to say that he wondered what purpose the Visiting Committee now served when those adjudicating can award very little more than the Governor.

Mr. McLaughlin replied that the great value in having Visiting Committee Members adjudicate is that those brought in front of members of the Visiting Committee know that they are from an independent body not attached to the establishment.

The following trainees were considered for release when suitable employment has been found.



There being no further business the meeting closed.

J. B. ~~Linton~~

Secretary.

Governor.

Submitted please.

N.I. Office,
Dundonald House,
Belfast BT4 3SU.

TREATMENT
OFFENDERS BRANCH 2
RECEIVED
- 8 OCT 1975
Northern Ireland Office

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House, Millisle.

2nd September, 1975.

Draft Minutes of Visiting Committee Meeting held at H.M. Borstal Institution, Woburn House, Millisle at 3 p.m., on Monday 1.9.75.

Mr. Eves presided and the following members were present, Miss Boyd, Messrs. Murray, Sherrard, Brown, Hewitt and O'Driscoll. The Governor - Mr. McLaughlan was also present.

Apologies were received from Mrs. Groves, Mr. Smith and Mr. O'Hara.

The minutes of the last general meeting and three special meetings were read and passed unanimously. Referring to the delicate nature of the special meeting held on 18th August, 1975, the Committee agreed to defer signing of the minutes of this meeting until one or more of the members who adjudicated at this meeting were present.

Referring to the meeting on 18th August, which Mr. Smith and Mr. Douglas adjudicated on Mr. Eves suggested to the Committee that any discussion on this meeting would be fruitless as neither Mr. Douglas or Mr. Smith were present and it would be better to defer any discussion on corporal punishment until more members of the Committee were present.

The Governor did however, inform the Committee of the 'events' that led to the withdrawal of the award of Corporal Punishment. The Governor had been instructed by N.I. Office to inform them whenever such an award had been made. (The members concerned had been told of this during the adjudication). The Governor stated that after the adjudication he had contacted the Senior Assistant Secretary who in turn contacted Lord Donaldson. Lord Donaldson asked that the Governor make an appeal on his behalf to the members to reconsider their decision. Lord Donaldson stated that he accepted that such a punishment was still on the statute book and that although certain members of the Committee had personally agreed not to make such an award for a trial period of one year that other members were not bound by this. Lord Donaldson therefore accepted that the members concerned were entitled to make the award but he did appeal to them to withdraw the award so that the years trial period could be completed. The Governor contacted the members concerned and made the appeal on behalf of Lord Donaldson; the members then agreed to withdraw the award.

Mr. Brown then stated that he thought the undertaking he had given not to award Corporal Punishment had been for absconds or attempt to abscond but the case in question, one of assaulting an Officer brought to light the question of where to draw the line on awarding Corporal Punishment.

Mr. O'Driscoll stated that he thought there should be greater consistency in members decisions to award Corporal Punishment.

Mr. Sherrard asked if it is not all boiled down to the fact that in any instances when Corporal Punishment is awarded the N.I. Office will intervene and the punishment will not be carried out.

The Governor pointed out that the N.I. Office did not intervene in the sense of changing the award. Members were still entitled to award Corporal Punishment and were not bound to accept any appeal from N.I. Office.

Mr. Hewitt suggested that all members should be asked to agree to a one year suspension of Corporal Punishment.

Mr. Murray then put forward the suggestion that some kind of special meeting of informal discussion should be arranged whereby the full committee could exchange views on Corporal Punishment.

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House, Millisle.

4th February, 1975.

Draft Minutes of Visiting Committee Meeting held at H.M. Borstal,
Institution, Woburn House, Millisle on Monday, 3rd February, 1975

Mr. Eves presided and the following members were present - Mrs. Greeves, Miss Boyd, Messrs. Savage, and Brown. The Chief Probation Officer - Mr. McMahon, the Governor - ML 57 and Assistant Governor in Charge - Mr. McLaughlan were also present.

Apologies were received from Mr. O'Hara, Mr. Smyth and Mr. Howitt. The minutes of the last general meeting and four special meetings held on January 7th, 13th, 14th and 27th, were read and passed unanimously.

A letter dated 9th January, 1975, from Lord Donaldson to Mr. Eves was read out for the benefit of the Committee by Mr. Leitch. There only being one copy. The letter stated that Lord Donaldson would like to meet the Visiting Committee for lunch at Stormont Castle on Thursday, 20th February, 1975, and enquired if this date would be suitable for the Committee. The Committee decided that the February date was not suitable and one in March would be better. The luncheon therefore is to be deferred until March.

An invitation from the Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (N.I.A.C.R.O.) was read out. The invitation was in respect of a conference to be held on Saturday, 8th March, 1975 and the Association wished to know if three members of the Visiting Committee would care to attend. Mrs. Greeves, Miss Boyd and Mr. Savage elected to go. Mr. Brown also expressed interest and stated that if no other commitments stood in the way he would also attend. The Assistant Governor in Charge stated that there were 56 trainees in custody, 3 in outside hospitals and 9 absconders. Mr. Smyth and Mr. Brown were appointed Visiting Rota for the current month.

Mr. Eves informed the Committee that he had received a telephone call that morning from Mr. Westhead of the S.I. Office on the subject of Corporal Punishment. Mr. Westhead pointed out that Lord Donaldson had been perturbed to learn that Corporal Punishment was still being administered in Borstal Institutions in Northern Ireland. Lord Donaldson had requested that Visiting Committee members desist from awarding any more such punishments until he had had sufficient time to consider the matter. As soon as a decision is reached on whether or not Corporal Punishment should or should not continue a letter to this effect will be sent out to Committee Members.

A general discussion on the value of Corporal Punishment as a deterrent then ensued during which the members put forward their individual viewpoints as follows:-

Mr. Eves stated that the Committee had always acted in accordance with the criteria laid down within prison rules. It had been his experience that boys who had been returned to Armagh as a punishment without exception, had stated that they would have preferred the cane rather than return to closed conditions. Mr. Eves admitted to being a great believer in a liberal regime within the framework of discipline and thought that the breakdown in discipline had contributed towards the upward trend in delinquency. The guidelines which he always follows when awarding Corporal Punishment were:-

- A. The welfare of the boy himself.
- B. The effect on the rest of the boys and the running of the Institution.

Mr. Eves pointed out that in 1969 when Armagh Borstal was closed and the trainees transferred to Millisle the number of absconders from Woburn increased until Corporal Punishment was reintroduced for those who were recaptured. Since the reintroduction of Corporal Punishment at Woburn the number of absconders had dropped dramatically. This being the case he felt the cane to be a useful deterrent.

Mrs. Greeves put forward the point that it was possible to discipline a boy without using Corporal Punishment. She personally was strongly against Corporal Punishment and felt that other methods of punishment were equally, if not more effective.

- 2 -

Mr. McMahon said that he felt that the effects of Corporal Punishment as a deterrent were minimal. Most of the boys in institutions had grown used to this type of punishment even before being committed to Borstal.

Mr. Savage felt that the powers delegated to the Visiting Committee to deal with offenders was satisfactory and should not be changed. From questions he had personally put to boys about Corporal Punishment he was satisfied that it is one of the best deterrents the Committee has at its disposal.

Mr. Brown declared himself in agreement with Corporal Punishment, but with reservations. He thought the time element was one factor which needed looking into. That is to say the time differential between an absconders return to Woburn and his subsequent punishment. He felt that before any major decisions on the issue of Corporal Punishment were made the professional staff should be consulted.

ML 57 - Governor, stated that his 27 years experience of serving in penal establishments had tended to strengthen his belief that in certain cases there is a use for Corporal Punishment as long as it is not used indiscriminately. He said that the N.I. Borstal Institutions differ from their Scottish or English counterparts in many respects. One major difference is that the boys are not 'streamed' into special categories in N.I. Borstals as they are in the rest of the U.K. This means that offenders of all types are banded together eventually into an open institution namely, Woburn, and this makes the task of maintaining discipline that much harder. In those circumstances Corporal Punishment certainly has a part to play but in order to avoid resentment the punishment should always be awarded in a fair and consistent manner. ML 57 thought it was interesting to note that the officer who has responsibility for administering the punishment is held in great esteem by the boys and is highly respected by them.

Mr. McLaughlin said he did not think caning was necessary as a part of discipline. He felt completely and utterly opposed to Corporal Punishment and thought that it was used as a poor substitute for good relations. ~~He felt that if good relations were built up between staff and boys then the boys would not feel the need to punish.~~

The Committee agreed that the issue of Corporal Punishment was a moot point and that if possible discussions should take place with Lord Donaldson to clarify the matter. They felt however that they could operate better in adjudicating the various cases which come before them if they were able to act in a free and unfettered way and the choice of whether or not to use Corporal Punishment was left to their own conscience and common sense.

The following trainees were considered and recommended for release when suitable employment has been found:-

There being no further business the meeting closed.

J. B. Lutes

Secretary.

Asst. Governor in Charge.

Submitted please.

N.I. Office,
DunDonald House,
Belfast BT4 3BU.

Mr Wether ^{3/2/75}
 Mr O'Donnell ^{3/2/75}
 Miss Byrne ^{3/2/75}

A

31 January 1975

Mr F W Eves
 Conaway
 Ballywalter
 Co Down

Dear Mr Eves

It has recently come to Lord Donaldson's notice that corporal punishment is still imposed at Woburn Borstal. As you will know, corporal punishment was abolished in English Borstals some time ago and Lord Donaldson is opposed to its use in principle.

I am very conscious that the Visiting Committee only awards corporal punishment after very careful consideration of an individual case and that such punishment may at present be properly and lawfully awarded under Rule 175(4) of Prison Rules. I want to emphasise therefore that it is not the purpose of this letter to in any way criticise the way in which the Committee has carried out its difficult disciplinary functions in the past.

Lord Donaldson will, I am sure, wish to consult fully with the Visiting Committee and the Governor before a decision is taken to abolish corporal punishment. In the meantime I would be grateful if the Committee would agree not to award such punishment in cases delegated to it by the Department.

I am copying this letter to the Governor

ML 57

Yours sincerely

A P D WISTHEAD

not be implemented. Corporal punishment was subsequently abolished in 1975 by the Treatment of Offenders (Northern Ireland) 1976.

Staffing

42. Other than teachers, instructors and other specialist staff, all members of staff were prison officers. The prison officer rank structure was as it was in other prison establishments as were the conditions of service. Prison officers in the Borstal received whatever training was given to all officers when they joined the service but did not receive specific training in the custody of young offenders.

43. The Governor of the Borstal was supported by two Assistant Governors, who together provided an all hours on call system and every evening one of the three visited all areas where trainees were active and each would visit at irregular hours during the night. The substantial overnight supervision was provided by civilian staff.

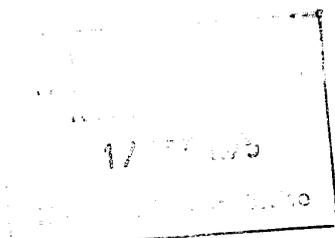
44. During the working day, the Governor would visit all areas where trainees were active each morning and afternoon. The purpose of this was to check that what should be happening was happening; it was called management by walking about and enabled the Governor to impose his will on the Establishment.

Relationship with Prison Headquarters

45. Prison Service was part of the Department. Engagement with Prison Service Headquarters, and hence the Department, was mainly in relation to financial and personnel matters. I personally had very little contact with Headquarters although

GOVERNOR'S JOURNAL

Date of Entry	Date of Occurrence	Occurrence	Date of Entry
9. Aug. 1975.	13 th August 1975	Multicost 64 Outside Hosp. 1 Absconders 3 Spec. Grad. Parole 3.	13 th August 1975
10. Aug. 1975		Applications 3 Adjudications 1 Received Receipts - 2 (from Special Grade Parole) Discharges - NIL.	5.
10 August 1975.		Trainee ML 58 being held in a separate room under punishment had to be forcibly removed from that room whilst trades staff removed glass from the windows (ML 58 had damaged a number of pipes). ML 58 had to be restrained with handcuffs for a short period. One member of staff received a minor injury during the preceding fracas.	x see entry below.
11 August 1975			14 August 75.
11. August 1975.	14 th August 1975	Multicost 66 Outside Hosp. 1 Absconders 3 Spec. Grade Parole 1	14 August 1975.
12 August 1975		Applications NIL Adjudications 1 Received 1 (from Special Grade Parole). Discharged NIL.	
12 August 1975		* The officer involved in the fracas of 13 Aug 1975 (Harriew) has suffered a suspected fracture of the left knee cap. The trainee has been charged with assault.	15. August 1975
13 th August 1975	15 th August 1975	Multicost 67 Outside Hosp. 1 Absconders 3.	15 August 1975
		Applications 2 Adjudications 1 (v.c.). V.C. adjudication held on Trainee ML 58 . V.C. awarded corporal punishment. Informed W. Robinson (San. Asst. G.C.) N.I.O. who in turn informed head of Donaldson. Jones (aka asked to contact the v.c. members concerned (Smith & Hughes) to make a personal appeal on behalf of head of Donaldson asking them to change their award.	



H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House, Millisle.

14th February, 1975.

Special meeting of the Visiting Committee held at 3 p.m., on Thursday
13th February, 1975, at H.M. Borstal Institution, Woburn, Millisle.

The N.I. Office having delegated its authority under Prison Rules (N.I.) 1954, Miss Boyd and Mr. Brown met to adjudicate in the cases of:-



who were charged with an offence against discipline i.e., absconding from lawful custody - Contrary to Section 26(a) Prison Act, (N.I.) 1953.

First to be arraigned were [redacted] and [redacted] who admitted the offence and agreed that their written statements were correct. Both expressed regret for their actions.

After discussion the following punishments were awarded:-



28 days forfeiture of privileges.
28 days stoppage of earnings.
Reduction in Grade to General 1.
7 days confinement to a room from 11.2.1975.
Return to H.M. Borstal, Armagh.



28 days forfeiture of privileges.
28 days stoppage of earnings.
7 days confinement to a room from 11.2.1975.
Return to H.M. Borstal, Armagh.

Next to be arraigned were [redacted] and [redacted] who were charged with an offence against discipline, i.e., Absconding from Lawful Custody - Contrary to Section 26(a) Prison Act, (N.I.) 1953.

[redacted] and [redacted] admitted the offence and agreed that their written statements were correct. Stevenson expressed regret for his action but Cross showed no remorse. After discussion the following punishments were awarded.



28 days forfeiture of privileges.
28 days stoppage of earnings.
Reduction in Grade to General 1.
7 days confinement to a room from 12.2.1975.
Return to H.M. Borstal, Armagh.



Forfeiture of Privileges for 28 days.
Stoppage of earnings for 28 days.
Reduction in Grade to General 1.
7 days confinement to a room from 12.2.1975.
Return to H.M. Borstal, Armagh.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

1 **says, "Well, you're going to end up staying here for**
2 **a long, long time".**

3 Q. So do you take from that that he knew -- you know, when
4 you said that and you said you weren't going to -- did
5 you take from that that he knew how the officers were
6 behaving, not the specifics but that he had a sense of
7 what you were talking about?

8 A. **I don't think he was aware of the specifics and I don't**
9 **think he was aware of the severity of it and I never**
10 **certainly made it clear. I just told him that I was**
11 **unhappy and that his men were abusive and they did not**
12 **behave around him the way they behaved around us. So**
13 **I certainly made him aware, but not in any real**
14 **specifics to the best of my memory.**

15 Q. Okay. Just my last question. We have heard about
16 a Visiting Committee --

17 A. **Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- which would be a Committee and there would be visits
19 from them about every two weeks and that they would talk
20 to the boys.

21 A. **Uh-huh.**

22 Q. Do you remember that or meeting with any of them?

23 A. **Sorry for laughing, because it was rendered farcical.**
24 **I don't think the prison officers were supposed to know**
25 **when they were coming round, because it gives them**

1 an opportunity to defeat their purpose. They very
2 clearly did know when they were coming round and they
3 very clearly -- the night before any prison visitors
4 came round they would come individually to each of our
5 cells and warn us that if we said anything negative
6 about them at all that we would be beaten to death on
7 one occasion I was told, and I had seen people beaten
8 really severely, and I -- I didn't think they would beat
9 us to death. I thought it was bravado and stuff, but
10 I was very clear that I am not saying anything, because
11 if it gets back to the prison officers, they will come
12 into my cell and hurt me.

13 Q. Given that warning, you clearly -- there would be
14 an issue about how you would engage with them, but do
15 you remember any of them actually talking to you, any of
16 the visitors?

17 A. I do remember them talking to me. I don't remember the
18 specifics, but I do remember telling them that
19 everything was fine --

20 Q. Fine.

21 A. -- that there was no problems at all.

22 Q. Okay. Thanks very much, HIA400.

23 A. Thank you.

24 MR LANE: Near the beginning of your evidence you spoke
25 about how you would get into trouble if you were lying

GOVERNOR'S JOURNAL

NO. 305 (7259-27-4-98)

Date of Occurrence	Occurrence	Date of Entry	Date of Occurrence
2 January, 1976	alleged malicious telephone calls. Authority on file.		5 January, 1976
	1530 hours. 5 Trainees arrived on transfer from Magilligan and 1 trainee from Belfast.	2 January 1976	
	Trainee ML 59 was offered the use of a blanket in the cell. He refused in the presence of P.O. Bowers. Stated no complaints.	2 January, 1976	
	Received - 6		
	Discharged - NIL	3 January, 1976	
3 January, 1976.	Unlocked - 66 Outside Hospital - 1 Absconders - 5.		6 January 1976
	Applications - NIL		
	Adjudications - NIL		
	Saw ML 60 mother of ML 61 at her request re trainees possible release. Explained situation. P.O. Bowers was present.	3 January, 1976	
	Received - NIL		
	Discharged - NIL	3 January, 1976	7th January 1976
4 January, 1976.	Unlocked - 66 Outside Hospital - 1 Absconders - 5.		
	Trainees to Church Services as per denomination	4 January, 1976	
	Trainee ML 59 again offered the use of a blanket - refused again. He is taking medical treatment as prescribed. On being asked if he had any complaints stated that he would see Visiting Committee.	4 January, 1976	
	Received - NIL		
	Discharged - NIL	5 January 76	

8 January, 1976

1 things under the surface. I don't think any member of
2 staff would have talked to them about concerns about
3 whatever. So as far as it would go I think they were
4 effective, but the cynical point of view would be that
5 it would be difficult for any visiting committee with
6 lower case "V", if you like, who come in occasionally to
7 really know what's going on in an institution. I think
8 it's valuable that they do come. There has to be
9 a level of supervision, if you like, but occasional
10 visitors, as they were, I don't think it was as
11 effective as it could be.

12 Q. There's a limit to the reality of what they would know?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. They did come unannounced in the sense they would arrive
15 at the open borstal and had immediate access, as it
16 were, but an unannounced visit to the closed borstal,
17 still someone would have to let them in at the gate.

18 A. Um.

19 Q. There has been some evidence given to the Panel about
20 being -- trainees being warned by staff not to talk to
21 the Visiting Committee, or if talking to them, not to
22 complain to them about matters of that sort that might
23 be concerning --

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. -- such as assaults and so on. You weren't aware of

1 that context, but can you ever recall the Visiting
2 Committee bringing to you, "An officer is said to have
3 assaulted X or Y" or anything of that sort?

4 **A. I certainly do not recall the suggestion that an officer**
5 **had assaulted. I don't recall someone raising an issue**
6 **with an officer's attitude, for example. I don't recall**
7 **that, no.**

8 Q. If we can look, please, at MIL733, I am going to look at
9 a couple of specific matters with you, Duncan. The
10 first is a matter that's recorded in your journal in
11 1975.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. If we can scroll down just a little to the bottom of the
14 page, the 8th November entry. If we can show the next
15 part of the -- the first part of the next page. No, we
16 are not -- if we just stay there for now. This records
17 -- and you draw attention to this in paragraph 33 of
18 your statement at 715. You interviewed the mother of

19 ML 47 . You were telling me that's ML 48

20 **A. That's ML 48 .**

21 Q. You have a clear recollection of him for reasons that we
22 will come to.

23 **A. Um.**

24 Q. You interviewed his mother at her request.

25 " ML 47 has alleged -- ML 47 has alleged that

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle.

1st September, 1980.

Minutes of the final meeting of the Visiting Committee held at H.M. Borstal Institution, Woburn House, Millisle at 2.45 p.m., on Monday 1st September, 1980.

1. Members present - Mrs. Greeves - Chairman, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Murray, Mrs. Price, Mrs. Russell, Miss Berner, Mr. O'Driscoll, Mr. Coey, Mrs. Eves, Mr. Carson, Mr. Donaldson, Mr. Eves, Mr. Cackett - Senior Probation Officer. Mr. McLaughlan - Governor and Mr. Ross - Secretary were also present.

2. Apologies - Nil.

3. Chairmans Business - Mrs. Greeves informed members that they should advise the Governor privately on their willingness to serve on the Millisle Y.O.C., or other committees.

ML 45 had indicated a wish to attend todays meeting, however, she saw no useful purpose in such a visit and ML 45 had been advised accordingly.

4. The following trainees were interviewed for release on the following dates:-

5.9.1980. September Releases.

26.9.1980. October Releases.

5. The minutes of the July meeting were read and accepted.

6. Matters Arising -

a. Borstal Association. Two resolutions were passed by the Committee.

Proposed by Mr. Carson and seconded by Mr. Donaldson:- That the Borstal Association of N. Ireland be abolished.

Proposed by Mrs. Greeves and seconded by Mr. Douglas:- That the total assets of £77.18 be made available to the Governor of H.M. Y.O.C., Millisle for using to benefit Young Offenders.

7. Visiting Rota Reports were read from Mr. Eves, Mrs. Price and Mr. Donaldson. All reflected an anesthetic mood in the establishment.

Mr. Eves and Mrs. Price still saw the greatest weakness of Y.O.C., as being a boys inability to earn early release through effort. Mr. Donaldson paid tribute to the Night Patrolmen, the personal commitment of staff and was critical of N.I. Office whom staff saw as speaking with 'forked tongue'. He admired staff loyalty to the Governor and wondered whether more training in modern man-management should not be given.

CONFIDENTIAL!



H.M.B.I. Woburn Ho.

11th. July, 1961.

The Deputy Governor,
H.M.P. Belfast.

Dear Major Mullin,

Further to our conversation about the Officers Training Classes, appended below are the names of Officers here who have about 15 years service, for whom I should like Precis to be issued. It would appear that these Officers are eligible for the training course.

Name.	Date Joined.	Date of Birth.	Remarks.
x			Drawing PT All.
x			Drawing T/A 19/6d.
x			" Haircutting All.
			" Librarian.
x			Trades Off.Cl.iii.
x			Drawing C/B All. 15/-
x			P.O.A. Rep.
x			Ty. Off.
			Ty. Off. (ext Prob.)

Those Officers who have qualified in P.O. Exam. X.

You will, no doubt, let me know which Officers you will require to attend the courses.

Yours sincerely

Governor.

Name	Date of Birth	Staff No.	National Insurance Number	Dates Served at Millis / Woburn	Identified Contact Details	HQ File Location	MAGH File Location	MGN File Location	HBW File Location	
Desmond James Skillen	02/01/1926	1031	AA 57 71 36D		Not Known	Destroyed 2000	x	x	x	
ML 7								x	x	x
LN 18							Check with Deirdre	x	x	
ML 8							x	x	Destroyed 11/07/2010	
LN 22										
ML 3										
ML 4							x	Destroyed	x	
ML 6										
LN 20							Check with Deirdre	x	x	
LN 23										
ML 71										

PSC File Location
x
No file held with PSC, unable to trace most likely destroyed (no record of destruction)
x
x
x
x

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- you were there. You felt that was probably round
3 about the age --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- of him. The governor from a later period has
6 explained that he was known as **Punchy** because he was the
7 sparring partner of a [REDACTED] boxer --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- [REDACTED].

10 **A. He was well-known for his punching skills in the borstal
11 and all.**

12 Q. And that was talk amongst boys?

13 **A. Yes. People were actually terrified of him.**

14 Q. Am I right in saying, HIA272, in fairness to him other
15 than this incident that you are describing you never saw
16 him hit another boy?

17 **A. No, I did not, no. I can honestly say that.**

18 Q. I drew to the Panel's attention that the only reference
19 I can find contemporaneously in the papers is in [REDACTED] he
20 was being commended for the very efficient way he ran
21 **laundry**. The reference for that, Members of the
22 Panel, is at 24300.

23 I was explaining to you this morning, HIA272, he
24 died on [REDACTED]. As of just now, Members of
25 the Panel, we have his death certificate, which is at

1 MIL28068. I will just give you the reference. We don't
2 need to bring that up.

3 The Department of Justice has confirmed that his
4 personnel file where we might have found out more about
5 his period working in Millisle was destroyed
6 unfortunately in the year 2000. The reference for that
7 is at MIL087, but I was saying to you, HIA272, according
8 to the police there was no -- no-one ever reported this
9 man for assault or anything else at any stage until the
10 Inquiry and people making allegations about him before
11 the Inquiry.

12 In paragraph 7 of your statement, HIA272, you talk
13 about the work that you were required to do and your
14 involvement then with an LN22.

15 **A. That is correct.**

16 Q. Your recollection is that essentially your day was spent
17 scrubbing the floors in the dining hall and you were
18 explaining to me that it was a significantly large room.

19 **A. Yes. It would have been bigger than this, much bigger.**

20 Q. And also the corridors that were off the dining room.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And that you were expected to scrub those floors
23 basically all day with a break for your lunch.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. LN22's practice was to mark the floors on you again.

1 gratuitously slapping at somebody --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. -- and the type of reasonable force that has to at times
4 be engaged in for everyone's safety.

5 **A. Yes, yes, yes. Totally unacceptable.**

6 Q. In relation to **Officer Skillen** then --

7 **A. Officer Skillen**

8 Q. **Officer Skillen** he was present in Millisle when you came.

9 **A. That's correct.**

10 Q. If we bring up paragraph 54, please, at 722, he was
11 a basic grade officer.

12 **A. That's correct.**

13 Q. You can't help me -- I was asking you earlier whether
14 you could help me with how long he had been there before
15 you arrived, and you don't know how long that was.

16 **A. I don't know.**

17 Q. But you were making it plain to me that, as you have
18 said in this paragraph, Duncan, but you explained to me
19 in rather more detail, he was from your dealing with him
20 as part of your work a likeable individual.

21 **A. That's correct. Yes, he was.**

22 Q. He was someone -- he had a lovely family.

23 **A. That's right.**

24 Q. One of the concerns you had was knowing his family and
25 the fact he is not here to defend himself.

could only be imposed by the Department or by the Visiting Committee following a formal hearing (Exhibit 6)⁸. I recall that it was policy that the cane was applied to the trainee's rear; he wore only his underpants and was held down by two or three prison officers over the end of a bed. The medical officer had to be present at the caning and had the authority to stop it at any point. On my return to Millisle as governor-in-charge corporal punishment was awarded on three occasions. I note that the Governor's Journal on 15 August 1975 records that the Visiting Committee sanctioned the use of corporal punishment but that following referral to the NI and the intervention of Lord Donaldson, this decision was overturned (Exhibit 7)⁹. See also para 79 of the Millisle general statement.

40. I was opposed to the use of corporal punishment and on the second occasion had to stop its administration. I recall that the cane was applied by Mr Skillen and that he did so within the terms required under the Prison Rules (Exhibit 7)¹⁰. In the course of the caning, the Medical Officer took unwell and would have been incapable of intervening had this been required, which was the role assigned to him under the legislation. Accordingly, I stepped in and stopped the administration of the caning. Some months later the Visiting Committee awarded the caning of a trainee and I refused to allow it to be carried out although I did not have the authority to make that decision.

41. Some months later in conversation with the then Secretary of State – Merlyn Rees, and the Minister for Prisons – Lord Donaldson, I told them what I had done. Not long after that, an instruction was issued to the NIO that caning should

⁸ Exhibit 6 - Notice in relation to Prison Rules (N.I.) Part II Rule 34 - Corporal Punishment⁸, dated 31 January 1962

⁹ Exhibit 7 - Governor's Journal, 15 August 1975

¹⁰ Exhibit 6 - Notice in relation to Prison Rules (N.I.) Part II Rule 34 - Corporal Punishment¹⁰, dated 31 January 1962

Visiting Committee Rota Visit Report.

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House, Millisle.

Date of Visit 12th Feb., 1973.

Time of Visit 2 p.m.

Department.	Comment.
Living Accommodation	Clean and tidy.
Workshops.	Useful work going on in which the boys appear to be taking a keen interest.
Laundry.	Laundry machine had broken down a few minutes before my visit. Mr. Skillen getting the best from his boys as usual.
Kitchen and Food	A good meal in preparation. Mr. McCooke well pleased with arrangements.
Garden	All work well up to date.
Grounds.	Tidy.
School.	Mr. Anderson feels most trainees are making at least some progress. Educational film in progress.
Staff and Trainees.	Relationships good.
New Development.	Progress in many areas. No outside contractors being employed at present which is as I like to see it.
Surgery.	Clean and tidy. No boys in sick bay.

General Remarks:-

Everything running smoothly in spite of recent staff changes at the top.

(Signed)

F. J. Eves.

- 5 -

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 ML 33 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.

The Allegations being investigated by the Inquiry.

53. I note that allegations of abuse have been made by seven ex trainees. I do not recognise their names and do not have any personal knowledge of any of them. As I have previously stated, I do not recall receiving any complaint of abuse from any trainee, and neither did I receive any such complaint from a trainee's family or from any other source apart from that already referred to in para 33 of this statement.

54. I note that Mr D Skillen is the subject of a number of complaints. See paras 95 - 97 of the Millisle general statement. He worked in the laundry and I recall that when I visited there the atmosphere presented as good humoured and relaxed. I also recall that the nickname 'Punchy' came from his external role as a sparring partner for Freddie Gilroy, a former boxer who won a bronze medal for Ireland at the 1956 Summer Olympics and became Commonwealth Champion. As already mentioned in para 40 of this statement, Mr Skillen was responsible for administering corporal punishment; this decision was taken before I worked in Millisle. Corporal punishment was a feature of the sanctions in place at the time and I have no criticism to make regarding his conduct when administering corporal punishment that I witnessed. Further, I was not aware of any allegations being made about his conduct during my time in Millisle.

My View of the Allegations

55. It would be unwise in the extreme for any prison governor to believe that he knew everything that went on in his establishment – I am not an exception to that. It would be unwise in the extreme for any governor to maintain that every member

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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

1 **actually the laundry was up there as well now I think of**
2 **it. That was -- the whole roof space would have been**
3 **where the laundry was.**

4 Q. So the -- you had the ground floor and the bedrooms on
5 the first floor --

6 A. **Yes.**

7 Q. -- and then you had this --

8 A. **The whole top of the building was where the doctor's was**
9 **and the seamstress would have made the suits and stuff**
10 **like that and the laundry.**

11 Q. So the attic was converted, as it were, to provide --

12 A. **Yes.**

13 Q. -- the room for these places?

14 A. **Yes.**

15 Q. And the laundry was one of those?

16 A. **Yes. As far as I remember, yes.**

17 Q. You were sent there to be issued with your clothes?

18 A. **Yes. It was a different type of uniform. We wore**
19 **a different -- it was grey down there. It was black --**
20 **sorry -- with a grey shirt and a red tie. That was in**
21 **Millisle, whereas the closed borstal was a different**
22 **one. It was denims. So you had to go down straightaway**
23 **and you were issued with your new number. Then you were**
24 **sent to the laundry to get kitted out.**

25 So when I went into the laundry, there was Officer Skillen

1 **the area.**

2 Q. Yes, and you explain to me you believe he was [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED] as well --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- and was involved in taking you [REDACTED] at

6 Donaghadee.

7 **A. He was indeed.**

8 Q. You were not someone keen to go.

9 **A. I went once or twice and then I just refused to go**
10 **afterwards, because I didn't believe in religion.**

11 Q. But you interacted -- he was involved in that.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. I was asking you then, "Had you ever any other
14 difficulty with him?" and you explained to me that he
15 never did anything else on you.

16 **A. The only thing was he didn't like was because I didn't**
17 **go [REDACTED] I wouldn't go for him. I refused because**
18 **I didn't class myself as Catholic or Protestant.**

19 Q. But he didn't -- what I am getting at is he didn't hit
20 you again --

21 **A. No, he didn't, no. No, no, no.**

22 Q. -- or he didn't grab you or anything of that sort?

23 **A. Nothing whatsoever, no.**

24 Q. This occasion on the first day when you meet him you
25 refer to him grabbing your testicles.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. I was asking you to check: there was nothing sexual
3 about that?

4 **A. No, it wasn't sexual. It was just a grip. He had me
5 like that (gesturing) and headbutted straightaway.**

6 Q. It was his way of keeping you in the right place --

7 **A. Controlling you, yes.**

8 Q. -- for the headbutt.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. I was asking you whether you needed any medical
11 treatment after the headbutt or the grabbing of you that
12 he did and you said no --

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. -- you didn't.

15 **A. No, none whatsoever.**

16 Q. And --

17 **A. I was actually stunned, just stunned when he hit me with
18 the head.**

19 Q. And I was asking you in your statement, and you have
20 said it again to the Inquiry just now, there was a boy
21 working in the laundry with him --

22 **A. That's correct.**

23 Q. -- or, you know, it might have been an older man. He
24 could have been up to the age of 21.

25 **A. He probably would have been about 18, 19, 20, yes, that**

undergo a military type parade followed by vigorous physical exercise in which I and others were brought to a state of severe exhaustion. Usually a prison officer took the parade and the physical training was taken by an ex-soldier by the name of [REDACTED]. I considered this to be a form of torture. We had been led to believe that [REDACTED] was an ex paratrooper. His job in the Maze was a P T instructor. The parade and exercise took place in the exercise yard of H Block 4.

To avoid the P T, I recall other inmates cutting their wrists and breaking limbs by having the cell door slammed closed on them by another prisoner. I remember a prisoner one day didn't want to do P T so he asked me and others to stick a sewing needle in his eye to get taken to the hospital. His name was [REDACTED] from Larne. I recall other inmates purposely swallowing shampoo as it was believed that this would bring on severe sickness symptoms again to avoid these severe exercise symptoms.

Following approximately 2 months, I along with other inmates were moved to the compounds in Magilligan Prison. One event which has stuck out in my mind is one day someone pushed the medication off the drug trolley a cough mixture in front of an officer called [REDACTED]. The following morning along with the prisoners that had been present during the incident I along with three or four other was taken from our compound just before all the other inmates were awakened and ordered out of our beds. We were given a pair of white plimsolls and white shorts (nothing else on) and made to run around the football pitches in the extreme cold conditions for approximately half an hour. I recall our bare skin was covered in purple blotches and I felt as if I was going to collapse. One of the other inmates had to be taken to hospital with hypothermia.

In January 1978 I along with all other inmates was transported to the secure/closed borstal at Millisle. This building was situated about 200 yards behind Woburn House, the open borstal. Because the closed Borstal was a new build, the only time we got out of the cell was for 5 minutes in the morning for a was and to empty our urine pots. On a number of occasions we got to go to the gym for a while. From 7.30am to 7.00pm you were not permitted to sit or lie on your bed all the time spent in the cell. You had to sit on a plastic chair facing the door. If during a cell check you were seen through a slit on the door to have your eyes closed the prison staff shouted and banged on the door. From 7.00pm at night until unlock at 7.30am there was no access to a toilet to defecate. We only had access to a urine pot.

Following 6-8 weeks in the closed facility along with others we were moved to the open Borstal (Woburn House), that first morning I had my first encounter with an officer named Desy Skillen (whose job it was to run the Borstal Laundry), as we stood in the corridor in single file, Skillen came along and some of us got punched others

got a head butt or a "dead leg". This was the start of periodic sexual, physical and mental assaults I received from Skillen.

Usually when you went to the laundry on a Thursday, Skillen tried to put us inmates over a large roller (ironing roller for sheets) used for ironing bed sheets. If you moved the wrong way when being pushed against the roller you got burnt. Skillen then rubbed his front body against you as if he was having sex. I can remember him getting that excited that he was foaming and dribbling at the mouth.

On other occasions Skillen brought us up either alone or with another boy to what he called the attic storeroom. If you were to try on new jeans he would remark "hurry up and get those off till I get on." On a couple of occasions he sent for me alone and as I was trying to put on my jeans he head butted me and when I tried to balance myself he stuck his finger up my back passage. I told him to fuck off and that I was going to report him. He said he was only joking and it was accident and he wouldn't touch me again. I remember the mixed emotions of anger, disgust and embarrassment. I fail to understand how this could be a joke. It was a serious sexual assault. From that day on I was passing blood through my backside every day for months. Sometimes I had to change my underpants twice a day also where a sanitary type pad, until I was taken out to Newtownards Hospital for an operation on my back passage. The doctor told me I had an anal fissure and they had to stretch the tissue in that area to stop the bleeding. Also I had to take medication every day following the operation.

On other occasions usually in the corridor Skillen would head-butt me, give me a dead leg or punch me on the head.

The last time he assaulted me was one Sunday after Church, when I had just changed out of my suit I was walking up stairs to put my Sunday clothes in the wardrobe. As I approached the second last step Skillen fist came round the corner. I can remember the shock and pain. He looked at me full of anger. I told him if he ever touched me again "I'd fucking kill him." I'd never saw him embarrassed he looked quite shocked. I made a decision then if he hit me again it would be the last time he'd ever hit anybody. During my remaining weeks there he would hardly even acknowledge me.

I knew like myself a lot of boys were suffering from anxiety and fear waiting on this animal assaulting them again. I was terrified and constantly living in fear of the next incident. This is not how we should have been treated.

I would like to state most of my time in Woburn House the anticipation of Skillen attacking me again was the equivalent to extreme mental torture. I was released from Borstal in October 1978.

Following my release from Borstal and the psychological trauma I experienced, I believe my threshold for anger and propensity to invoke or relate to circumstances of

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hurt. He said that he thought I would settle once I was down in the open borstal and asked me to give it a chance for two weeks. He gave me his word that he would move me back to the closed borstal if the bullying started again. I stayed in the open borstal and I decided that I was not going to let anyone hurt me again. For the first time in my life I started to stand up for myself.

30. I decided to stand up to **RG 71** who was one of the boys who had bullied me in Rathgael. The first time I saw him he was standing in the queue in the dining hall. I was terrified but I walked up to him and jumped the queue in front of him. I was waiting for him to start beating me and I was prepared to fight back but he said he did not want any trouble because he was due for release in six weeks time. I quickly became the dangerous kid who everyone backed away from and I liked that. I was still terrified but I was never beaten up again and the rest of my time in that institution was easier in respect of the other boys.
31. The abuse I received after that was at the hands of the staff. There was a man called Punchy Skillen who was in charge of the laundry. He played a "game" where he would chase you and if he caught you he would pretend to touch you up. If you grabbed his nipple he would freeze and you could escape. Periodically you would be sent to the laundry to get something which was dangerous as he would throw a hammer or a spanner at you as soon as you appeared at the door. He hit a boy with a hammer and split his head open. It was part of his "games" and everyone was afraid of being sent to his laundry room for something as you knew you were going to get something thrown at you or sexually assaulted.
32. We used to play a game called "murder ball". The game consisted of two teams of ten, a medicine ball in the middle and a big mat at each side of the room. The object of the game was for each team to try to get the ball on to the other mat by any means necessary. You were allowed to kick and punch. I liked that game and I thought it was a good way to allow all the boys to get rid of any tension.
33. There was a **ML 5** who was a decent man most of the time but he could lose his temper easily. He brought us up to the gym one day to play "murder

1 boys as banter and it didn't have sexual connotations as
2 such. Obviously it did by what he was simulating --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- but that wasn't how it was perceived by the boys at
5 the time.

6 **A. Well, it wasn't perceived by me like that either at the**
7 **time. It is only in retrospect when I realise that**
8 **there is this man behind me thrusting his groin into my**
9 **back and when -- you have to grab him hard by the**
10 **nipples to -- so that he can go into this game of**
11 **freezing. Do you know? In retrospect it seems**
12 **ridiculous that it was not seen as sexual abuse and**
13 **physical abuse. He was very quick with his hands to**
14 **punch you and hit you as well, but again that was**
15 **couched in these terms of it's all part of the fun and**
16 **games. Do you know?**

17 Q. You described him to me when we were talking earlier as
18 a very strange man.

19 **A. He was very strange. He was noticeably not like other**
20 **prison officers. Using today's terminology, I would**
21 **have described him as having special educational needs.**
22 **He seemed a very simple and ogre-like creature.**

23 Q. You also said that he didn't have any other normal
24 prison officer duties. He just worked in this laundry
25 area.

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in a cell and was a closed visit with no one else present. I thought that it was strange because I did not think any Brothers would go to visit a boy in jail. The Brothers recommend to the court that you have to leave St Patrick's because they cannot control you so it was odd that they would take the time to visit me.

18. They told me to say nothing about what had been going on at St Patrick's. I felt intimidated by them because there was no one else in the cell. **BR 20** was known to molest children at St Patrick's and I knew about it even though he did not actually abuse me. It was well known throughout St Patrick's what he was doing. I remember **BR 20** was always taking the new smaller boys by the hand. I remember him taking one of the young boys who came from the orphanage called **SPT 49** under his wing, and **BR 20** always seemed to have him by the hand. **BR 46** conducted himself in the same way.

Millisle Borstal

19. Borstal was very violent but there was no sexual abuse to my knowledge. Everyone is beaten on their first day there. I remember a prison officer called Punchy Skillen who ran the laundry. He used to pretend to rub up against you in front of everyone and everyone thought it was funny. One day he hit me over the head with a hammer. It was extremely regimented in Borstal and there were rules for everything. If I did not follow the rules to the letter then I would be beaten by the staff. The prison officers were tough and were always looking for faults in what I was doing or the state of my cell. If there was a problem then I either was beaten or locked up for the day.
20. I also remember an incident at Magilligan which occurred between August and November 1976. I was with a number of other boys and we were listening to the charts show on the radio. A Prison Officer shouted at us to turn the radio off but no one bothered. Around an hour later the riot squad appeared with dogs and forced us back to our compound. I remember that we started to sing the number one song, which was by Suzie Quattro, and the riot squad took us out one by one. We were beaten by the Prison Officers, some of whom were drunk because

1 it back into the laundry to get it cleaned and that's
2 when this --

3 **A. No, it was thrown away. I didn't have it.**

4 Q. You didn't have it. So there was -- somebody who was
5 working in the laundry made some comment to **Officer Skillen** Is
6 that right?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Maybe you can explain it in your own words.

9 **A. Well, you know, he would throw you, say, a shirt and, as**
10 **I say, one of his workers might grab the shirt and throw**
11 **it back and say, "He is not wearing that. He is not**
12 **wearing that" and then he'd, you know -- but there was**
13 **like a lot of jest to this here, you know. This wasn't**
14 **like, you know ...**

15 Q. You were saying a lot of it was jesting and banter?

16 **A. Everybody found it funny except the person it was**
17 **happening to. You know what I mean?**

18 Q. I was asking how many boys actually worked in the
19 laundry. You think there were two or three at most.

20 **A. Two, maybe three at the most.**

21 Q. So there was banter between him and the boys who worked
22 in the laundry. They kind of picked on those boys who
23 came to collect clothes. Was that how it operated?

24 **A. Aye, but, I mean, **Officer Skillen** would run into the canteen as big**
25 **as this place here and he would just grab a guy and**

1 were acting as a closed borstal.

2 **A. Millisle was open and it was the place -- you couldn't**
3 **get released unless you had been to Millisle. So**
4 **Millisle was like relaxed compared to -- you see,**
5 **Crumlin Road was to break you in. So by the time you**
6 **got to Millisle you were supposed to be, you know,**
7 **behaving yourself, and if you didn't, they sent you**
8 **straight back again anyway for another couple of months.**

9 Q. Thank you very much.

10 MS DOHERTY: Thanks, HIA162. Can I just ask: did you feel
11 there was anything sexual about how **Officer Skillen** behaved? Did
12 it feel that there was a sexual agenda there?

13 **A. I don't think so, because he done it in front of**
14 **everybody. You know what I mean? He would run into the**
15 **canteen and do this. Say somebody said, you know,**
16 **somebody had done something wrong, he would run to the**
17 **canteen and grab this guy. Everybody in the canteen**
18 **would be laughing. So, I mean ...**

19 Q. So it was kind of about showing somebody up as opposed
20 to ...?

21 **A. Aye. Yes, yes. I would say so, yes.**

22 Q. Good, and other staff would have been around at that --
23 you know --

24 **A. Yes. They'd have been -- everybody would have been**
25 **laughing. This was, you know ...**

got a head butt or a "dead leg". This was the start of periodic sexual, physical and mental assaults I received from Skillen.

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I would like to state most of my time in Woburn House the anticipation of Skillen attacking me again was the equivalent to extreme mental torture. I was released from Borstal in October 1978.

Following my release from Borstal and the psychological trauma I experienced, I believe my threshold for anger and propensity to invoke or relate to circumstances of

PRIVATE

13. I was there for approximately four or five months and I class it as months of torture. I was not sentenced by the Court to torture but that was what took place. I was brought up in a good household where my parents taught me right from wrong. I did not deserve to be treated in that way particularly when I was still a child. I should not have been in a maximum security prison. It was wrong to put a child into that environment.
14. I was then moved to Magilligan Prison and it was a relief to be there compared to the Maze. I can only speak for myself but I never saw a Prison Officer there touch anyone. There was no physical abuse, no sectarian abuse and no sexual abuse. The prison officer in control of the wing I was on was called **MG 1** and he was a proper gentleman. He sat down and talked to me as if I was a normal person. The other Prison Officers were good people as well. I was there for around five months and was then moved to Millisle Borstal.

Millisle Borstal

15. I was sent to Millisle and for the majority of my time there it was fine. I had been an apprentice bricklayer before I was sentenced and there was a bricklaying shop at the Borstal. I spent my time laying bricks and I did not have to do anything if I did not want to. I only had a problem with one member of staff while I was there. I cannot remember his name but his nickname was "Punchy". He was a small man, stout and with big lips. I will always remember his face. He worked in the laundry and once a week I had to bring my laundry down to be washed. He used to put his arms round me and try to kiss me. I could feel his erection against my body and he bent me over the washing machines and simulated sex with me. This was not a joke to him and he meant everything that he was doing.
16. On one occasion I plucked up the courage to tell a senior member of staff what was taking place. This man was sharp dressed, very presentable looking and had black hair and a black moustache. He simply dismissed what I told him and nothing was done. The other boys in the laundry knew what was going on but

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: HIA 374

Page 3 of 3

were all scared to go to the laundry as we were all abused there by Punchy. I do not know his real name. He was around 50, short and stout, and had fair hair which was combed over. He had big lips. He would push me over the washing machines and rub himself behind me. I could feel his erect penis pushing against me. This was always fully dressed. He would kiss at my face and slabber over me. This happened many times while I was at Millisle. The abuse was common knowledge amongst the staff, though no action was taken. I did report it to a senior staff member once. I cannot remember his name, though I know he was known by a title - Deputy Governor, or Senior Officer, something like that. He had his own office, which was where I spoke to him. He was a very clean and tidy man, with a number of gold rings on his fingers. He had combed back black hair and a thin black moustache. When I told him about what Punchy did to us in the laundry, he just laughed at me.

Over the years, I have not told anyone the details of what happened to me, though I did tell my brother I had been sexually abused. It was common knowledge that all of us in those institutions were abused. I wish for police to identify the offenders and ask that they be prosecuted if they are still alive.

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Signature of witness:	HIA 374
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	

38/36 (2007)

1 Q. -- to put the context of this, you had to go to the
2 your recollection is once a week.

3 **A. About once a week with your and stuff.**

4 Q. In the was this man --

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. **Officer Skillen**, but there were other boys or trainees --

7 **A. Some of the trainees would have worked.**

8 Q. -- who were there as well, who worked alongside him.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Were there other officers with him that you can
11 remember?

12 **A. Usually it was just him. He run the laundry and ...**

13 Q. So him and the boys who worked in the ?

14 **A. And a couple of young lads, yes.**

15 Q. What you describe him doing, he used to put his arms
16 round you and tried to kiss you.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Then you could feel his erect penis --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- against your body. Bent you over the
21 and simulated sex with you.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. You say:

24 "This was not a joke to him. He meant everything
25 that he was doing."

was looking out the window and the grounds man who was walking around told me that I needn't point at him. The next thing I knew, **ML 8** came into my cell and started to slap me for putting what he called a 'mystery parcel' through the window.

13. I had three or four visits during the year that I was in Millisle. My eldest brother, [REDACTED] and my sister [REDACTED] came to visit me. My brother never really showed his emotions. My sister told me that she saw my brother cry for the first time the day they came to visit me and he told her that he would never return to visit me again. My sister continued to come to see me. When some [REDACTED] boys were admitted my sister was able to get a lift to Millisle with their families. Visiting took place on a Saturday and we would all be gathered in the Common room. If you had a visitor your name was called. My mother visited me the Christmas before I was released.

14. When I was moved to the open Borstal, there were two separate wings. There was a green wing for country people and a blue one for Belfast people. The Officers made a distinction between the country boys and the Belfast boys. There was a workshop for joinery and metal work. I chose to do metal work. We were allowed to wear jeans in the open borstal.

15. I was in the canteen one day and word was going around that there were new jackets and jeans in the laundry. At dinner time, I went down to try to get a jacket for myself. There was a boy who worked in the laundry and he was standing at the door. I entered the laundry and I heard him shout 'Punchy he is stealing jackets, get him, get him'. Punchy Skillen was the main guy in the laundry and he had a bad reputation. He made us call him boss. He would always punch you when you walked past him. Punchy then came in and closed the door and told me that I was going to get my star burst. Two boys held me over the press. Punchy then took my trousers down and shoved the shaft of a brush up my backside. After this I never went back near the laundry. I have never spoken to anyone about incident.

got a head butt or a "dead leg". This was the start of periodic sexual, physical and mental assaults I received from Skillen.

Usually when you went to the laundry on a Thursday, Skillen tried to put us inmates over a large roller (ironing roller for sheets) used for ironing bed sheets. If you moved the wrong way when being pushed against the roller you got burnt. Skillen then rubbed his front body against you as if he was having sex. I can remember him getting that excited that he was foaming and dribbling at the mouth.

On other occasions Skillen brought us up either alone or with another boy to what he called the attic storeroom. If you were to try on new jeans he would remark "hurry up and get those off till I get on." On a couple of occasions he sent for me alone and as I was trying to put on my jeans he head butted me and when I tried to balance myself he stuck his finger up my back passage. I told him to fuck off and that I was going to report him. He said he was only joking and it was accident and he wouldn't touch me again. I remember the mixed emotions of anger, disgust and embarrassment. I fail to understand how this could be a joke. It was a serious sexual assault. From that day on I was passing blood through my backside every day for months. Sometimes I had to change my underpants twice a day also where a sanitary type pad, until I was taken out to Newtownards Hospital for an operation on my back passage. The doctor told me I had an anal fissure and they had to stretch the tissue in that area to stop the bleeding. Also I had to take medication every day following the operation.

On other occasions usually in the corridor Skillen would head-butt me, give me a dead leg or punch me on the head.

The last time he assaulted me was one Sunday after Church, when I had just changed out of my suit I was walking up stairs to put my Sunday clothes in the wardrobe. As I approached the second last step Skillen fist came round the corner. I can remember the shock and pain. He looked at me full of anger. I told him if he ever touched me again "I'd fucking kill him." I'd never saw him embarrassed he looked quite shocked. I made a decision then if he hit me again it would be the last time he'd ever hit anybody. During my remaining weeks there he would hardly even acknowledge me.

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Following my release from Borstal and the psychological trauma I experienced, I believe my threshold for anger and propensity to invoke or relate to circumstances of

16. I remember on another occasion Punchy brought us to mass. When we were leaving two boys went missing. Punchy then went into a rage.
17. When I injured my back, I informed the staff of this but they did not believe me. They thought that I was trying to avoid activities. The staff phoned home and asked my mother if I ever had back problems in the past and she confirmed that I did not have any back issue prior to this. My mother attempted to get my own doctor to attend the Millisle but he was not permitted entry. I was then taken to hospital and my back was x-rayed, I was told there was nothing wrong with it. When I was made to stand to attention I could hardly put my foot on the floor due to the pain that I was in. I was then punched for not standing to attention and I had to scrub the stairs as punishment. We were made to parade in two lines, I also found this very difficult because of the pain in my foot.
18. I was eventually put into the hospital room. I was given tablets; I think that they were pain killers. I was left in this room on my own for three days with no way of contacting anyone. My dinner was taken off me. My leg was so bad but I had to pretend that it was better so that I could leave this room. I now know that I had sciatica.
19. When we were all gathered in the workshop on one occasion I was threatened by another boy. He told me that someone from East Belfast was going to get me because I apparently said something about them. I had not said anything. This sort of intimidating behaviour was common. When everyone went into the workshop we had to remove our boots. I would sneak back into my room and take my boots off. I knew that I was going to get a beating in the changing room before the workshop.
20. I was eventually put into a dormitory with a few other fellows. They were always bullying and hurting each other. During the night, I remember hearing would hear the squealing and crying. I stayed awake as they were taller than me and I had to stay alert in case they started to hold me down and beat me.

1 **and that was it.**

2 Q. You were saying that after this you were sore, but you
3 don't believe --

4 A. **Yes, because I had my underwear on, and after I just**
5 **went up and lay on my bed, waited till the workshops**
6 **were ready and went back up to the workshops.**

7 Q. You never reported this to anybody, HIA416?

8 A. **You couldn't report it to anybody. If I had reported**
9 **that to anybody, I would lose my chances of getting**
10 **special privileges.**

11 Q. You go on to say in paragraph 16 that he -- you remember
12 he brought you to [REDACTED]

13 A. **Yes.**

14 Q. You say that -- one of the things you said to me was
15 that he seemed to be very religious. He was [REDACTED]
16 and you couldn't understand why he did that to another
17 [REDACTED]

18 A. **Yes, I couldn't understand that.**

19 Q. You remember an occasion where there were two boys who
20 went missing, who absconded when you were [REDACTED]

21 A. **Yes.**

22 Q. He went into a rage over that.

23 A. **Oh, yes, yes, yes. You know, when he ever got them boys**
24 **back in borstal what he was going to do to them, what he**
25 **wasn't going to do to them and how dare they -- how dare**

1 **they -- how they ever fucked -- he was even cursing --**
2 **try and escape from [REDACTED] How dare they**
3 **escape from there!**

4 Q. Well, paragraph 17 here of your statement you go on to
5 talk about when you injured your back. We were
6 discussing you thought that might have been as a result
7 of polishing the floors. You informed the staff, but
8 they didn't believe you. They thought you were trying
9 to avoid activities. They phoned home and asked your
10 mother if you had ever had back problems in the past and
11 she confirmed that you did not have any back issue prior
12 to that. She then tried to get your own doctor to go to
13 Millisle to see you, but he wasn't allowed in. You were
14 then taken to hospital and your back was x-rayed. You
15 were told there was nothing wrong with it. When you
16 were made to stand to attention, you could hardly put
17 your foot on the floor due to the pain that you were in.
18 You were then punched for not standing to attention.
19 You had to scrub the chairs -- sorry -- stairs as
20 punishment. This was -- the standing to attention was
21 when you were made to parade in two lines and you could
22 not do that. That was you were saying to me every
23 Saturday --

24 **A. Every Saturday morning, yes, you would --**

25 Q. -- you would line up outside.

1 **A.**

.

3 Q. You said to me, LN20, that this information came to you
4 from two different directions. One was the trainees who
5 were -- there was a process that you could get sent back
6 to the closed borstal if you stepped out of line in the
7 open borstal.

8 **A. That's correct, yes.**

9 Q. Can you tell the Panel some of what you would have
10 become aware of in that regard?

11 **A. When some of the trainees came back to the closed**
12 **borstal, we used to ask them why. "What -- what have**
13 **you done this time?" or whatever, and they would say,**
14 **but then once they got into the common room with the**
15 **other trainees they'd started talking, "If you get down**
16 **to the open borstal, watch this fella, Officer Skillen".**

17 Q. Then that was one way it would have come to your
18 attention and the other way was through other staff
19 talking.

20 **A. Other staff in the staff room, yes.**

21 Q. And can you recall what form that took?

22 **A. There was -- it was basically just the same again, where**
23 **some of the staff were talking about some of the**
24 **trainees that had actually come back from the open**
25 **borstal to the closed and we were just discussing among**

1 were obviously you were saying to me engineering and
2 woodworking and the classes going on.

3 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. Then you were talking in passing about going swimming
5 over to the beach and that type of thing. So the
6 facilities, how would you have described them, in
7 Millisle?

8 **A. As I said -- as I said to you, they were a bit**
9 **antiquated, but they were -- they were quite adequate**
10 **and the boys seemed to enjoy them, the use of the gym**
11 **and that.**

12 Q. I was asking you about the Visiting Committee, MZ1, and
13 you were explaining to me that you could remember them
14 coming in and out.

15 **A. I don't ever remember them coming in and out when I was**
16 **there.**

17 Q. You don't remember them coming in and out? You didn't
18 have any involvement with them?

19 **A. No, I didn't have any involvement whatsoever with them.**

20 Q. I then asked you a question, MZ1, and I want you to
21 explain this in full to the Panel, because it's very
22 important for the Panel's work. You have explained your
23 position that it wasn't a place for you. You didn't fit
24 in. You were more suited to working in an adult prison,
25 but I was asking you whether there was someone who was

1 known as the one to watch out for, someone that was
2 talked about as taking liberties with the trainees, and
3 you were able to tell me about that. So can I ask you
4 just to explain that to the Panel?

5 **A. Yes. There was an officer who had been there for about**
6 **-- it must have been ten, twelve years I'm sure, and he**
7 **was -- by the name of **Officer Skillen**. He was a bit rough**
8 **with them. He was rough with them, and I had**
9 **occasion -- on one occasion I heard from a member of**
10 **staff that he had done something. He had I think hit or**
11 **clashed somebody or done something, and I said to him,**
12 **you know, "**Punchy** you would need to watch yourself,**
13 **because this is not acceptable. You can't go around**
14 **doing these things, because you are going to finish up**
15 **in a lot of bother" and his idea was, "Oh, well" and**
16 **I said, "Well, I'm just telling you you cannot do it".**

17 **Q.** You were explaining to me, MZ1 -- and I am going to
18 summarise it, and you correct me if I've got this wrong
19 --

20 **A. Yes, sir.**

21 **Q.** -- he worked in the **laundry**

22 **A. Yes, sir.**

23 **Q.** You didn't have much interaction with him yourself. You
24 never took a boy to the **laundry**

25 **A. No.**

1 seemed to have been there from the place was built, and
2 the chief officer, he was so lackadaisical in his
3 manner. He should -- you know, he would have said, you
4 know, "Och, **Punchy**'s going to have to watch himself, you
5 know". That's all there ever was -- that's all there
6 ever was to it, and he just sort of said, "Well, it's
7 his head, you know", but ...

8 Q. The chief officer was Chief Officer ML 44

9 A. Yes, that's right, sir.

10 Q. The point you made to me was, you know, the chief
11 officer, that was the row beneath, as it were, the
12 deputy governor.

13 A. That was the row beneath the deputy governor.

14 Q. I asked you whether the deputy governor was likely to
15 have known and you said to me that that was **ML 71**

16 A. **ML 71**

17 Q. -- **ML 71**. You felt he probably would have known.

18 A. He probably would have, but I can assure you if the
19 number one had of knew about it, there would have been
20 hell to play.

21 Q. Now just so we clarify that, the governor at the time
22 you were there was Duncan McLaughlan.

23 A. Duncan McLaughlan.

24 Q. You explained to me that he -- and you weren't being
25 critical of him, but I will characterise it in this way

1 Q. You were able to tell me why **Officer Skillen** was known as **Punchy**.

2 Can you tell the Panel why that was?

3 **A. Because -- it was known that he was an and**
4 **he -- he had a He just looked for all the**
5 **world, you know ... He just done his own thing in the**
6 **and nobody ever questioned him.**

7 Q. Am I right in saying he wasn't a big man --

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. -- in the way that might be said of you, MZ1? He wasn't
10 a ...?

11 **A. No, he was not a huge -- he was not a huge man.**

12 Q. But he had that ?

13 **A. He had that -- he had that back... -- and he was**
14 **known for it, because he spoke of it manys a time.**

15 Q. He -- there's evidence from the governor, for instance,
16 although it had stopped by your time, that **Officer Skillen** was the
17 designated person to use the cane in the borstal to do
18 the corporal punishment. That didn't seem to happen in
19 your time. Were you aware of his background in that?

20 **A. No, I wasn't, funnily enough. That's the first I have**
21 **heard of that one.**

22 Q. But there was no caning in your time?

23 **A. Never, never.**

24 Q. Just to be clear, MZ1, can I ask you: do you recall ever
25 hearing any suggestion in Millisle from other staff

of his staff was incapable of inflicting abuse on an inmate – I am not an exception to that.

56. I cannot therefore make any informed comment on the veracity of the allegations that have been made. If any one of those allegations is found to have substance then that behaviour was in direct contravention of the policies in place at the time and of my belief of how those under my care should be treated.


21 Dec 2015

1 something that ought to have been brought to your
2 attention?

3 **A. Oh, yes, very clearly. Very clearly.**

4 Q. And there is a systems problem, a systems failing if
5 officers didn't bring that to your attention?

6 **A. That's right. It's clearly something they should have
7 done that they didn't do.**

8 Q. Because I am right in saying, am I, Duncan, that the
9 officers themselves were under an obligation as part of
10 the code of conduct that prison officers subscribe to
11 that if they are aware of any mistreatment taking place,
12 that should be brought to you, the governor, to deal
13 with?

14 **A. In a sense we are talking about a very theoretical
15 situation, that the code of loyalty amongst staff would
16 prevent them doing that. The only time I was ever
17 informed, and it will come up later on, about -- that
18 led to two officers being suspended was I was told by
19 a junior governor. I wasn't told by a prison officer.
20 The culture of the Prison Service would be that you
21 don't inform on your mates. So that's why I was saying
22 in a sense it's a theoretical situation.**

23 Q. Yes.

24 **A. Yes. I think --**

25 Q. They had an obligation to do it, but it comes as no

agreed that they should have brought their concerns to his attention (transcript for day 182, at page 67).

308. It was suggested to Mr McLaughlan (at page 67) that prison officers were obliged by their code of conduct to report ill treatment if they were aware of it taking place, and that there was a systems failure in this instance. He agreed with that analysis but described it as “*a very theoretical situation*” because “*the code of loyalty amongst staff would prevent them doing that.*”

309. Mr McLaughlan stated that had he been made aware of the allegations which have now been raised against Officer Skillen he would suspended him and if necessary he would have called in the police.

310. On the basis of the evidence now provided by LN20 and MZ1, the Department accepts that there was a failure on their part to comply with their obligations to report evidence of ill treatment to the Governor or other Officer in authority, although in fairness to them their evidence suggests that they were relying on information supplied by others and did not directly witness any incident.

311. The Department would submit that it is to misdescribe the nature of their failure to label it as a systems failure. Instead this was a people failure - a failure on the part of Officers to carry out what they knew to be their duty.

312. The system itself was appropriately constructed: Officers were made aware of the rules and were explicitly told that ill treatment of trainees would contravene the rules and would not be tolerated; they knew that violations of the rules by colleagues should

complaint investigation relating to sexual assault by one boy against another. Although these allegations do not relate to any of the complainants to the Inquiry, they provide evidence of how such allegations were treated.

83. In relation to the “Allegations of Assault by Staff Feb 1962 **ML 29**) – Feb 1962”, (Exhibit 28) it can be seen that while the complaint was not substantiated, the Ministry was clearly concerned:

“.. the incident may serve as a reminder that the Ministry is bound to take a serious view of allegations of this nature, and to investigate them thoroughly, no matter from what source they may arise.”

84. “Allegations against Officer **ML 32** - January 1963” (Exhibit 29) record the actions taken by the Governor in investigating the allegations, including the precautionary suspension of Officer **ML 32** due to the seriousness of the allegations. These allegations included:

- Deliberately acting in a manner calculated to provoke a prisoner
- Using force unnecessarily
- Willfully damaging pyjamas and mattress with a cigarette end, and filling shoes with water
- Neglecting to report damage of pyjamas and mattress
- Whilst on duty acting in a manner prejudicial to discipline
- Allowing any undue familiarity between prisoners and himself.

85. A full record is available of the findings in relation to each of the allegations against Officer **ML 32**, on pages 56-57 (Exhibit 29) and, although the Governor found the majority of the allegations to be unsubstantiated, he did record in a letter to the Ministry that “I feel certain that Officer **ML 32** has, by his general attitude towards trainees, on this occasion shown lack of tact which was provocative to these trainees at that time; and I have taken the necessary action in regard to the infractions of regulations committed by him”. The records do not specify what actions were taken.

File

Allegations of Assault
against staff, made
by **ML 31** of **ML 28**

Reference.....

Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast.

The Governor,
H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle.

Enclosed for your information are copies of a letter of complaint addressed to the Minister and the Ministry's reply. Since it was necessary for the undersigned to question several members of your staff about the incidents referred to in this correspondence, you may wish to let them see the reply, the first paragraph of which, in particular, should remove any doubts they may have entertained as to the conclusions reached by the Ministry.

At the same time, the incident may serve as a reminder that the Ministry is bound to take a serious view of allegations of this nature, and to investigate them thoroughly, no matter from what source they may arise. The Ministry suggests, therefore, that you take this opportunity to remind all staff of the importance of avoiding, in all circumstances, conduct which could give rise to any allegations of ill-treatment and the use of unnecessary force.

ML 29 *d/cr.*
O. J. B. Mitchell

ML 30

for Secretary
27th February, 1962.

27th February, 1962.

Dear **ML 31**

I have been asked to reply to your letter of 20th February addressed to the Minister of Home Affairs. Your letter contained serious allegations against members of the staff of the Borstal Institution, and an immediate enquiry was held about the incidents to which you refer. I have to inform you that as a result of these enquiries the allegations of violence against **ML 28** could not in any way be substantiated. It is correct that **ML 28** was not wearing socks at the time of your visit, but I have to point out that on his return to Woburn he was found to have disposed of all the clothing which had been issued to him. The clothing he was then wearing had to be removed for return to its owner, and at the time of your visit a fresh issue was not completed.

Your letter contains an enquiry as to whether **ML 28** could serve his sentence in prison rather than at the Borstal Institution. Transfers to prison are indeed possible, but only in cases where the trainee has been reported to the Ministry to be incorrigible, or to be exercising a bad influence on the other boys. The Ministry is sure you would not like to learn that **ML 28** fell into either of these categories. I should point out that a Borstal sentence is intended to provide training, and not merely punishment. If **ML 28**

/is

Seen and initialed by:--

Sgt. [redacted]

ML 29

CO. [redacted]

Off. [redacted]

ML 57

Warrant [redacted]

Po. [redacted]

is prepared to accept the necessary discipline, and to take advantage of the training offered, and the care and oversight provided after he leaves, his period at Borstal could be of great advantage to him, and should assist him to make a fresh start in life.

For [redacted] ML 28 [redacted] to abscond after so short a period at Woburn was an unfortunate start, and you will appreciate that he could not possibly have reached any firm and accurate impressions of the nature of the Institution in such a short time.

The statement that [redacted] ML 28 [redacted] is handicapped has been noted. He will in due course be given attainment tests and such remedial teaching as is provided will be available if he is found to need it.

Yours faithfully,

A. ALEXANDER.
Asst. Secy.
for Secretary

ML 31

Co. Down.

20/2/62.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to beg of you to do something for **ML 28** who was sentenced at the Northern Ireland Winter Assizes in Belfast to a period of training at Woburn House, Millisle.

I believe you to be a person to whom every citizen of N. Ireland looks to for protection and I know you do this work very sufficiently.

My brother is a citizen of N. Ireland so are my parents. My father was a member of the **ML 28**

Recently **ML 28** had been associating with bad company resulting in breaking the law several times. The latest time being when he received a stolen electric razor as part payment for work he had done for his employer. After being sentenced to Borstal **ML 28** remained there for over a week and because of being ill-treated by other convicts and an officer of the institution who kicked him while he was scrubbing a floor **ML 28** broke out of the building and returned home to **ML 28** in a terrible mental and physical state. He was arrested and taken back to Woburn House where he arrived about one thirty a.m. on Saturday 17th of February.

ML 28 and I went to visit **ML 28** at 3 o'clock on Saturday 17th of February, both **ML 28** and I were disgusted at **ML 28**'s appearance, there were several bruises on **ML 28**'s face and he was unable to rest his back against the chair on which he was sitting as he said it was very painful.

I asked **ML 28** who were the persons responsible for beating him and he told me **ML 29** the house-master, and the officer present at our visit, beat him on returning. I asked **ML 28** to see his back, but he said he could'nt as the officer present would only give him more if he were known to have told us.

During the visit to **ML 28** I noticed that he was wearing no stocking only physical exercise shoes on his feet and was complaining of a severe headache. I was just horrified at **ML 28**'s condition on Saturday as I did not believe any convicts in a N. Ireland jail or borstal had to suffer so much as looking at **ML 28** that had been in Woburn House for over a week, I would have thought he had been in one of Russia's concentration camps for years instead of a civilized institution in N. Ireland.

On returning home I made further enquiries from another person who had been in the same establishment, and I was told similar stories as **ML 28** had told me of brutality being used to the boys, especially boys from the country district, by the officers.

I do not excuse **ML 28** for anything he has done and I believe he deserves punishment, but certainly not the type of punishment he has been receiving.

ML 28 is a handicapped person and is unable to read or write, as a child he had a very severe illness, at home he was good to **ML 28** and was always obedient to their wishes, he has been helping **ML 28** to look after **ML 28** who has been ill for fourteen years, and who has been confined to bed permanently this past two years. Had he of not done this I would never had been able to start my training as a **ML 28**, as **ML 28** needed someone to help her with **ML 28** at home.

I believe if **ML 28** is to remain at this institution under his present circumstances, he may do something of which he will not be accountable for.

I would like you to see that no harm comes to **ML 28** for me writing to you as he does not know that I'm doing so. As I just could'nt think of **ML 28** suffering so much. I'm quite sure you are aware of these conditions otherwise they would'nt exist.

/I

Dear Sir,

I am no authority on the matter of training boys but I believe this is certainly the way to make them worse citizens, instead of better ones.

While visiting **ML 28** he told me he would prefer to take his punishment in jail rather than remain where he was. I presume this could not be arranged, or could it?

Again Sir, I'm begging of you please do something for **ML 28** as you are the only person that I can place my trust and hope in. I would like to thank you for reading this letter as I know you are a very busy person and do your best for everyone in N. Ireland. So I hope you would look into this matter for me.

Thanking you, I remain, Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

ML 31

complaint investigation relating to sexual assault by one boy against another. Although these allegations do not relate to any of the complainants to the Inquiry, they provide evidence of how such allegations were treated.

83. In relation to the “Allegations of Assault by Staff Feb 1962 **ML 29** – Feb 1962”, (Exhibit 28) it can be seen that while the complaint was not substantiated, the Ministry was clearly concerned:

“.. the incident may serve as a reminder that the Ministry is bound to take a serious view of allegations of this nature, and to investigate them thoroughly, no matter from what source they may arise.”

84. “Allegations against Officer **ML 32** - January 1963” (Exhibit 29) record the actions taken by the Governor in investigating the allegations, including the precautionary suspension of Officer **ML 32** due to the seriousness of the allegations. These allegations included:

- Deliberately acting in a manner calculated to provoke a prisoner
- Using force unnecessarily
- Willfully damaging pyjamas and mattress with a cigarette end, and filling shoes with water
- Neglecting to report damage of pyjamas and mattress
- Whilst on duty acting in a manner prejudicial to discipline
- Allowing any undue familiarity between prisoners and himself.

85. A full record is available of the findings in relation to each of the allegations against Officer **ML 32** on pages 56-57 (Exhibit 29) and, although the Governor found the majority of the allegations to be unsubstantiated, he did record in a letter to the Ministry that “I feel certain that Officer **ML 32** has, by his general attitude towards trainees, on this occasion shown lack of tact which was provocative to these trainees at that time; and I have taken the necessary action in regard to the infractions of regulations committed by him”. The records do not specify what actions were taken.

Allegations against Officer

ML 32

ORIGINAL NOTES RE INQUIRY
AND ORIGINAL STATEMENTS -

January 1963

Millisle
7th Jan 1963

Sir,

I was on duty in Alexander House on Wed evening 2nd Jan. 1963 supervising nos. 9, 10, 11, dormitories while boys were washing.

At approx. 6.55 pm when all boys had gone down to the Common Room, after locking the doors of the dormitories I was about to lock no 12 Dormitory when I saw Officer **ML 32** upsetting 2 Beds in the same dormitory. I asked him if he wanted the key to lock it? he replied I am just making a search leave them with me which I did.

ML 33

The Governor.

[Signature]
8/1/63.

15/1/63.

[Signature]

Since I came out of the ^{3/1/63} **ML 68**
 has been at **ML 70** sell Mr. **ML 32**
 self He **ML 31** **ML 69** and **ML 32** and my
 few times and then he called me a bastard
 and told me that every time my mother
 gets a picture of me she has to (know)
 knock a hole in the wall and then on
 the 2/1/63 Mr **ML 32** came into us and
 over turned **ML 69** and **ML 69**'s beds
 over and they made their beds when
 we came up at 9 o'clock and **ML 69** and
ML 69 beds were rack agin and then he
 sprow my bed in the ire and then he
 started to hite me on the face and then he
 gave me a rabbit pounce on the (neke) neck

15/1/63

ML 68

Witnessed by
[Signature]

wanted about making an untrue statement against an
officer. Replied - It is true. I've got a bruise here - showing
the left forehead - when he hit me the night before last.

John Mann
Jamaica
4. 1. 63.

Witnessed by
[Redacted] 4/0

ML 69

31 January 1963

Since I came out of the cells officer [Redacted] ML 32 has been at ~~us~~ me, an odd time he would say take another ball and it is very hard to do my time. Last night when ~~we~~ I was at my tea he came over to me and thumped me on the head and spilled my tea then when we came up to go to bed we found he threw them on the ground again the first time he tore my sheet and ~~the~~ threw a cigarette end onto my mattress and burned it and my pyjama jacket he also put water in my Sunday shoes. The second time we refused to make our beds he told us we had three minutes and then he was putting us in the cells then he turned round and threw [Redacted] ML 68 and his bed up in the air when [Redacted] ML 68 said I'll see the Governor D. beat him up. also if this had kept up sure I would have ran away again is at several ~~one~~ time called me a B.

ML 69

Wanted me making untrue statements against an officer.
Replied "I want to go ahead with it. It is true".

John [Signature]
24.1.63

Submitted by
Panepis 6/6

ML 70

13rd January 1963

Since I have come out of the cells, I have had a rough time with **ML 32** he keeps telling me to take a ball. He started joking with me and then he started taking it seriously. I told him I would see the Governor, he hit me across the face with a staff marking my left eye. In school he used to hit me with a thick stick over the head and back. I didn't mind this but when he started using force on me I thought it would be a good idea to see the Governor. I was scared to tell any other officers so I asked **ML 36** to tell someone for me.

ML 32

came into no. 12 Dorm. last night and ransacked the beds except mine for I told the rest of the boys to see the Governor. he then

13/1/63

put a ciggarett but, on **ML 69** mattress,
put water in his shoes,

ML 70

Wanted to make sure statements against an officer.
Replied - It is true - off **ML 32** was taking a walk down
with **ML 69** and **ML 32** was smoking. The time
was about 6:30 PM. **ML 32** checked the beds, and put bed
cigarette on the pyjamas, and filled **ML 69** shoes with water.

for [unclear]
Jensen
4-1-63

submitted by
 [Signature]

ML 36

3/1/63

At tea-time yesterday I saw Officer **ML 32** striking **ML 70** with a wet swab across the face. Then this morning **ML 70** said to me that him **ML 69** and **ML 68** were going to ask for a transfer to the jail or run away. I asked why, and he told me that after hitting him with the swab he pulled their three beds up and told them they had three minutes to make them or he'd throw them in the cells. When **ML 68** refused and said he'd see the Chief Officer in the morning he punched him in the face and said he'd see no Chief. They then told me he burned **ML 69** clothing and mattress and said to them, "you B's take another Ball". They asked me to go up and see the Chief for them as they were scared of Officer **ML 32** finding out and hitting them. They said they didn't want to take a ball but were being driven to it. As I know they would only go to jail when they were caught, I agreed. It is well known to the boys that he tells boys only in the best ways to go.

See and would against making an untrue allegation against
 an officer. Deter - He is always telling boys to take a ball. I
 only saw him hit with the dist rag, the rest of course they
 have told me. I know that they would take a ball over this.

Jal Adams
 Jones W.
 4.1.63

Gov. - in full order - ML 32 requested that transes should be inter.

ML 36 ML 68 ML 70 ML 69

Gov. On 3rd Jan '63 you made allegations against an officer to which off did you refer?

ML 36 ML 32

Gov. Would you make your complaint to off ML 32 in his presence. ML 36 3 fellows told me they were going to take a ball because he was threatening them to go. But they asked me to go to see the Chief with them. I went up and told the Chief then he brought me up to see the Dep Gov.

Gov. What exactly are you alleging about off ML 32 conduct. ML 36 I was saying what they told me - that he punched them in the face burned their clothes, wrecked their beds & told them to get their 3 minutes to make up beds. They told me that he called their names & told them to take another ball.

Gov. What actually do you know personally about off ML 32 ML 36 I saw ML 70 taking his tea in the dining hall. ML 32 walked by with a swab & hit him in the eye with the swab. This happened on the 2nd Jan at tea time.

ML 36 Where were you at this time at the next table. ML 32 and ML 32 were at the same table. ML 36 also saw it.

They told me that one of the boys went into ML 32's room and told him what he had done. What are we going to do about it? ML 70

ML 70 was talking to me to day for the ML 32 they said if nothing was done about it they would ask for transfer to Prison today at V/C meeting.

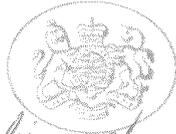
Gov. Have you got anything else to say. ML 36 Nearly all the fellows in the school said that he is always telling them to take a ball.

Gov. Has he told you. ML 36 No.

Gov. ML 32 would you question ML 36. ML 32 I would.

There are a no of Offs & Spis in the School. Can you suggest why this boy went to ML 32's room is his teacher. Are you also his sh. ML 32 No.

(3)



ML 32

Have you ever told lies about any members of the staff?

ML 36

No.

Yes

Have you ever told lies about ML 32?

ML 36

No.

Yes

Why did you interest yourself in the problems of these three trainees?

ML 36

The way I look at it is, if a fellow wants to take a ball that's different, but when somebody starts trying to force them into it, it's bad.

Yes

I knew these boys were telling the truth

knew or thought?

ML 36

I was practically certain they were telling the truth

Yes

Are you in the same down as either ML 70 ML 69 or ML 68?

ML 36

No.

Yes

Which down are you in?

ML 36

No I.

ML 57

Why did you not suggest to them to go to an Officer to make that happened I suggested they go to the Chief ^{their camp}

ML 36

ML 57

They didn't go Did they go to the Chief after the you had suggested this

ML 36

They went to the Chief after I saw him I don't know.

ML 32

Did I encourage you to abscond?

ML 36

No.

ML 32

To your knowledge did I encourage any of your colleagues to abscond (Any of the boys who absconded with you)?

ML 36

Yes I don't know if you did or not.

ML 32

Did you discuss with any of these boys if I encouraged them to abscond?

ML 36

No.

Yes

Anything else you want to add to this?

ML 36

No.

ML 32

ML 57 had nothing further to ask.

ML 36

Y. Jan 65

ML 32

11
Minutes Coats

Gov. ML 70 you made allegation ~ 3rd. of against a officer
the staff

ML 70 Yes sir
Gov. To what off did you up

ML 70 Mr ML 32

Gov. When I saw you on the party you were worried about how
an other to the staff
service it was ~ d you said you wanted to go ahead.

Gov. Tell me exactly what is your complaint against ML 32

ML 70 We went up for a work at 6:30 p - on 2nd. Jan ~ ML ML 32
started picking - 12 down with ML 69 + They were pick
will be

ML 32 started to take I serious - I told them to see the
Gov & the Chief & when I went down to the dining hall he hit me with a
swat.
He did nothing else to me

ML 32 Have you got and any dislike of me

ML 70 Not really sir

ML 32 Have Jews acted unfriendly to you
ML 70 Only in school.

ML 32 Do you dislike me after considering carefully

ML 70 No sir

ML 57 Looking at your original statement what do you mean by big cross

ML 70 I was afraid of being struck by another off

ML 57 Why did you go to ML 36

ML 70 I don't know

(2)



Hold him I was going to ask for a stamp as I was going to take it all. I can't do my thing here.

Q. Have you another reason for not being able to do your thing here?

ML 70

I can't settle here I'm not content.

ML 57

Apart from this allegation have you ever thought of absconding?

ML 70

Yes Sir.

ML 57

Should you not have gone to a Sp boy?

No I just thought of ML 36 who is friendly but not my whacker. ML 69 is my whacker. He is my best friend. [redacted] is also my whacker. I am not very friendly with any other boys.

Q. Why did you specially pick ML 36 to go to?

ML 70

Because I thought he would do something. I am not friendly with Sp. Grade boys or Pupets who might get into trouble.

Q. Why did you just approach another officer and put your name down to see me?

ML 70

I was scared but when somebody broke the ice I am no longer afraid.

Q. When did you tell ML 69 to complain?

ML 70

After Mr. ML 32 wrenched the beds.

(3)



[redacted] + ML 69 beds were wrecked.

Q. Who put water in ML 69's shoes.

ML 70 I didn't see but I was told Mr. ML 32 did it.

A. I first saw Mr. ML 32 standing in down door-way. I saw him ~~then~~ putting his hand on ML 69 bed. When I went down ^{down stairs} ^{own stairs} the place was ransacked (ML 69, [redacted] beds) ML 68 bed.)

I was first up stairs + then ML 69 after me. He went over to the window + emptied water out of his shoe out of the window. I started to dry myself + some boy said 'you have a nice dormitor

Q. Why ^{How} do you know Mr. ML 32 put water in the shoe.

ML 70 I don't know. I did not see Mr. ML 32 putting water in the shoe or wrecking ML 69 or [redacted] beds.

[redacted] Referring to your orig statement you now say you ~~didn't~~ saw Mr. ML 32 smoking + you went downstairs then. How Why did you say he put the cig butt on the bed?

ML 70 I didn't actually see him but he was smoking. I did not see him putting water in the shoes.

ML 57 You were first in the down + the beds were wrecked.

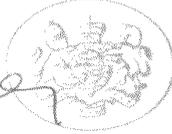
ML 70 I saw Mr. ML 32 watching ML 68 bed after prayer.

ML 57 Is it a fairly common practice for boys to wreck beds as a joke.

ML 70 No sir. I have not seen water put in shoes. ~~See~~

[redacted]

(E)



My only excuse is that I can't do my time

ML 57

Would have been wiser to put your name down to see the Gov

ML 70

Yes but I was scared at the time

ML 57

Do you agree that ML 32 is fairly well liked

ML 70

I wouldn't say. Mr ML 32 jokes with us occasionally

Gov

Is this part of your statement true
- In school he hits me with a thick stick -

ML 70

Yes Sir

Gov

Why did he hit you with a stick -

ML 70

For misbehaving I think. I might have hit out a couple
or two

ML 57

boy

Before you saw the C.O. did you discuss this with any other

ML 70

No Sir except for ML 68 ML 69 + ML 36
There may have been someone else who heard in the common room
was there in case but I don't remember him saying
anything

Somebody said 'you done the right thing'. I don't remember who
it was.

ML 57

I read your previous statement. Did you see Mr ML 32
doing any of those things alleged

ML 32

No Sir

ML 32

Gov

Who told you ML 32 was the person who had wrecked
the beds + put water in the shoe

ML 70

No Sir I did not see anyone. I just assumed it

(5)



ML 70

ML 57

Still referring to your orig statement
what time do you allege the ML 32 hit you with a swat.

ML 70

Support time at approx. 9 o'clock.

Gov.

Any more questions

ML 70

ML 57

No

ML 32

Gov.

Anything more to add

ML 70

ML 70

No

ML 70

Taken down by me _____



Gov. On 31st of Jan is you made written allegations against ~~enemies~~ ^{staff}.

ML 69

Yes

Gov. Whom were you referring to

ML 69

ML 32 Sir

Gov. On 4th, I warned you about the serious nature of your allegations & you replied I want to go ahead. It is true.

ML 69

That is so Sir. Every time in school Mr. ML 32 hits me on the head with a stick when he is walking round. Every now & then he says "jump through a bar window & take another ball".

On 2nd Jan before tea we went up to get a wash he wrecked our beds. We made them & didn't say anything. When we came up again they were wrecked again.

I saw him wrecking my bed after tea & at wash up time. Before I went down I saw Mr. ML 32 wrecking my bed & burning my mattress. I refused to make my bed.

Mr. ML 32 told us ~~hid~~ ^{hid} ~~them~~ ^{them} in the cells if we didn't make our beds. I saw at tea time Mr. ML 32 hit ML 70 with a swab.

He beat up ML 68 and called his names.

He has called me names after I came out of cells. He called me a bastard. We told ML 36 about it. We were afraid to come up. We heard rumours that if we came up we would get a ~~teding~~ ^{teding} for making complaints.

Gov. Why ~~did~~ ^{should} ML 70 tell ML 36

ML 69

I told ML 70 if he wanted to go up he could

Gov. Why did you not complain

ML 69

We were talking about it. I don't know why ML 70

(2)



ML 69

I don't know

Yes

Were there no off. as Ep's about

ML 69

Yes. There were people I could have told. I didn't tell ML 36 ML 70 told ML 36 either that night or next morning. I could have told an officer

ML 32

You say you talked this over in dormitory.

ML 69

We did not arrange any story

ML 32

Have I used this word bastard to you much

ML 69

No

ML 32

Have you heard me tell anyone off for using it

ML 69

Yes

ML 57

What do you mean by 'it is very hard to do my time'

ML 69

Just when people tell me things like that

ML 57

what time is tea time

ML 69

5 o'clock -

ML 32

What was the form of the jobs upstairs in the dorm

ML 69

You came in and tried to catch me. I don't remember what happened before.

ML 57

Reading for your statement, ^{you said} at tea time 'he thumped my head'

ML 69

No it was supper time.



ML 57

Who was up and up the stairs

ML 69

I think [redacted] was.

ML 57

Were the beds wrecked when you came up

ML 69

Yes

ML 57

Did you see Mr. ML 32 wreck the beds.

ML 69

No sir. Not the second time. I saw him during the wash period.

ML 57

Who was in the dormitory after the trash place.

ML 69

Just [redacted] ML 68 was away down. I think ML 70 was away down. ML 68

ML 57

Did you see Mr. ML 32 tearing the sheet

ML 69

Yes sir

ML 57

Did you see him burning the mattress

ML 69

Yes he threw a butt on the it. It would take a good while to burn the cloth.

It was at night we found water in my shoe when we came up to go to bed. I did not see Mr. [redacted] put water in my shoe.

ML 57

How long are you here

ML 69

3 months - 2 weeks

ML 57

Would you agree that boys in the school jobs ^{sometimes} by _{by} working beds.

ML 69

ML 69

I don't know.



ML 57

Why did you finally ^{these} make complaints.

ML 69

It was after ML 70 ML 36 was to the Chief.

I never thought of seeing in Sp. about it. I didn't see any officers at the time around.

By the time we got our beds made. We were going to visit. We didn't go to see the P.O.

ML 57

Were you waiting until you discovered it yourselves.

ML 69

The three of us did talk (ML 70 ML 68 + me) ML 36 wasn't in on it at the time.

It was after that we saw ML 36. Nobody else heard us talking about it.

ML 57

Wouldn't it have been proper to put your name down to see the Gov.

ML 69

I didn't know ML 36 was to be asked.

Gov.

I have listened carefully + the I feel that you are not willing party in this + would not have come forward had the other not come forward.

ML 69

I probably wouldn't

Gov.

Who persuaded you to come forward. No answer.

ML 69

Who else knew about this

ML 69

ML 68 ML 70 + me

He didn't come up. He wanted to come up. He wasn't brought up.

Gov.

ML 36 was not involved but he came forward. Why?



ML 69

Gov. Has [redacted] expressed the desire to come forward about this

ML 69

No he just wants to know what is happening

Gov.

Would you say Mr. ML 32 was a good officer & fair to you

ML 69

I don't like him. I think he dislikes me.

Gov.

Do you dislike many officers here

ML 69

No sir. I get on with other officers & with Mr. ML 32 before this

Gov.

Any questions

ML 32 ML 57

No Sir

Gov.

Anything to add ML 69

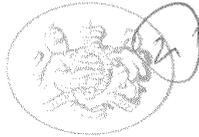
ML 69

No Sir

ML 69

Taken down by me

ML 18



ML 32

Q. You allege that I told you to abscond several times?
A. Yes.

ML 68

ML 32

Q. On how many occasions do you say Mr. [redacted] told you to abscond?

ML 32

ML 68

Twice

Q.

Can you remember one such time?

ML 68

A. I can't remember exact time but I remember one time was that mentioned by me previously which happened before X was after I had hit [redacted]

ML 32

Was it [redacted] or [redacted]?

ML 68

ML 32

Was it in the dining hall?

ML 68

Yes

ML 32

Do the boys make fun of you a lot?

ML 68

Yes but they know I don't stay.

ML 32

Has any officer ever stopped the boys making fun of you?

ML 68

No.

ML 32

Have I?

ML 68

No.

ML 32

Do you not remember me telling the boys not to call you by your nickname?

ML 68

No. You have called me by it.

Q.

Have you ever hit [redacted]?

ML 68

No. I hit [redacted] after an argument.

Q.

Have you hit many boys?

ML 68

No.

Q.

Have many boys hit you?

ML 68

No.

Q.

Do you like this Barstol?

ML 68

Yes sir.

Q.

Do you think that the Officers treat you well?

ML 68

Yes sir.

(3)



ML 57

taint it cannot for boys to used beds

ML 68

No

ML 32

Was I upstairs when you came up

ML 68

Yes

ML 32

I suggest you passed me on the stairs

ML 68

At 9.25 did you pass me on the stairs as I was going up?

ML 68

I didn't see you but on the stairs

ML 32

Was there an off in your section when you got up

ML 68

Yes

ML 57

Were the beds wrecked then?

ML 68

The other beds were wrecked. Mine was not

ML 57

You said a sheet, pyjama jacket + mattress were torn

ML 68

No. the sheet was torn but the other articles were burnt

Q. Was you present when the jacket + mattress were burnt?

No

Q. Was you present when the sheet was torn?

No

Q. When did you first see the articles burnt?

I saw them that night at 9.45 approx. but I didn't

Q. see the mattress

Whose sheet was torn?

ML 68

ML 69

Whose jacket was burnt?

ML 68

ML 69

Whose mattress was burnt?

ML 68

ML 69

How did you see them?

ML 68

ML 69 was picking them up from the floor

Q. What time did you get in the room that night?

20 past 9

Q. You went downstairs to all sections

Yes

Q. You came upstairs again

Yes

CH



Gov. What down are you in.

No 12 down

ML 57 Have you ever seen boys meeting beds.

ML 68 No not even as a child

ML 57 You asked ML 70 to see ML 36 to see the Chief for the Gov

ML 68

ML 57

ML 68

Yes why?

I don't know. There were not Sp's about near us when we wanted to go up

ML 57

Do you not think you should have seen an Sp. rather than ML 36

ML 68

ML 57

Yes or why did you go to see ML 36. I don't know

Gov. ML 68 Who did you choose ML 36 ML 70 went & found ML 36 who is in No 12 down. when we asked him to see someone.

ML 57

No I down is a good way from No. 12. Would it not have been more convenient to see a Sp. in another down nearer hand.

ML 68

Yes in but it was the next morning ML 70 told ML 36

Gov. So ML 70 a friend of ML 36

ML 68

No sir

Gov. Are you a friend of ML 36

ML 68

No sir

ML 32

So ML 36 capable of presenting a boys case better than a Sp.

(K)



Gov. When did you decide to make complaint that night

Gov. What about ~~even~~ you to complain about.

ML 68

About ML 32 hitting me and the boys about their beds being wrecked.

Gov. What was ML 36 going up about?

ML 68

I don't know. ML 36 knew that he had been hanting us before.

Gov. How did he know?

ML 68

As far as you know he was suppose to have seen or heard something.

ML 57

You decided on this night you would see the Gov. Do you not think you should have seen a off.

ML 68

No I thought I would keep quiet and get ML 70 to get ML 36 to see the Gov.

ML 57

Isn't there a procedure about seeing the Gov.

Yes in by putting his name down in the morning I don't know why I didn't do that. I was scared to tell the Governor. I didn't even tell us ML 32.

ML 32

Whose idea was it to get together to do this

ML 68

It was me who started. I didn't want to go but I would have take a ball if I had to take any more

Gov. Have you discussed this with the other boys -
No en -

(6)



ML 57

ML 68

Should you not have seen your house off to make complaint
I should -

ML 57

ML 68

Why did you go to ML 36

I was scared of going up to see anyone. We were in two
minds about going up -

ML 32

ML 68

Were you advised.

No. I do things on my own -

ML 57

ML 68

Do you agree that Mr ML 32 is popular

Yes.

ML 57

ML 68

Has he helped you

Yes in many ways. He is a good officer

ML 32

ML 57

Does anyone wish to ask any more questions

No.

Pos

ML 68

Do you wish to add anything

No -

ML 68

ML 68

Taken down by me 7th Jan. 63

ML 32

ML 18

Enquiry into
Minutes of Allegations against Off [ML 32] (Contd.)

The Governor handed [ML 33] to Off [ML 32] a copy of a statement made by off [ML 33] who was the house-officer on duty in Alexander House on the evening of 2nd Jan 1963. ~~and asks~~

Off [ML 33] was asked to come before the enquiry.

Gov. Mr. [ML 33]. Were you on duty on 2nd Jan 63

[ML 33] Yes

Gov. What shift

[ML 33] Late shift

Gov. What were your duties

[ML 33] In charge of Alexander Hse + late tea

Gov. Have you got any ^{special} duties besides other than as a disc. off House off in Alexander Hse.

Gov. Carrying out your duties, were you in the domain

[ML 33] Yes sir

Gov. What did you do

[ML 33] I supervised doors 9. 10. 11 and patrolled area. ^{the} Normally I would supervise for region of dining door. But there was I was instructed some time before to change [redacted] from one door to another and I did this that evening.

Gov. Did you see any other offs on duty there

[ML 33] Yes Mr. [ML 32] + Mr. Skiller
I was not in ^{direct} contact with Mr. Skiller as he was on

ML 69

He was apparently searching [redacted] + [redacted] ML 68
beds. I said do you want the keys. He said yes +
I gave the to him.

Q. What actually was he doing, the person ^{him}

ML 33

He was — the process of taking blankets
off [redacted] ML 69's bed. [redacted] ML 32's bed was bare.

Mr. ML 32 was looking after down a that night
but I didn't know Mr. ML 32 had been detailed
to search boys. I myself would search a boy's
bed but I have never had occasion to

Q. What did you think when you saw Mr. ML 32 searching
(bed)

ML 33

I thought he was entitled to do it or left him to it
That is all I can tell

ML 32

Is it common practice ^{for} to search (bed) ^{if}
if he is so inclined

ML 33

Yes Yes

Q. Why would you have occasion ^{No} to go to 12
if you were looking after 9, 10, 11 down.

ML 32

I was making sure that all down doors
were locked.



ML 33

Answering your question

At that time there was nothing abnormal in the down.

ML 32

was possible in the passage but in not sure.

ML 32

Gov

At 9:20 PM when you saw the passage was excellent, normal in the region of the down

ML 33

Yes sir

Gov

Anything else to add or any further questions

ML 33

ML 32

No sir

ML 32

How you the ML 33 was known of a general search of beds not recorded in the search log.

Taken down by me

ML 18

ML 33

No. I have not been on duty when a general search took place.

ML 33

ML 57

Taken down by me

ML 18

Office **ML 34**

Would you please state whether any incidents occurred during your tour of duty as acting principal officer after 5 PM on Wednesday 2-1-63, with particular reference to the conduct in the Dining Hall during supper.

J. M. Bortel
Governor
8-1-63

JM
8/1/63

J. M. Bortel
Waburn House
Millisle

8-1-61

Sir,
I beg to report to my knowledge ^{as} ~~occurred~~ no incident occurred, nor was any reported ^{possible} to me during my whole tour of duty.

ML 34

Governor
JM
8-1-63

J. M. Bortel
8/1/63



Officer **ML 34**

You were acting Executive Officer
on the evening of Wednesday
2-1-63.

Will you please state the names
of Officers you detailed to carry
out searching on that evening,
and whether you gave instructions
to any Officer to search No 12
dormitory beds.

John Thomas
Commander
15-1-63

H. M. Bristol
Woburn House
Millisle

15-1-63.

Sir,

I beg to report on
Wed 2-1-63 at 8:45 Pm, I
instructed House officer Skillen
assisted by another officer to
search 4 trainees at random.

I issued no instructions
for the searching of No 12
Dormitory at any time during
my tour of duty.

I detailed officer Skillen
to supervise Mont d'ancy House
and off **ML 33** to
supervise Alexander House, and
off **ML 32** to assist in
Alexander House whilst
trainees were going to bed.

ML 34

Governor

[Signature]
15-1-63

15/1/63

Officer



8/1/63

H. M. Borstal
Woburn
Hillsdale

Would you please state whether any incidents occurred during your tour of duty after 5 PM on Wednesday 2-1-63, with particular reference to conduct in the Dining Hall during supper.

Sir

I beg to report that to the best of my knowledge no incidents occurred, and no complaints of any nature made to me during my tour of duty on Wednesday 2-1-63.

J. H. Mans
fore at
8-1-63



JH
8/1/63

JH
8/1/63

Officer

15/1/63

At W. Borstel.
Johnson House
Hillsdale

Sir

I beg to report that at 9th on ^{Thursday} ~~Friday~~ 14th January 1963, Trainee **ML 36**

requested to speak to me, when I saw him later, and asked him what he wanted, he said he had been asked by **ML 70** **ML 32** to complain about me.

I told him to stop, and I would bring ^{him} up to the Deputy Governor, and he could make his complaint to the Governor and me.

After hearing Trainee **ML 36** the Deputy Governor instructed me to get Trainees **ML 68** **ML 69** **ML 70** **ML 36** to make statements in writing.

I brought these 4 Trainees up to my office, issued them with pens and paper, and before they started to write, I warned them about false statements, and told them that I could not help them in any way about how they were to write them.

When the Trainees were finished, I handed the statements to the Deputy Governor.

Handwritten signature

The Governor.
7.1.6

15/1/63



Chief Officer Gallagher

With reference to statement made by officer **ML 33**, Home Office Alexander Home, with reference to incidents on Wednesday evening 2-1-63, would you please forward me with the local book, and details of any searches carried out on that evening.

J. O'Hanrahan
Foveran
5.1.63.

15/1/63.

Sir

On examining search book for Wednesday 3rd January 1963, I find that the strains searched that evening were [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

This search was carried out by officers **ML 32** & Skilton
Search books produced

Gallagher C/O

A

A

H.M. Borstal, Woburn,
Hillsdale.

4th January, 1963.

Officer

ML 32

The attached copies of statements dated 3.1.63 made by

ML 68

ML 69

ML 70

ML 36

are forwarded for your information.

Under circular No. 4/62 (P.I.6959) dated 16.11.62 paragraph I you are not called upon to make any statement before a charge is made against you. I am therefore charging you with offences, under the Code of Discipline for Prison Officers as detailed below, and instruct you to make a reply to each charge separately. You may also make a statement, and if you do so, you must indicate whether your statement is to be used in evidence - it is reasonable to suppose that you intend your statement to be used in evidence, otherwise you would not make it, but you must so state. You should admit, or deny, one or all of these charges. If you deny one or any of these charges I shall be required to investigate this matter with all the above-named trainees, and yourself present, as laid down under paragraph three Part II of the Discipline Code.

Having regard to the seriousness of the allegations made, and the fact that trainees are involved, I am suspending you from duty w.e.f. Sunday 6th January, under paragraph II (1) of Part II of the Discipline Code, until this matter may be satisfactorily cleared up. You must report to the Chief Officer at 9 a.m. on Monday 7th January, 1963.

You are charged under Part I Discipline Code.

H.M. Borstal

Governor

Clark withdrawn 7/1/63.

You are charged under Part I Discipline Codes:-

(XI) Unlawful or unnecessary exercise of authority

- (a) Deliberately acted in a manner calculated to provoke a prisoner.

As indicated in statements made by

ML 68
ML 69
ML 70

Denied: At no time did I act in a manner provocative to a prisoner. ML 32 6-1-63

Jol Mann
former
4-1-63

- (b) Used force unnecessarily.

As indicated in statements made by

ML 68
ML 69
ML 70
ML 36

Denied.

at no time did I use force unnecessarily. ML 32 6-1-63

Jol Mann
former
4-1-63

Withdrawn pending
7-1-63

You are charged Part I Discipline Codes:-

(XIII) Damage to clothing or other articles supplied.

NA

- (a) Wilfully damaged pyjamas and mattress with a cigarette end, and filled shoes with water.

As indicated in statements made by

ML 69
ML 70

Denied, at no time did I fill shoes with water or burn the articles. ML 32 6-1-63

Jol Mann
former
4-1-63

Withdrawn pending
7-1-63

- (b) Neglected to report damage to pyjamas and mattress.

Denied.

Jol Mann
former

You are charged under Part I Discipline Codes:-

(I). Discreditable Conduct.

- (a) Whilst on duty you acted in a disorderly manner prejudicial to discipline on 2.1.63.

As indicated in statements made by

ML 68

ML 69

*John Mann
Governor
4.1.63.*

1. *Denied*

At no time did I act in a disorderly manner

ML 32

*Withdrawn
Sunday
7.1.63*

You are charged under Part I Discipline Codes:-

(VIII) Improper relations with prisoners.

- (c) Allowed any undue familiarity between prisoners and yourself.

As indicated in statements made by

ML 68
ML 70

*John Mann
Governor
4.1.63.*

Deny.

At no time did I allow undue familiarity

Withdrawn



H. M. Zordal
 Woburn
 8-1-63.

Sir,

As requested by you, I beg to report that on Wednesday, 2nd Jan 1963, I was on duty.

The boys were dismissed from the common room, and went upstairs to their dormitories.

I was in charge of part of Alexander House, rooms 6, 7, 8, 12, and 13. Officer **ML 33** taking charge of the remainder.

The time was approximately 6:15 pm.

My duties were supervisory, seeing that the boys left to go to the ablutions etc. Thus they do in order of dormitories. Until then they stay in their rooms.

I went to no. 12, where the boys were skylarking. Inmate **ML 69** shut the door, and laughingly said "You can't come in here." I smiled and seeing the fun was innocent, walked to no. 13 room, where inmate **ML 69** asked me some questions regarding books about equipment used by the Fire Service.

This conversation lasted only a few minutes and I walked back to no. 12, where the boys again held the door shut. It would have been a simple matter to order them to open the door, but as no harm was being done, I merely pointed in a mock-stern fashion at **ML 69** who laughed, and ran to the back of the room, the door now being ajar, I entered **ML 69** danced about the room saying "you can't catch me." I said "I've plenty of time."

I told the boys to get their towels and go to wash, they left, and all the rooms in my charge being empty, I employed myself

pg 2.



I finished checking 8 and 12 and went to the common room.

After supper, about 9:15 pm. Officer Skellen, **ML 33** & I went upstairs. I stood at the top of the stairs and the boys passed me. I detained four boys for search, and assisted by Mr. Skellen, had a perfunctory search of their clothing. I signed the search book and went to Alexander House.

In no. 12 I found the boys in an aggrieved mood, they said their beds were wrecked, and **ML 69** had a shoe which contained a letter.

Inmate **ML 68** said "You officers rip the bags out of it" (i.e. go too far) I very sharply told the boys to make up their beds, and with very bad grace, they did so. The night Patrol took over a few minutes later.

Whilst on duty, the following morning, I was informed by Mr **ML 29** that allegations had been made against me by boys led by inmate **ML 36** who is in Montgomerie House - No. 1. dormitory.

#4

ML 32

Officer

Governor

~~JA~~
19-1-63

8 Jan. 1963

15-1-63



Note of interview with [redacted] in connection with allegation of hitting [redacted] with a book in the dining hall at buffet on 2-1-63.

At the same table a [redacted] sat the following [redacted] as shown on diagram.



ML 70

ML 69

Where you seated at buffet table on Wed 2-1-63?

Yes Sir

Q Did anything unusual occur?

I don't remember any thing Sir. It was an ordinary night?

Q When do you sit at your table?

At the opposite end to [redacted] ML 70 and [redacted] on my right, and [redacted] was on my left that night.

Q Did [redacted] ML 70 do anything unusual?

I don't think so Sir.

Q Did any officer have occasion to speak to [redacted] ML 70 during supper?

I don't think so. As I say nothing much happened so it is difficult to say about that.

Q Did officer [redacted] ML 32 speak to [redacted] ML 69, or touch him at all?

I tell you Sir I saw nothing that ~~was~~ night that sticks in my memory as being special.

Q Could you see [redacted] ML 70 clearly, from where you sat, during the whole of supper?

Yes Sir. I couldn't help seeing him, he was right in front of me.

(after previous question)

Q Did you see anything unusual during supper that night?

No Sir



[Redacted]

Q. After establishing where he was sitting, and the day, did you notice anything out of the ordinary happen during supper?

No Sir.

Q. Could you see all the tables at your table?

Yes Sir. [Redacted] was on my left, and ML 69 on my right, [Redacted] was on the end of the table, and ML 70 was the other [Redacted] was sitting opposite me, and I think [Redacted] was there next to him too - he sometimes sits at our table, and sometimes sits at another table for supper.

Q. Did you see ML 70 do anything unusual?

No everything was quite ordinary.

[Redacted]

#

Q. Do you remember the supper on 2-1-63 which was last Wednesday?

Yes, I think so.

Q. What table were you sitting at?

With ML 69, [Redacted], and [Redacted]

Q. Who else was at your table?

[Redacted], [Redacted], ML 70

Q. Could you see ML 70 for whom you were sitting?

Yes Sir I could.

Q. Did anything unusual happen during that supper?

No. Nothing.

Q. Nothing that particularly makes you remember that particular supper?

No, I can't think of anything.

Q. Did nothing happen to ML 70, like knocking his chair over, or being spoken to by an Officer?

No Sir.

When I asked him

"Did you see [redacted] who hit [redacted] ML 70 with the sword?
he replied "No" I just saw a sword hitting [redacted] ML 70's
face.

I [redacted] ML 70 further asked him "Did you see Officer [redacted] ML 32 hit
[redacted] ML 70 with the sword in the face?"

[redacted] replied - "No Sir, I didn't."

[redacted]

Gov. Were you present in the dining hall during supper
on Wednesday last 2-1-63?

Yes.
Gov. Where were you sitting?

At my usual table.

Gov. Can you see the table at which [redacted] ML 70 and
[redacted] sit?

Yes Sir. It is straight in front of me, and
the table is next to me.

Gov. Could you see such clearly all this supper?

Yes.
Gov. Did [redacted] ML 70 do anything unusual, or did an
officer have occasion to speak to him particularly?
No Sir. I did not see anything like that
happen.

Gov. Did you notice [redacted] ML 70 being hit with a sword
at any time?

No Sir. I didn't.

[redacted]

[redacted] continued [redacted] then stated he was not in No 12 Room,
as he was taken out on 2-1-63. He stated that he saw much happen
in his own dining room, as he stated "the boys in No 12 were always
looking around."

[Redacted]

Jov. You were present in the dining hall for supper
on Wednesday last (2-1-63)

[Redacted] I think so. I always am.

Jov. Do you remember anything unusual happening that
made it different from any other supper time?

[Redacted] No sir.

Jov. Where do you sit?

[Redacted] At the same table as [Redacted]

Jov. Could you see [Redacted] table for whom you
sat?

[Redacted] I expect so. I don't remember.

Jov. You can't think about Wednesday as anything
special?

[Redacted] No sir. It was the same as always!

[Redacted]

Jov. You were sitting at the same table as [Redacted]
[Redacted] ML 69, [Redacted] ML 70 and [Redacted] at supper

~~that~~ time on Wednesday 2-1-63.

[Redacted] Is that correct?

Jov. Could you see [Redacted] ML 70 clearly?

[Redacted] He was.

Jov. Did you see [Redacted] ML 70 but with the face with a smudge?

[Redacted] No sir.

Jov. Did you see Officer [Redacted] ML 32 during supper?

[Redacted] Yes sir, he was walking up between the
tables.

Jov. Did you see officer [Redacted] ML 32 throw a smudge at
all?

[Redacted] No sir.

Jov. Can you remember any incident during that
supper which was unusual?

[Redacted] No sir. It was just like any other supper.

15-1-63

allegation of hitting **ML 70** with a stick in the Educ

[Redacted]

Q. You are on the Education Classes.

[Redacted]

Yes.

Q. How long have you been on them?

[Redacted]

Since I came in about three months.

Q. Has any boy been hit during education classes?

[Redacted]

Not that I know of.

Q. Has any officer ever suggested that you should abscond?

[Redacted]

No Sir.

Q. Has any other trainee been encouraged to abscond in your hearing, by an officer?

[Redacted]

No Sir.

[Redacted]

Q. You are on the Education Classes.

[Redacted]

Yes Sir.

Q. How long.

[Redacted]

Three or four weeks.

Q. Has **ML 70** on the education class with you?

[Redacted]

Yes Sir.

Q. Have you seen ~~the~~ any boy beaten on the class?

[Redacted]

No. I have never seen any boy hit while I was in.

Q. Has any officer in your hearing encouraged, or suggested you should abscond?

[Redacted]

No.

Q. Has any boy, to your knowledge, been threatened by any officer?

[Redacted]

No Sir.

Q. Has the teacher **ML 32** ever beaten any boy in your class?

[Redacted]

No Sir.

Q. Has the teacher **ML 32** ever encouraged or told

[Redacted]

any trainee to abscond

No

two classes

Q You are on the Education Classes
A Yes Sir.

Q How long?

A About six or seven weeks.

Q I see ML 70 on the Education Class with you?

A Yes Sir.

Q Has any boy in your class beaten by the teacher?

A ML 32

Q No Sir.

Q Has any trainee ever been encouraged to abscond by ML 32?

A No Sir means taking a ball?

Q Yes.

A I never heard him saying anything like that, and he has never said it to me.

Q How long have you been on Education Class.

A Since I came in - four months.

Q ML 32 is the teacher of your class isn't he?

A Yes Sir.

Q Have you ever been beaten during an education class.

A No Sir.

Q Have you ever seen any other boy beaten?

A No Sir.

Q Have you ever heard the teacher encourage, or suggest that any boy should take a ball?

A No Sir.

Q Have you ever been encouraged to do so yourself?

A No Sir.

[Redacted]



Gov. You are on the Education class, with [Redacted] ML 70

Gov. Have you ever been beaten in the education class?

No.

Gov. Have you ever seen any other kid hit in this class?

No.

Gov. Has any boy been asked or encouraged to take a ball by the teacher (ML 32)?

No.

Gov. Have you personally ever been asked to attend by [Redacted] ML 32

No. Ev.

I (a) ~~Discreditable Conduct~~

VIII (c) Under fire with panic.
ML 32 with trauma. - suggests that they abandoned
in dentures.

XI (a) ~~Reactive~~ Reactive - reaching beds
Hitting ML 70 with sword.

Charge ML 32 - specific.

Hold enquiry - evidence of statements from trainees

Off ML 32's statement and need provided he agrees.

Say police to call trainees apart as witnesses

Call ML 69 and ML 70, and any subsequent relevant witnesses.

I may ^{propose to} call ~~the following~~ ^{the following} some, as all
~~the following~~ witnesses: ~~_____~~

offici **ML 33**

offici **ML 34**

offici ~~C Boyd~~

Chief offic. Mr. Gallagher

offici Skillen

Transes. **ML 36**

ML 68

ML 69

ML 70

[Redacted]

Swab

} Sen

ML 68

Sentenced on 20.9.62 at Belfast City Commissions. Assault with intent to commit felony.

D of B [redacted]

Low Standard of Education

[redacted] (Stepfather)

Absconded Sat 26th (8.20^P - 10.00) same cell sentenced

Pres Record

2 Mal Dam. 1960

Larceny Mar 61

June 61

74 Dawsey W/C
No. 125
No. 126 } Oct '61 2 yrs Prob.

Est. recog. 6-Dec-61 - 1/2 Est.

Abnormal type

Mr Patterson - brother seems to be also of low mentality

ML 36

Sentenced on 14.5.62 at Recorder's Court - Mal Dam

[redacted]

Education " + + Christie Bros.

Reported for using obscene language to H. Guard.

Absconded (15.25^P - 9.50)

Pres Record

Aug 60 } Dis. Behaviour - Drunk - Br & L
May '61 } Drunk + Disorderly - Larceny - Est. Re

None co-operative irresponsible on Probation

ML 69

D of B

Sentenced at Anagh County Court - Factory B+L + Garage B+L.
(7 add t.i.e.)

Absconded from dance hall ^{P. in (publ.)}
8-20₁ - morning of 25th.

Pres Record

Mar. 1956 - Larceny - not to be cited as conv.

To Maleno TS June '60 - Shop B+L, 5 cases B+L, 1 B+L with intent
Mal Dam. - 3 Larceny

Response at Maleno superficial. No emotional response.
No scruples but plausible.

ML 70

D of B

Sentenced at Belfast City Commission - 20.9.62

Absconded (8-20 - 12 a.m.)

Pres Record

July '56 - Larceny - 3 yrs Prob
Dec. '59 - H. B+L (2 cases), 12 add. t.i.e.
Oct. '60 - H. B+L - Returned to U

Plausible boy who has never shown remorse
is wasted on him.

Woburn,
Massachusetts.

16th January, 1963.

Allegations against Officer. **ML 32**

Further to my minute dated 9.1.63 I have continued investigations into the allegations of the trainees, which fall into four main groups:-

(a). Dining Hall.

Allegations about the blow to **ML 70**'s face with a swab, in the dining hall at Supper on 2.1.63 made by the three trainees, are not supported by 5 other trainees sitting at the same table, or by 2 other trainees sitting at the next table; and the reports from two Officers on duty with Officer **ML 32** state that no incident occurred.

(b). School Room.

Allegations of beating are of a general nature and no specific date, or time could be given by the three boys making these allegations. Five other boys, who were constant attenders in **ML 32**'s class, stated that no incident of beating occurred, and that **ML 32** had not suggested absconding either to them, or to any other boy to their knowledge, at any time.

(c). Dormitory.

Allegations by these boys conflict as to times of incidents, and as to which boys were present when incidents were alleged to have occurred. No boy passing the dormitory, or Officer on duty nearby saw or heard any of the incidents alleged. The three boys admit themselves that not one of them saw Officer **ML 32** filling a shoe with water.

Further it is difficult to accept the uncorroborated statements of these three boys in view of the untrue allegations they so confidently made in regard to paragraphs (1) and (2) above.

On Officer **ML 33** evidence and Officer **ML 32**'s own admission two beds in No.12 Dormitory were searched without authority or lawful reason. The fact that the boys in No.12 Dormitory were in an aggrieved mood, and that beds had been wrecked should have been reported by Officer **ML 32** to the Acting Principal Officer on duty (Officer **ML 34**) before the Night Guards took over. Officer **ML 32** has not been able to explain this.

(d). General.

No bruises or signs of being beaten were on, or reported by, **ML 70**. The evidence of **ML 68** must, in my opinion, be treated with the greatest reserve. He is, without doubt, slightly subnormal mentally.

On first appearing before me (4.1.63) he indicated where he had claimed to have a bruise as a result of being hit by Officer **ML 32**. No bruise or mark of any kind was visible. On chocking with Hospital Officer **ML 35**, and the Matron, I found that no mention had ever been made to them in regard to injuries of any kind by these two trainees.

Allegations of incitement to abscond were not specified by either time or date, nor was any other evidence called in support of allegations made.

The incident of "the dormitory door held shut" referred to by Officer **ML 32** is not mentioned by any of the boys in No.12 dormitory, and in view of the foregoing I did not see any point in questioning them upon it.

It was not substantiated that Officer **ML 32** was responsible for the burning of Pyjamas or mattress, and tearing of a sheet. These articles were not produced nor any complaint made, until 9.20 a.m. 3.1.63 to Chief Officer. No Officer on

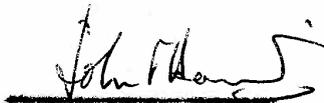
Continued.

Early Shift duty was made aware, of, or noticed, any damage in No.12 Dormitory.

I discount [REDACTED] ML 36 's evidence as being hearsay, with the exception of the incident in the dining hall. I find no evidence in corroboration of specific or general allegations made by these four trainees against Officer ML 32

I feel that some provocation, by Officer ML 32 searching their beds, and the resentful mood of these trainees at that time as a result of punishment following absconding, led them to make their original complaints - possibly encouraged by ML 36 who is also an absconder. Subsequently, with the opportunity to confer together, they felt bound to attempt to substantiate, rather than to withdraw completely, when given the opportunity. The wide scope of allegations indicates that they felt unable to establish any individual allegation, and that when offered the chance to commit their complaints to paper each wrote of these matters they had discussed together. I propose to inform these trainees in due course, of my opinion of their allegations as a result of these investigations.

I feel certain that ML 32 has, by his general attitude towards trainees, on this occasion shown lack of tact which was provocative to these trainees at that time; and I have taken the necessary action in regard to the infractions of regulations committed by him.



Governor.

The Secretary,
The Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont,
Belfast.

H.M. Berstal, Woburn,
Millisale.

15th January, 1963.

Officer **ML 32**

You are charged under Part I of the Discipline Code for Prison Officers (1954) with the following Offences as outlined under the relevant paragraphs shown.

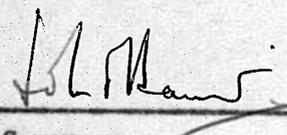
You should admit or deny each charge separately. If you deny any or all of these charges, I propose to call the following witness, in addition to the names of those who have made statements:-

[Redacted]

The copies of statements, upon which these charges are based, are as detailed below:-

Statements by:-

		ML 68	
		ML 69	
		ML 70	
Officer	ML 34		dated 8.1.63. 15.1.63.
Officer	ML 33		dated 7.1.63.
Chief Officer	Gallagher.		dated 8.1.63.


Governor.

You are charged under Part I Discipline Code (1954):-

Officer **ML 32**
15.1.63.

(II) (a) Unlawful and Unnecessary exercise of authority.

You deliberately acted in a manner calculated to provoke trainee's.,
in that you searched the beds of trainees in No.12 Dormitory without
the proper authority and in an exaggerated manner.

Officer **ML 32**
15.1.62.

You are charged under Part I Discipline Code (1954):-

(IV). (a) Neglect of Duty.

In that you failed to report to the acting Principal Officer on duty incidents alleged to have occurred in No.12 Dormitory during the evening of 2nd January, 1963.

86. An Officer Skillen is referred to in the allegations against Officer **ML 32** - January 1963, page 34 (Exhibit 29), but he is not implicated in the allegations.
87. The "Allegation against Officer **ML 38** - 1966" (Exhibit 30) evidences the communication and investigation processes in place at the time; which included receipt of formal reports and recorded interviews with those involved and with witnesses. It also records the findings of the Governor that *"while the evidence would certainly not seem to support **ML 39**'s allegations the fact remains that the Visiting Committee were not able to disprove them and consequently no charge can be brought against him **ML 39** in this instance"* (page 6). This meant that although the allegations against the Officer were unsubstantiated the Governor was not taking any further action against the Trainee who made a complaint.
88. In the "**ML 26** - **ML 27** Possible Indecency Complaint" (Exhibit 31), 1961, one trainee made an allegation of indecency against another to the Visiting Committee, and suggested that this was the reason for his absconding. The Governor noted that the allegation had a *"more than even chance of being valid"* and, in agreement with the Visiting Committee, requested that the perpetrator should be moved to another establishment. He also recorded his *"regret that this report has been made necessary, as I was confident that little, or no, indecency existed at this Establishment."*
89. Copies of records containing these allegations were submitted to the Inquiry on 9 December 2015 in response to a Rule 9 request.
90. The Department does not have any records of Civil Claims being lodged in relation to Millisle Borstal.

Control and Restraint

91. The Department is aware that the present Control and Restraint methods were introduced to the Prison Service circa 1986. To date we have not been able to identify or evidence any formal training prior to this. The Department's statement to the Inquiry on the use of restraint in Hydebank YOC (HYD 1674 - 2744) refers. Nevertheless, evidence has been found which shows that staff

ML 39

1) Complaint re Off **ML 38**

- 2) **ML 18** report
- 3) Report by Mr. Gregory Anderson
- 3) " " **ML 38**
- 4) " " **ML 40**
- 5) " " **ML 24**
- 6) " " **ML 39**
- 7) board papers

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn, Millisle.

ML 39

Trainee ML 39, ML 38 was interviewed by me at his request to-day
19th January, 1966.

He complained that Officer ML 38 struck him on the face on
Monday 17th inst. at approximately 6.30 p.m. - twice with the palm
of his hand and once with his fist on his - ML 39 - right
cheekbone.

ML 39 states that no other boy or Officer was present or
witnessed the alleged occurrence.

ML 39 had a slight swelling on his right cheek bone when
I saw him to-day but there was no discolouration whatever.

Mr. ML 38's report of 18th on ML 39's behaviour during
Education class on 17th inst. is relevant to this complaint.

Herewith report by ML 39 in writing, reports by Matron,
and Principal Officer ML 40 and Complaint Book with entry by
Officer Buchanan.

ML 18

Deputy Governor
19th January, 1966

The Governor.

Copy

The Governor.

ML 39

I requested the officer on duty to remove this
from my class on the evening of 17th January.

It was obvious that he didn't intend to do any
when I spoke to him privately about his attitude, he
an insolent manner and refused to answer any of my q
I removed his books which he treated as a high joke
addressing cheeky remarks to the rest of the class.

(Signed) W. J. ANDERSON

Copy

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn, Millisle;

Date: 17.1.66

Sir,

On the 17.1.66 whilst performing the duties of Passage Patrol at 6.35 p.m. approx. I was called to the education class in the V.C. Room by Mr. Anderson. He requested that Trainee **ML 39** be removed from the class as he refused to answer any questions and had adopted an insolent manner. When I ordered him out of the classroom he refused to go and began waving his arms about.

I ordered him once more to leave and he still refused then I had to use a minimum amount of force to get him out.

I reported the matter to Principal Officer **ML 40** who placed him in the cell pending Mr. Anderson's report.

When I locked the cell door and returned to my duty the sound of furniture being thrown around came from the cell. On entering the cell trainee **ML 39** was throwing the table around and appeared to be in a violent temper. He had to be restrained with a certain amount of force. For safety's sake the furniture was removed from the cell. Principal Officer **ML 40** was present during the whole of the time from placing him in the cell.

(Signed)

ML 38

Officer

The Governor.

Trainee's reply:

ML 38

is right. I was worried about the work in my book.

Copy

H.M. Borstal
Woburn,
Millisle

20.1.66

Sir,

I beg to report that on the 17th inst. I was duty Officer on evening duty.

At approx. 6.40 p.m. Officer **ML 38** called me from room.

He reported that at Mr. Anderson's request he had removed trainee **ML 39** from that class. The reason being that he would not answer any questions and also had adopted an insolent manner to Mr. Anderson.

I told Officer **ML 38** to place trainee **ML 39** in the cell pending a report from Mr. Anderson. I was present when he was placed in the cell.

Officer **ML 38** resumed duty as passage patrol, and afterwards we heard the sound of furniture being thrown about in the cell.

On returning to the cell this trainee was thrown about, and the rest of the cell furniture was damaged. He appeared to be in a violent temper and had to be restrained. For safety I had all the cell furniture removed.

At no time from when I was called did any one restrain this trainee, except in restraint.

(Signed)

ML 40

Principal Officer

The Governor.

Copy

Surgery.

19.1.66

I saw trainee **ML 39** on his request at 9.30 a.m. on the 18th inst. in the separate room.

ML 39 had some slight swelling on upper cheek below right eye, the eye was not involved and in my opinion required no treatment.

(Signed)

ML 24

Matron

CopyStatement by Trainee**ML 39**

On the night, Monday 17th of January 1966 was in the class of Mr. Anderson, at about 6.4 by Mr. Anderson to stand at the wall. Then Mr. **ML 38** (an officer) to take me out of the twice to leave the room on the second time Mr. the back of the neck and told me to "get out". the Billiard hall door Mr. **ML 38** slapped me t the palm of his hand. Then at the common room with his fist. I told him to leave me alone o Governor and when I told him this He replied " you will need to see someone else". After tha common room and asked the principle officer Mr. **ML 40** went in to see the schoolmaster what the room for, and when he returned Mr. **ML 38** another boy and I skylarking about which was n put in the cells. At least five minutes later cells I grabbed a table and a chair and I thre

(Signed)

ML 39

Witnessed by S. G. KNOWLES
Officer
19.1.66

Form 18

A.D.

H.M. Borstal, Millisle.

20th January, 1966

To the Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Belfast.

ML 39

Borstal Training
Sentenced 1.2.65

Sir,

I **ML 39** a trainee in H.M. Borstal Millisle wishes to make a complaint against an officer named Mr. **ML 38**. The complaint is that on Monday night while I was at a school class in the Borstal. Between 6.30 and 6.45 p.m. I was called by Mr. Anderson my schoolmaster to stand by the wall for refusing to tell him a word which I could not pronounce. Mr. Anderson called Mr. **ML 38** to the class and asked him to remove me. I asked Mr. **ML 38** to "look at my book", and he said to me "get out" on the second time he grabbed me by the neck and pulled me out then at the billiard room door he slapped me twice on the face. At the common room door he hit me again this time with his closed hand. When I told Mr. **ML 38** to take his hand down or I would see the Governor and to this he replied "You had better shut up or you will need to see some one else". Then Mr. **ML 38** went to the common room and asked for the principle officer Mr. **ML 40** and told him that I had to be removed from the class. Mr. **ML 40** then went into Mr. Anderson to see why I had been removed, when he came back Mr. **ML 38** said that another boy and I had been skylarking about which was not true after this P.O. **ML 40** told Mr. **ML 38** to put me in the cells.

(Signed)

ML 39

20/1/66

P.
Ministry of
Stormont
BT

The Secretary,
Prison Officers' Association,
Woburn House,
Millisle.

At a meeting at Woburn House attended by of your association, Works Division and of this was agreed that the new building for housing is to provide accommodation for prison officers as planned by the Ministry of Finance.

When the building has been completed it will block up the door between the passageway and accommodation and also the door into cubicle B a new door between the boys' accommodation and if this work is still all considered necessary

for

The Governor,
H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House, Millisle.
Copy for your information.
J.P.
11/3/68.

Reference.....P.I.11098.....

Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast, 4.

The Governor,
H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle.

Allegations against Officer **ML 38**

With reference to the attached copy of a minute issued to Officer **ML 38**, I am to inform you that while the evidence would certainly not seem to support **ML 39**'s allegations the fact remains that the Visiting Committee were not able to disprove them and consequently no charge can be brought against him **ML 39** in this instance.


for Secretary
28th February, 1966.

Ministry of
Stormont,

Officer **ML 38**
(through the Governor,
H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle).

With reference to your minute dated 15th regarding allegations made against you by Tre I am to inform you that the Visiting Committee investigation of the matter found no evidence whatsoever.

You can rest assured, therefore, that your prison officer has not been jeopardised or bl way and so far as the Ministry is concerned the allegations had never been made.

E. W.

for Secretary
28th Febru

Form 18
A.D.

H.M. Borstal, Millisle.

20th January, 1966

To the Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Belfast.

ML 39

Borstal Training
Sentenced 1.2.65

Sir,

I **ML 39** a trainee in H.M. Borstal Millisle wishes to make a complaint against officer named Mr. **ML 38**. The complaint is on Monday night while I was at a school class the Borstal. Between 6.30 and 6.45 p.m. I was called by Mr. Anderson my schoolmaster to stand the wall for refusing to tell him a word which could not pronounce. Mr. Anderson called Mr. **ML 38** to the class and asked him to remove me. I told Mr. **ML 38** to "look at my book", and he said "get out" on the second time he grabbed me by the neck and pulled me out then at the billiard room door he slapped me twice on the face. At the common room door he hit me again this time with his closed hand. When I told Mr. **ML 38** to hand down or I would see the Governor and to he replied "You had better shut up or you will see some one else". Then Mr. **ML 38** went to the common room and asked for the principle officer. Mr. **ML 40** and told him that I had to be removed from the class. Mr. **ML 40** then went into Mr. Anderson to see why I had been removed, when he came back Mr. **ML 38** said that another boy and I had been skylarking about which was not true after that Mr. **ML 40** told Mr. **ML 38** to put me in the cells.

(Signed)

ML 39

20/1/66

*WJW
21/1/66*

Copy

To The Governor,
H.M. Borstal,
Millisle.

21.1.66

Sir,

In answer to the complaint lodged by Trainee T. Hollinger against me. I deny striking him with my closed fist. The only time I came in contact with ML 39 was during the time I had to evict him from the classroom at Mr. Anderson's request. I then had to lay hands on him as he was endeavouring to create a scene by refusing twice my order to leave the class room.

When ML 39 was on report on the 19.1.66 the day before this complaint was lodged. He was asked by you if all that I had said in my report was correct and if he had anything further to say. He said "All of Mr. ML 38's report was true", and there was nothing further added. The Chief Officer Mr. Gallagher and Principal Officer ML 40 were present at the time this was said.

ML 39 lodged no complaint with Principal Officer ML 40 when the alleged incident occurred.

I placed him in the cell on Principal Officer ML 40's instructions and remained there in case my assistance was needed.

There is a definite time lag in Trainee ML 39's charge. The alleged incident is dated 17.1.66. When on report he made no mention of it on the 18.1.66 and lodged the complaint on the 19.1.66 which in my opinion suggests conspiracy with other trainees.

(Signed) **ML 38**
Officer

The Governor,
H.M. Borstal,
Millisle.

21.1.66

Sir,

In answer to the complaint lodged by Trainee ML 39 against me. I deny striking him with my closed fist. The only time I came in contact with ML 39 was during the time I had to evict him from the classroom at Mr. Anderson's request. I then had to lay hands on him as he was endeavouring to create a scene by refusing twice my order to leave the class room.

When ML 39 was on report on the 19.1.66 the day before this complaint was lodged. He was asked by you if all that I had said in my report was correct and if he had anything further to say. He said "All of Mr. ML 38's report was true", and there was nothing further added. The Chief Officer Mr. Gallagher and Principal Officer ML 40 were present at the time this was said.

ML 39 lodged no complaint with Principal Officer ML 40 when the alleged incident occurred.

I placed him in the cell on Principal Officer ML 40's instructions and remained there in case my assistance was needed.

There is a definite time lag in Trainee ML 39's charge. The alleged incident is dated 17.1.66. When on report he made no mention of it on the 18.1.66 and lodged the complaint on the 19.1.66 which in my opinion suggests conspiracy with other trainees.

(Signed) **ML 38**
Officer

Wt.2391/20.1M.3/59.B.L.&C.Ltd.Gp.141.(3676)

Form 18
A.D.

H.M. Borstal Millisle PRISON,

20th January, 1966.

To the Secretary,

Ministry of Home Affairs,

Belfast.

Sir,

ML 39

ML 39

Borstal training
Sentenced 1-2-65.

trainee in H.M Borstal Millisle wishes to make a complaint against an officer named Mr. **ML 38**. The complain is that on Monday night while I was at a class in the Borstal. Between 6-30 and 6-45 pm I was called by Mr Anderson my schoolmaster to stand by the wall for refusing to tell him a word which I could not pronounce. Mr Anderson called Mr. **ML 38** to the class and asked him to remove me. I asked Mr **ML 38** to "look at my book," and he said to me "get out." on the second time he grabbed me by the neck and pulled me out then at a billiard room door he slapped me twice on the face. At the common room door he hit me again this time with his bare hand. When I told Mr Curran to take his hand down or I would see the Governor, and this he replied "you had

ML
20/1/66

better shut up or you will need
see some one else". Then **ML 38**
to the common room and asked
the principle officer Mr. **ML 40**
told him that I had to be
from the class. Mr. **ML 40** then went
into Mr Anderson to see why
had been removed. When he came
back Mr. **ML 38** said that
another boy and I had been
skylarking about which
not true. After this P.O. **ML 40**
told Mr. **ML 38** to put me in
cells.

ML 39

20/1/65

The Secretary

96
36
6

21.1.66

28
68

ML 39

Complaint Against an Officer

Form 18
AD
dated 20/1/66
written
by the as-
sistant Board Paper ~~officer~~ by the as-
sistant. A letter with ^{copy of} statements from himself
(19.1.66). ~~Officer~~ **ML 18** 19.1.66.
Natore (19.1.66) local officer **ML 40** (20.1.66)
and P/Tani Teacher Mr Anderson's statement
dated 17.1.66, and statement by Officer **ML 38** dated 20.1.66
ML 39 was placed on report by Officer **ML 38**
for "Refusing to comply with an order" and
"beating a disturbance in his cell on the evening
of 17.1.66. I punched him on 18.1.66
with reduction from £5 to £3 grade.
During the hearing of the report, **ML 39**
made no reference to any assault
by ~~the~~ ~~officer~~ ~~on~~ ~~me~~ ~~on~~ ~~18.1.66~~

3

~~On 19.1.66~~ Following the report by ~~ML 18~~
by **ML 18** dated ~~19.1.66~~ 19.1.66. ~~Shaw~~
interviewed **ML 39** and ~~considered~~ ^{considered} all the
relevant statements ~~relevant to the allegation~~
Upon questioning **ML 39** had nothing
to add ~~in support of his~~ ^{in support of his} written
statement ~~supporting~~ ^{making} this allegation, ~~and~~
cannot regard his allegations as being
any ~~foundation~~ ^{fact}.

// ~~It~~ cautioned **ML 38** about making
unfounded complaints ~~and~~ but he
wished that his complaint be forwarded
to the Ministry; and I submit that Form 18 under
para 2 rule 39 ~~has~~ ^{has} rules NJ. 1954.

// I would, however, point the
following matter relevant to this allegation
of assault.

- 1) At the time of the alleged assault ^{Quint}
how was no progress, yet no sound of

3

Recreation Room adjacent to the corner
~~along~~ which off **ML 38** brought **ML 39**
Mr Anderson's class to the separate

2 **ML 39** was violent ~~as he~~ ~~well as~~
had been placed in the separate room
may well have sustained the slight
at that time - there is no sign of
discoloration ~~to~~ ~~any~~ (no swelling &

3. **ML 39** did not ~~attempt~~ ~~to~~ make
Complaint until the morning of the 19th
- 36 hours after the ~~incident~~ alleged
inquiry was (6:40 PM 17-1-66), although
have indicated that the Station was reached
at 9:30 AM on 18-1-66 (15 hours later)
have ~~noted~~ ^{taken} more serious view of the
swelling on his cheek - which he
well have reflected upon his self for
purpose.

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn, Millisle.

The Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont.

ML 39

I submit Form 18 A.D. Board Paper dated 20.1.66 written by the above named trainee together with copies of statements from himself (19.1.66), Deputy Governor **ML 18** (19.1.66), Matron (19.1.66), Principal Officer **ML 40** (20.1.66), and Part-time Teacher Mr. Anderson's statement dated 17.1.66, and statement by Officer **ML 38** dated 20.1.66.

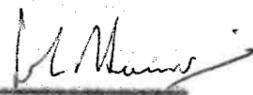
ML 39 was placed on report by Officer **ML 38** for "Refusing to comply with an Order" and "Creating a disturbance in his cell" on the evening of 17.1.66. I punished him on 18.1.66 with reduction from Gen. III to Gen. II Grade. During the hearing of the report, **ML 39** made no reference to any assault being made upon him, but admitted the offences as detailed in the report against him.

Following the report by Deputy Governor **ML 18** dated 19.1.66, I interviewed **ML 39** and considered all the relevant statements. Upon questioning **ML 39** had nothing to add in support of his written statement making this allegation.

I cautioned **ML 39** about making ungrounded complaints but he insisted that his complaint be forwarded to the Ministry; and I submit this Form 18 under para. 2 Rule 39 Prison Rules N.I. 1954. A.D.

I would, however, point out the following matters relevant to this allegation of assault.

- (1) At the time of the alleged assault "Quiet Hour" was in progress, yet no sound of voices raised or any disturbance was heard by Principal Officer **ML 40** in the Recreation Room adjacent to the corridor along which Officer **ML 38** brought **ML 39** from Mr. Anderson's Class to the separate cells.
- (2) **ML 39** was violent after he had been placed in the separate cell, and may well have sustained the slight swelling at that time - there is no sign of any discolouration or swelling to-day (20.1.66).
- (3) **ML 39** did not make any Complaint until the morning of the 19th January - 36 hours after the alleged assault upon him (6.40 p.m. 17.1.66) although he may have intended that the Matron who saw him at 9.30 a.m. on 18.1.66 (15 hours later) would have taken more serious view of the slight swelling on his cheek - which he may well have inflicted upon himself for that purpose.


Governor
21st January, 1966

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn, Millisle.

ML 39

Trainee **ML 39** was interviewed by me at his request to-day 19th January, 1966.

He complained that Officer **ML 38** struck him on the face on Monday 17th inst. at approximately 6.30 p.m. - twice with the palm of his hand and once with his fist on his - **ML 39**'s - right cheekbone.

ML 39 states that no other boy or Officer was present or witnessed the alleged occurrence.

ML 39 had a slight swelling on his right cheek bone when I saw him to-day but there was no discolouration whatever.

ML 38's report of 18th on **ML 39**'s behaviour during Education Class on 17th inst. is relevant to this complaint.

Herewith report by **ML 39** in writing, reports by Matron, and Principal Officer **ML 40** and Complaint Book with entry by Officer Buchanan.

ML 18

Deputy Governor
19th January, 1966

The Governor.

W. O'Brien

Millisale

20-1-66.

Sir,

I beg to report that on the 14th inst I was duty Principal Officer on evening duty.

At approx 6.40 P.M. Officer **ML 38** called me from the common room,

He reported that at Mr Anderson's request he had removed trainee **ML 39** from that class. The reason being that he would not answer any questions and also had adopted an insolent manner to Mr Anderson.

I told Off **ML 38** to place trainee **ML 38** in the cells pending a report from Mr Anderson. I was present when this trainee was placed in the cell.

Officer **ML 38** resumed duty as passage patrol, and shortly afterwards we heard the sound of furniture being thrown about the cell.

On returning to the cell this trainee was throwing the table about, and the rest of the cell furniture was damaged. He appeared to be in a violent temper and had to be restrained, and for safety I had the cell furniture removed.

At no time from when I was called did any one lay a hand on this trainee, except to restrain.

ML 40

Principal Officer.

The Governor.

[Signature]
20/1/66

Surgery
19. 1. 66.

↓ saw Franice **ML 39** [redacted]
on his request @ 9.30 am on the
18th visit in the separate room.

ML 39 had some slight swelling
on upper cheeks below right eye,
the eye was not involved and in
my opinion required no treatment

ML 24

(Hanson)

Statement by *Chairman*

ML 39



on the night Monday 17th of January 1966
 ML 39 was in the class of Mr. Anderson,
 at about 6.40 p.m. I was asked by Mr Anderson
 to stand at the wall. Then Mr Anderson called
 Mr ML 38 (an officer) to take ^{me} out of the class. I
 was told twice to leave the room on the second time
 Mr ML 38 caught me by the back of the neck
 and told me to "get out," I did so. Then at
 the Billiard hall door Mr ML 38 slapped me
 twice on the face with the palm of his hand.
 Then at the common room door he hit me
 again with his fist. I told him to leave me alone
 as I would see the Governor and when I told
 him this he replied "If you don't shut up you
 will need to see some one else." After that he
 went to the common room and asked the principle
 officer Mr ML 40 to see me. Mr ML 40 went in to
 see the schoolmaster what he wanted me to
 leave the room for, and when he returned Mr
 ML 38 said that he had seen another boy
 and I skylarking about which was not
 true. Then I was put in the cells. At
 least five minutes later while I was in the
 cells I grabbed a table and a chair and I
 threw them at the Door.

ML 39

Witness by
 Date 19-1-66

S G Knowles Officer

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
NORTHERN IRELAND
RECEIVED
- 1 NOV 1971
MISONS BRANCH

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle.

29th October, 1971.

Protest Demonstration by Trainees.

I have to report that following a concert given by the 'Sundowners', a Country and Western Group, on the ~~above date~~ in the dining hall, the trainees refused to go up to their dormitories. The time was approximately 10.15 p.m., and I was in the Institution testing a Bantam radio when the matter was reported to me.

I enquired of the boys the reason for their conduct, and according to several of them the charge was brutality by the staff. This was news to me and I outlined the proper procedure for having such grievances aired. There was a marked lack of enthusiasm for the idea of individuals submitting 'Board Papers', but I pointed out that such matters could not be raised collectively. I also gave a guarantee that I would make it well known to everyone the fact that ill treatment of any kind would not be tolerated.

Following my advice, that of the Assistant Governor Mr. McLaughlan, and senior staff a number of the trainees went to bed. Out of 108 trainees by 2 a.m., 71 were in bed. The use of force is to my mind impracticable in an Open Institution and as I had sufficient staff to contain the situation I let matters rest. I had not been to bed since 2 a.m., on Thursday morning and I therefore went to my house at 5.30 a.m., when all trainees including those in the dining hall were asleep.

At 8.30 a.m., I was present for morning parade but only 34 trainees were present, the remainder having stayed in the dining hall. When these lads had gone to work I again spoke to those in the dining hall and repeated what I had told them previously, but indicated I would be prepared to speak to anyone who wished to come round to see me.

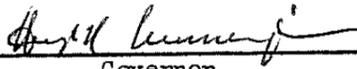
I interviewed four lads in the presence of **ML 57** Mr. McLaughlan and the Chief Officer. They told me that they wanted the same conditions as obtained in English Borstals such as wearing their hair slightly longer, shorter sentences etc. I was able to show the proposals which I have made to the Ministry with regard to the revision of Borstal Rules which if they are implemented would enable a boy making a special effort to gain an even earlier release than would normally be possible in England. As far as length of hair is concerned I agreed to look at the matter as sympathetically as possible. I further agreed to Mr. McLaughlan's proposal of the formation of a 'mess committee' of which Mr. McLaughlan will be a member to investigate those ideas which will contribute towards the well being of the Institution within the framework of the rules. This could be the forerunner of a 'Group Scheme' which we would hope to institute in the foreseeable future.

I again stressed to these trainees that complaints about treatment must be submitted by individuals prepared to accept responsibility for such action personally.

All trainees went to work after the forenoon break and have continued normally since.

I would not say at this point in time that the trouble is over, because we have a fairly high percentage of 'would be' troublemakers. In the last 7 days we have had 8 new admissions, and several of these will certainly not contribute anything helpful to the situation.

The Ministry will be kept informed of any further developments.


Governor.

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

were not permitted to use excessive force or act in an inappropriate manner towards the trainees. Records in relation to the disciplinary charges laid against Officer **ML 32** dated 4 January 1963 (Exhibit 29) pages 38, 39 and 40 show that he was charged under the provisions of the Code Of Discipline for Prison Officers, Part 1. This referred to the disciplinary offence of “unlawful or unnecessary use of authority” and specifically (in his case) of having “used force unnecessarily”. The Code of Conduct and Discipline for Prison Officers is included in the Borstal Training document, pages 4-6, (Exhibit 21) not dated.

92. Evidence is available which would suggest that a “separate cell” was used for the control of refractory boys and is referred to in the allegation against Officer **ML 38** (Exhibit 30) on page 13, and in an entry in the Governor’s Journal on 13th August 1975 (Exhibit 26) when a trainee was reportedly “*held in a separate room under punishment*” although he “*had to be forcibly removed from that room while trades staff removed glass from the windows (**ML 58** had damaged a number of pieces)*”.
93. An entry in the Governor’s Journal dated 14 May 1980 (Exhibit 32) evidences that the Governor referred an alleged assault to the Police for investigation and suspended Officers when he believed they may have been guilty of assault.
94. An entry in the Governor’s Journal on 8 November 1975 (Exhibit 33) records an allegation raised by **ML 47** who complained that **ML 48** had been assaulted by staff. The Governor has recorded his actions but we do not have any formal paperwork to indicate whether this matter was taken any further following the Governor’s intervention.

“Punchy” Skillen

95. The Department has not been able to find any records in relation to “Punchy” Skillen (question 14 refers). Nor have we been able to find any document to suggest that any complaints were made against an Officer Skillen during his

GOVERNOR'S JOURNAL

Date of Entry	Date of Occurrence	Occurrence	Date of Entry
	5 November 1975	Unlocked 721 ^{DU} Outside Hosp. 1 Absconders 4 Spec. Grade Parole 2	
1st November 1975		Applications 3 Adjudications Nil	
2nd November 1975		Received 2 (from Special Grade Parole) Discharged 2 (To Special Grade Parole)	6th November 1975
	6th November 1975	Unlocked 71 Outside Hospital 1 Absconders 4 Special Grade Parole 2	6th November 1975
2nd November 1975		applications 2 Adjudications Nil	
3rd November 1975		Received 1 (From special parole board) Discharged 2 (To special grade parole)	7th November 1975
3 November 75	7th November 1975	Unlocked 70 Outside Hospital 1 Absconders 4 Special grade parole 3	7th November 1975
4 November 75		Applications 2 Adjudications Nil	
		Received - 3 (from Special Grade Parole) Discharged 9 Released under Supervision	8 November 1975
4 November 75	8 November 1975	Unlocked 64 Outside Hosp. 1 Absconders 4	
5 November 75		Applications - nil Adjudications - 2 Interviewed ML 47 at his request. ML 47 alleged that ML 48 had been beaten by staff on Friday 7 November 1975. (ML 48 had been examined by the m. a. on that day for punishment - no evidence of injuries). I saw ML 48 and could see no marks on	

Food and Clothing

32. Meals in both sections were provided by the kitchen in the open section and comprised three main meals and supper. Trainees wore a uniform supplied by the prison that was cleaned in the laundry and maintained by a full-time seamstress. These consisted of denims and clothing required for work.

Complaints, Requests and Allegations

33. Whilst a trainee could make a complaint, request or allegation at any time there was no formal system in place to deal with such matters. Complaints and requests were generally about issues such as work allocation, not getting promotion to the next grade or requests for an extra visit. I do not now recall any allegations from trainees about abusive treatment from staff during my time as Governor in Millisle although I note that there is an entry in the Governors Journal from 8 November 1975 (Exhibit 3)⁴ when a **ML 47** complained that **ML 48** had been assaulted on 7 November 1975. The Governor's Journal shows that I met with **ML 47** in relation to the alleged assault the day earlier. The entry in the journal at the time shows that **ML 48** had been examined by a Medical Officer on 7 November to assess his fitness for punishment and that there was no evidence of injuries at that time. I then interviewed **ML 48** and could see no injuries myself; the Medical Officer also attended and confirmed this on 8 November. I note further that there is no formal paperwork to evidence if this matter was taken any further following my intervention. See also the Millisle general statement at para 94.

⁴ Exhibit 3 - 08 November 1975 - Millisle Governors Journal

were not permitted to use excessive force or act in an inappropriate manner towards the trainees. Records in relation to the disciplinary charges laid against Officer **ML 32** dated 4 January 1963 (Exhibit 29) pages 38, 39 and 40 show that he was charged under the provisions of the Code Of Discipline for Prison Officers, Part 1. This referred to the disciplinary offence of “unlawful or unnecessary use of authority” and specifically (in his case) of having “used force unnecessarily”. The Code of Conduct and Discipline for Prison Officers is included in the Borstal Training document, pages 4-6, (Exhibit 21) not dated.

92. Evidence is available which would suggest that a “separate cell” was used for the control of refractory boys and is referred to in the allegation against Officer **ML 38** (Exhibit 30) on page 13, and in an entry in the Governor’s Journal on 13th August 1975 (Exhibit 26) when a trainee was reportedly “*held in a separate room under punishment*” although he “*had to be forcibly removed from that room while trades staff removed glass from the windows (**ML 58** had damaged a number of pieces)*”.
93. An entry in the Governor’s Journal dated 14 May 1980 (Exhibit 32) evidences that the Governor referred an alleged assault to the Police for investigation and suspended Officers when he believed they may have been guilty of assault.
94. An entry in the Governor’s Journal on 8 November 1975 (Exhibit 33) records an allegation raised by **ML 47** ; who complained that **ML 48** had been assaulted by staff. The Governor has recorded his actions but we do not have any formal paperwork to indicate whether this matter was taken any further following the Governor’s intervention.

“Punchy” Skillen

95. The Department has not been able to find any records in relation to “Punchy” Skillen (question 14 refers). Nor have we been able to find any document to suggest that any complaints were made against an Officer Skillen during his

GOVERNOR'S JOURNAL

Date of Entry	Date of Occurrence	Occurrence	Date of Entry
		Discharged - closed NIC Chief Officer on evening duty.	14 May 80
	14 May 1980	Undealt 111 Open calls 68 Closed calls 43 S.H.L. NIC Of hosp. 1 Applications - 2 Adjudicators - NIC. At approx 1415 I was informed by A.G. Wilson that an alleged assault had taken place in the closed sector by Officer ML 49 and ML 50 on trainee ML 51 and ML 52 . On making an initial investigation I decided to call in the R.V.C. to investigate. No other incident later that day & suspended Officer ML 50 from duty; Officer ML 49 however left the stable limit of the conclusion of duty was unable to be contacted. R.V.C. arrived at 15.00 hrs. Receives - open NIC - closed NIC Discharged - open 5 - closed NIC A.G. Wilson on evening duty.	
	15 May 1980	Undealt 106 Open calls 63 Closed calls 43 S.H.L. 5 Of hospital - 1 Applications NIC Adjudicators NIC Suspended Off ML 49 from duty (see entry for 14 May 1980) Trainee ML 53 attending health abroad for R.C. Service at Jax of area. Receives - open 5 (4 from closed 1 from S.H.C.) - closed 1 (from open). Discharged - open 4 (3 to S.H.C. 1 from open).	15.5.80
	13.5.80		

- 2 -

The Mourne Walk had again been completed in record time. Members felt that this reflected well on the establishment, staff and trainees.

On the more negative side he stated that he had had to suspend two members of staff during the preceding month. This arose from alleged assaults on two trainees. The R.U.C. were investigating the matter and it remained to be seen whether charges would ensue. In response to earlier comments by the Chairman the Governor stated that the projected ending of Borstal training remained as before but that there were many factors which might affect the actual date of termination.

10. Correspondence - Nil.

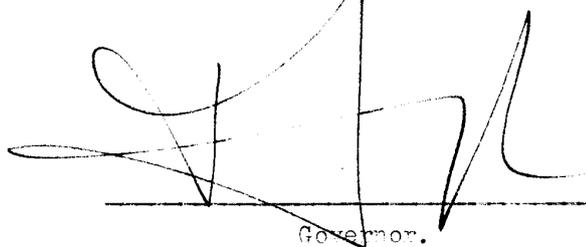
11. General - Mr. Brown raised the matter of the Borstal Association of Northern Ireland. The Governor stated that preliminary discussions had commenced. Further discussions would take place when a firm date for the abolition of Borstal training had been announced.

12. There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, 7th July, 1980 at 2.45 p.m.



Secretary.



Governor.

Submitted.

N.I. Office,
Dundonald House,
Belfast BT4 3QU.

PURDYSBURN HOSPITAL

Department of Clinical Psychology
Telephone No.
Belfast 649191
Ext. 278

TREATMENT OF
OFFENDERS BRANCH 1
RECEIVED
27 OCT 1980
Northern Ireland Office

Saintfield Road
Belfast BT8 8BH

21/9/80

Dear Ken,

I enclose my completed expense claim, which should now include the note which I paid last night to the Clerical Section. I understand from Min. Ashmore at N.I.O. that the Board of Visitors Committee is to remain, in some form, and she has asked me to continue to be a member of it, at least until there is a vacancy at the Holywell V.O.C. Committee.

As regards my note report, it would be as follows.

Date 25-9-80

Time 7/30 PM - 8/30 PM.

I was shown around the Clerical Section by S.O. David Loyal 31 trainees in residence.

None in suit bag or dress for the reasons.

Most of the trainees were watching television and one was playing table tennis with a member of staff.

There was general expression of satisfaction with conditions, meals, etc and the atmosphere seemed more relaxed than I have noted on previous visits, probably because of the reduced number, the number of releases due next week and the impending closure of the establishment.

I had discussions briefly, in private with three trainees.

1. Trainee **ML 53** - expressed his relief and enthusiasm for his forthcoming release and for the excellent job opportunity which he has received. Training is much poorer. He readily admitted that he had had some problems of adjustment and interpersonal difficulties in the past, with quite disturbed behaviour, but he expressed his confidence that these were now entirely in the past.

2. Trainee **ML 51**. This trainee had just returned from the court case involving charges against two of the officers. He said that he felt that the court officials and personnel of the service had treated him fairly and that appropriate attention had been given to what he had had to say. He also expressed fear, however, that he might be charged with making false accusations against officers if the two men currently being tried were found

to be "not guilty". These fears were the result of what some other officers had suggested. I tried to reassure him in this matter. He has further fears that if he were to receive another custodial sentence (he might still have to face a car theft charge) he would be victimised by the staff of whatever prison he was then placed in. Again, I tried to reassure him at this point.

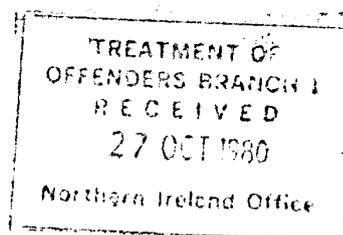
3. **ML 54** - This trainee like the two above, is due for release at the beginning of October. He had no specific complaint but expressed a more generalised opinion that certain officers and some of the trainees, would provoke him or otherwise engineer or fabricate a situation which would lead to the further charges and the postponement of his discharge. This expectation, he claimed, was based on several previous experiences of this nature. I gave him what I considered verbal encouragement I could, pointing out that he only had five more days to pass, and that this was much nearer to discharge than he had ever achieved before.

After a brief discussion with Mr. Boyd and other officers on duty, regarding the forthcoming closure and its effects on staff, I terminated the visit at 5/30.

I trust that the above will serve your purposes.

Best wishes

Jon Patten



OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE - PERSONAL

NIG-12-187A - Woburn Visiting Committee, Minutes of Meetings 1980 (67) - PRONI - 1-12-15

H.M., Y.O.C.,
Woburn House,
Millisle.

20th October, 1980.

Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Visiting Committee at H.M., Y.O.C., at 3 p.m., on Monday, 20th October, 1980.

1. Members present - Mrs. Greeves, Mr. Smyth, Mrs. Eves, Mr. Patten, Mr. Donaldson. Mr. McLaughlan - Governor and Mr. Ross - Secretary, were also present.
2. Apologies were received from Mr. Coey, Mr. O'Driacoll and Mr. Carson.
3. Mr. McLaughlan took the chair for the election of office-bearers which resulted in Mrs. Greeves being elected Chairman and Mr. Smyth being elected Vice-Chairman.
4. Chairmans Business - Mrs. Greeves expressed the concern the committee felt for Mrs. Price whose husband had tragically died yesterday. The Secretary agreed to write to Mrs. Price.

The Committee agreed to continue to meet on the third Monday of the month.

5. Governors Report - Mr. McLaughlan informed members that there were now 39 young offenders in custody. This figure was arrived at thus:-

In custody at 30.9.1980	78	}	= 39	
Received from Hydebank on 13.10.80	6			
	64	}		
Discharged	1.10.80			24
Transferred Hydebank	1.10.80			16
Transferred Belfast	1.10.80			1
Discharged since	1.10.80			3
Transferred Hydebank	17.10.80			1
		45		

Besides 38 Officers transferred elsewhere, all but 1 teacher and 3 V.T. Instructors had also gone.

The P.O.A., had to-day indicated that they would prefer total closure on 1st January, and this was likely to be acceptable to H.I. Office.

There were also indications that Woburn House might become the home of the O.T.S. This was subject to ministerial approval.

Officers **ML 50** and **ML 49** had been acquitted on the assault charge and subsequently transferred to Belfast Prison.

The Governor explained the slightly different role of the Committee. Its responsibilities were the same apart from authorising release. There were also differences in punishment scales should they be called upon for that role.

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE - PERSONAL

NIO-12-169A - Borstal Visiting Committees - Woburn Visiting Committee - Minutes of Meetings (43) - PRONI - 1-12-13

Reference

Note

Trainees [redacted] were released on 15th October 1980.

Trainee [redacted] has an ongoing criminal injury claim arising out of an allegation of assault against the two officers who were subsequently acquitted.

fuZugan
29.10.80

Note -

Although the 2 officers were acquitted on criminal charges, there is nothing to prevent the trainees from instituting civil actions for injuries from assault - and possibly succeeding with same. I have seen this happen before in 30/10/80

CODE 18 78

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE - PERSONAL

1 well, and they both remained suspended during the
2 currency of the investigation.

3 **A. That's correct.**

4 Q. What I wanted to ask you was could you remember
5 precisely what type of assault they were alleged to have
6 engaged in on ML 51 and ML 52?

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. You don't?

9 **A. I had forgotten about this until I saw the entry in the**
10 **journal.**

11 Q. What I am able to establish is that you informed the
12 Visiting Committee about this. I am not going to bring
13 up all of the records, but on 2nd June 1980 you informed
14 the Visiting Committee that you had had to suspend two
15 officers because of alleged assaults and the RUC were
16 investigating and it remained to be seen whether there
17 would be charges. The reference for that, Members of
18 the Panel, is at MIL747 and 8.

19 Then on 25th September -- and we're going to look at
20 this, please, at 755 -- there is a note from Dr Jim
21 Patten, who is deceased you were saying to me --

22 **A. Um.**

23 Q. -- who was a psychiatrist.

24 **A. Psychologist.**

25 Q. Psychologist.

PRIVATE

8. After I left Rathgael I lived with a foster family [REDACTED] RG 40 in Bangor for a time. They were good people and I felt more settled and happier. I stayed in their house only at weekends and I was attending school [REDACTED]. When I was sixteen the staff at Rathgael helped me to get a job as a stitcher [REDACTED].
9. My brother HIA 468 joined the Army after he left Rathgael. He was only 16 at that time and was unsuited to army life. In 1978 he deserted and he came to find me in Bangor when I was living with [REDACTED] RG 40. He did not have anywhere to stay and began living rough at the [REDACTED] which was empty at that time. I used to spend time with him there with five or six of my friends. We began drinking and playing the fool. [REDACTED] I was at the empty [REDACTED] with three other boys. One of them decided to set fire to some blankets in an empty linen store. [REDACTED]. The police charged me with criminal damage and on 5 January 1979 I was sentenced to two years of borstal training.

Millisle (1979-1981)

10. I was sent to Millisle to serve my sentence. The regime there was very tough and you needed permission from the staff to do everything. At reception, you were put in the closed part of the prison for 4 weeks. We were not allowed to call the staff by their first names and instead we had to address them as 'Sir'. I was allocated a single room cell and the living conditions were clean but basic.
11. There was a lot of physical abuse at Millisle. The staff were very aggressive and they physically punished us by slapping and kicking us if we did not do what we were told. There were two brothers on the staff during my time there. One was bald and smaller than the other. They were both very violent but [REDACTED] ML 1 was more vicious. I remember him punching me on the chest on one occasion. They punched, kicked and slapped all the inmates if, for example, your cell wasn't clean or if it wasn't kept in the order they expected.

PRIVATE

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8. I was then moved on to another wing after the reception wing and a man called **ML 8** was in charge of this wing. On one occasion we were getting washed and I was asked if I shaved. I said that I did not need to shave as I did not have any hair to shave. **ML 8** then smacked my face and said that I was to do what I was told. I had never shaved in my life before and I wasn't sure what I was doing. We were made to stand to attention and if we did not do this, we would be slapped. We were made to train like we were in the army and the same Officers used the same tactics as the army.
9. The inspections of the cells continued each morning. The Governor would inspect our cells on a Saturday morning and your cell had to be twice as clean. During the day we would be taken to the gym to exercise and sometimes we would be put into the boxing ring for a minute and we were supervised by a member of staff. I think that he was called **ML 12**. We each had a PE uniform to wear.
10. We were made to scrub and polish the floors each morning. We used a big wooden box with bricks inside it and a blanket underneath it as a buffer for the floors. The buffer was very heavy and I now have tennis elbow in both arms as a result of this manual labour. We were made to buffer the floors as a form of punishment.
11. Each day we had to sit at the table and chair in our cells as we were not allowed to sit or lie on the bed until bed time. We were locked up all day during the summer. We did not have the opportunity to exercise or associate with other inmates. When it came to the winter, we were taken outside and made to exercise in the rain.
12. The only reading material we were given was a bible which was in our room. Each evening we were locked in our cells from 8.00 PM. I did not ask to get out of my cell to use the toilet after lock up for fear of being punished by a member of staff. We used to use the newspaper in our room as a toilet and then throw the parcel out the window of our cell. I remember one morning I

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

**RESPONSE BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO
WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] HIA 416**

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 notes that HIA 416 was born on [REDACTED] HIA 416's criminal record (see MIL-30057 to MIL-30059) shows that he was committed to Borstal training, at [REDACTED] County Court, on 8 January 1979 for robbery and burglary offences. We have no personal file for HIA 416.
2. The Department notes HIA 416's comments at paragraphs 8 and 12 of his statement to the Inquiry. We have no personnel file for 'a man called **ML 8**'.
3. The Department notes HIA 416's comments at paragraph 9 of his statement to the Inquiry. We have records in relation to a [REDACTED] who worked in Millisle Borstal from 16 July 1979 to 30 September 1980 and a [REDACTED] who worked in Borstal from 6 November 1977 to 31 December 1980 (see Exhibit 1).
4. The Department notes HIA 416's comments at paragraphs 15 – 18 of his statement to the Inquiry. We have no personnel records in relation to 'Punchy Skillen' but note that the DOJ Millisle General Statement (MIL-130 – MIL-131) and Mr McLaughan's statement (MIL-722) provide some information in relation to Mr Skillen. We do not have any medical records for HIA 416.

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: **HIA 294**

Page 5 of 5

again I don't recall seeing any marks. One evening before lockup he opened my cell door and asked if I had a brother called **ML 15**. I said yes. He then grabbed the cell door with one hand and slammed it so hard that the plaster surrounding the frame of the door cracked. I don't know why he asked about my brother. It was mental torture from then on. I couldn't do anything to please him and always felt like I said the wrong thing. I also remember another inmate on the same wing called [REDACTED] from the Carrick area came out of his cell one time with an enormous black eye that had shut over. I think it was his left eye and the injury to it lasted for about two weeks. I remember asking [REDACTED] 'who had hit him' and he said **ML 7**. I asked him 'what for' but he wasn't sure whether to say. Eventually he told me it was because of something he wrote in a letter to his girlfriend. I cant remember [REDACTED] first name nor can I recall what he looked like. Another prison officer called **ML 14** also assaulted me when I was about 17 yrs old. **ML 14** took you for PTI in closed but also worked in open. I recall one time I taking off my gutties in the gym when **ML 14** came from behind me and hit me one almighty blow in the back. It was so bad that I couldn't breathe or talk. He found it funny. Because of the angle I was at I could see **ML 14** approach me from behind. Other prisoners must have seen but I cant remember their names. **ML 14** hurt me the most. I didn't complain but I was sore for days. I have had a recent scan at hospital and they discovered a legion in my lung. I told the doctor and he said it could be as a result of a blow to this area. All of my immediate family are dead apart from my younger brother [REDACTED] who is an alcoholic. I do not have contact details for [REDACTED]. I do not recall the first names of any of the staff members responsible for the abuse in any of the institutions mentioned. I believe **LS 61** and [REDACTED] are dead. I felt obliged to report this abuse after hearing about similar incidents that were being investigated by Police into Childrens homes.

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Signature of witness:	HIA 294
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	

38/36 (2007)

PRIVATE

HIA 294 They weren't in uniforms, they wore suits you know, I was in the closed, this is in the closed bit, you didn't get down into the open bit until you were good enough or they thought you were good enough. I never got charged for anything but there was folk that did get charged and they were down there before me.

AF member: Okay.

HIA 294 The sentence to Borstal would have been six to two years, six months to two years.

AF member: Okay.

HIA 294 And I think it took me six months getting down to that closed place for what reason I don't know, now my class officer was called a man called **ML 7**

AF member: **ML 7**

HIA 294 Yeah but you see the woman couldn't find any record of. She got one of them **ML 14** he was just this big, have you ever seen the film Kes.

AF member: Yes.

HIA 294 He would remind you of the PE teacher.

AF member: Oh okay.

HIA 294 That type of man, thumping you, I was kneeling down like just putting my gutty on or something or taking it off and I got this big mighty blow in the lung which I don't know if it's cancerous or it's just a lesion you know what I mean.

AF member: They can't tell at the minute.

HIA 294 But I reckon he done that with that blow cos I couldn't breathe nothing and me pride wouldn't make me cry or not in front of the other fellows you know and this man **ML 7** came into my cell one night before he went off home, he came into my cell and went by the way cos me older brother **ML 15** was in there.

AF member: Okay.

HIA 294 This was early in '72 or something, he says have you a brother called **ML 15**, here's me yes he's me brother, he got the door, the cell door and slammed it so hard that the crack, the plaster round the frame, metal frame round the door, the plaster broke that's how hard he slammed it, didn't say anything about him, just says is that your brother

HIA 294

PRIVATE

2

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE-PERSONAL

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: **HIA 294**

Page 5 of 5

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Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Signature of witness:	HIA 294
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	

38/36 (2007)

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE-PERSONAL

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of [REDACTED]

Page 3 of 3

that area HIA 294 attributes this lesion to being a result of that punch. Do you have any comment?

A. I didn't do it. He could have got that injury doing anything. I didn't ever assault any inmate at Millisle Borstal. He did not make an internal complaint as I was never interviewed by the Borstal in relation to it.

Q11. Is there anything else you want to say?

A. I would like to reiterate that if he had wanted to complain at the time there was a procedure to go through. I was 25 years in the prison service and never had a complaint.

The interview was concluded and I explained to ML 14 that I was reporting him to the Public Prosecution Service in relation to the offence of AOABH.

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Signature of witness:	[REDACTED]
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	

38/36 (2007)

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12. The only reading material we were given was a bible which was in our room. Each evening we were locked in our cells from 8.00 PM. I did not ask to get out of my cell to use the toilet after lock up for fear of being punished by a member of staff. We used to use the newspaper in our room as a toilet and then throw the parcel out the window of our cell. I remember one morning I

was looking out the window and the grounds man who was walking around told me that I needn't point at him. The next thing I knew, **ML 8** came into my cell and started to slap me for putting what he called a 'mystery parcel' through the window.

13. I had three or four visits during the year that I was in Millisle. My eldest brother, [REDACTED] and my sister [REDACTED] came to visit me. My brother never really showed his emotions. My sister told me that she saw my brother cry for the first time the day they came to visit me and he told her that he would never return to visit me again. My sister continued to come to see me. When some [REDACTED] boys were admitted my sister was able to get a lift to Millisle with their families. Visiting took place on a Saturday and we would all be gathered in the Common room. If you had a visitor your name was called. My mother visited me the Christmas before I was released.

14. When I was moved to the open Borstal, there were two separate wings. There was a green wing for country people and a blue one for Belfast people. The Officers made a distinction between the country boys and the Belfast boys. There was a workshop for joinery and metal work. I chose to do metal work. We were allowed to wear jeans in the open borstal.

15. I was in the canteen one day and word was going around that there were new jackets and jeans in the laundry. At dinner time, I went down to try to get a jacket for myself. There was a boy who worked in the laundry and he was standing at the door. I entered the laundry and I heard him shout 'Punchy he is stealing jackets, get him, get him'. Punchy Skillen was the main guy in the laundry and he had a bad reputation. He made us call him boss. He would always punch you when you walked past him. Punchy then came in and closed the door and told me that I was going to get my star burst. Two boys held me over the press. Punchy then took my trousers down and shoved the shaft of a brush up my backside. After this I never went back near the laundry. I have never spoken to anyone about incident.

34. A trainee could make an approach to the governor or an assistant governor or could ask to see a member of the Visiting Committee if they wished to make a complaint or a request. An interview with a member of the Committee was conducted out of sight and hearing of a member of staff. A trainee could also submit a petition to the Department on any matter although that petition was open to the scrutiny of the governor. There was no formal system for recording complaints. I am not aware of the Visiting Committee producing annual reports but I did attend their monthly meetings at which they raised issues with me. I am aware that minutes were produced from these meetings (Exhibit 4)⁵.

Discipline

35. Trainees were subject to a formal disciplinary code. There was an annual Report on the Administration of the Prison Service and the available reports show the kinds of offences that could be committed, and the nature of the punishments which might apply.

The Report's available show:

Offences

Violence

Escapes and attempted escapes

Insubordination

Other breaches

Punishments

Cane

Loss of grade or privilege

Stoppage of earnings

Confinement to a room

Extra work

⁵ Exhibit 4 – Examples of Minutes from Visiting Committee monthly meetings (Dec 1979 - Sept 1980).

Food and Clothing

32. Meals in both sections were provided by the kitchen in the open section and comprised three main meals and supper. Trainees wore a uniform supplied by the prison that was cleaned in the laundry and maintained by a full-time seamstress. These consisted of denims and clothing required for work.

Complaints, Requests and Allegations

33. Whilst a trainee could make a complaint, request or allegation at any time there was no formal system in place to deal with such matters. Complaints and requests were generally about issues such as work allocation, not getting promotion to the next grade or requests for an extra visit. I do not now recall any allegations from trainees about abusive treatment from staff during my time as Governor in Millisle although I note that there is an entry in the Governors Journal from 8 November 1975 (Exhibit 3)⁴ when a **ML 47** complained that **ML 48** had been assaulted on 7 November 1975. The Governor's Journal shows that I met with **ML 47** in relation to the alleged assault the day earlier. The entry in the journal at the time shows that **ML 48** had been examined by a Medical Officer on 7 November to assess his fitness for punishment and that there was no evidence of injuries at that time. I then interviewed **ML 48** and could see no injuries myself; the Medical Officer also attended and confirmed this on 8 November. I note further that there is no formal paperwork to evidence if this matter was taken any further following my intervention. See also the Millisle general statement at para 94.

⁴ Exhibit 3 - 08 November 1975 - Millisle Governors Journal

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⁴ Exhibit 3 - 08 November 1975 - Millisle Governors Journal

1 **that or I didn't do that". I said, "This is a lie", and**
2 **the governor turned round and says to me, "Listen", he**
3 **says, "if officer", whoever his name was, "says that you**
4 **were riding up and down on a motorbike, I'll believe**
5 **him". That's what he said.**

6 Q. I ask because we have heard or we have seen statements
7 from some witnesses to say that some of the governors
8 were sympathetic to them and tried to make sure they
9 weren't ill-treated --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- when they did make complaints.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. Can you remember who the governor was in your time?

14 **A. No, not now I can't, no.**

15 Q. Was it always the same governor that you appeared in
16 front of?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Sometimes presumably he might have been away and
19 a deputy would have been stood in.

20 **A. Not it was -- it was -- it was always the same governor,**
21 **and I wasn't there that long, you know.**

22 Q. Yes.

23 **A. So it was the same governor, yes.**

24 Q. Thank you.

25 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA212. Can I just ask do

PRIVATE

13. I was there for approximately four or five months and I class it as months of torture. I was not sentenced by the Court to torture but that was what took place. I was brought up in a good household where my parents taught me right from wrong. I did not deserve to be treated in that way particularly when I was still a child. I should not have been in a maximum security prison. It was wrong to put a child into that environment.
14. I was then moved to Magilligan Prison and it was a relief to be there compared to the Maze. I can only speak for myself but I never saw a Prison Officer there touch anyone. There was no physical abuse, no sectarian abuse and no sexual abuse. The prison officer in control of the wing I was on was called **MG 1** and he was a proper gentleman. He sat down and talked to me as if I was a normal person. The other Prison Officers were good people as well. I was there for around five months and was then moved to Millisle Borstal.

Millisle Borstal

15. I was sent to Millisle and for the majority of my time there it was fine. I had been an apprentice bricklayer before I was sentenced and there was a bricklaying shop at the Borstal. I spent my time laying bricks and I did not have to do anything if I did not want to. I only had a problem with one member of staff while I was there. I cannot remember his name but his nickname was "Punchy". He was a small man, stout and with big lips. I will always remember his face. He worked in the laundry and once a week I had to bring my laundry down to be washed. He used to put his arms round me and try to kiss me. I could feel his erection against my body and he bent me over the washing machines and simulated sex with me. This was not a joke to him and he meant everything that he was doing.
16. On one occasion I plucked up the courage to tell a senior member of staff what was taking place. This man was sharp dressed, very presentable looking and had black hair and a black moustache. He simply dismissed what I told him and nothing was done. The other boys in the laundry knew what was going on but

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: **HIA 374**

Page 3 of 3

were all scared to go to the laundry as we were all abused there by Punchy. I do not know his real name. He was around 50, short and stout, and had fair hair which was combed over. He had big lips. He would push me over the washing machines and rub himself behind me. I could feel his erect penis pushing against me. This was always fully dressed. He would kiss at my face and slabber over me. This happened many times while I was at Millisle. The abuse was common knowledge amongst the staff, though no action was taken. I did report it to a senior staff member once. I cannot remember his name, though I know he was known by a title - Deputy Governor, or Senior Officer, something like that. He had his own office, which was where I spoke to him. He was a very clean and tidy man, with a number of gold rings on his fingers. He had combed back black hair and a thin black moustache. When I told him about what Punchy did to us in the laundry, he just laughed at me.

Over the years, I have not told anyone the details of what happened to me, though I did tell my brother I had been sexually abused. It was common knowledge that all of us in those institutions were abused. I wish for police to identify the offenders and ask that they be prosecuted if they are still alive.

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Signature of witness:	HIA 374
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	

38/36 (2007)

PRIVATE

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

PRIVATE

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PRIVATE

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

1 do.

2 Q. The impression you have given is that there were some
3 staff who were good and some who were pretty awful and
4 some in between.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. The ones who were good, they were aware of what was
7 going on from their colleagues?

8 A. It is hard to tell. It would be difficult for me to
9 believe that they did not have a significant awareness,
10 because they shared the same space. Do you know? For
11 instance, when I was ordered to punch the guy in front
12 of me, they were not the only -- this guy was not the
13 only prison officer in the room. There was maybe four
14 or five.

15 Q. Do you think that they -- the ones who were sort of more
16 easy were relying upon the ones who were tougher to keep
17 order more?

18 A. I think it would probably vary from individual to
19 individual. There were some prison officers who were
20 very noticeably afraid of the job that they had and they
21 were afraid of the boys and they were afraid of the
22 other staff. So they just put their heads down and got
23 the day in. The vast majority were people in the
24 middle, fairly decent normal human beings doing their
25 job. Do you know? Then there was a few people who were

1 **and "No, sir" sort of thing at that time, you know. So**
2 **we didn't really get to know the prison officers' names.**

3 Q. Yes, and the Department of Justice have said to the
4 Inquiry in their replying statement where they have
5 confirmed that they don't have any material -- that's at
6 096 to 097 -- that they can't work out -- they don't
7 have enough personnel files to work out who -- if there
8 were brothers on the staff, who you might be talking
9 about and they can't assist certainly at this point the
10 Inquiry any further in that regard, but I am right in
11 saying, HIA248, that it wasn't that they gratuitously
12 just walked around being violent. It was the occasions
13 whenever they were unhappy about some rule that you had
14 not kept.

15 **A. Correct.**

16 Q. Is that the -- is that a fair way to describe it?

17 **A. I suppose so. Like, I mean, if you didn't do something**
18 **right, obviously, you know, you are going to get taught**
19 **how to do it, like, or get a slap if you don't do it**
20 **right the first time, you know. It depends on the**
21 **humour of the staff that day, you know, who was on.**

22 Q. I can't, because I don't have the records, help you with
23 at what point you moved over to the open borstal, but in
24 paragraph 12, if we scroll down to paragraph 12, please,
25 you talk about that move across into the open borstal,



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

Assistant Governor Class I E. D. Jones, BEM

Chief Officer Class I W. Wright, BEM

Senior Officer W. Wilson

Prison Officers M. C. Cassidy
 G. Foster
 T. Gilhooley
 G. F. Melville
 Mrs. A. J. Wallace

Clerk Officer D. W. Teeney

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

1 Q. That can be found in the bundle at MIL21723 to 22336.

2 So it's some 600-odd pages of detail about your 38 years

3 --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- working in the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

6 I also want to confirm for the record, MZ1, that you
7 have no criminal record of any kind.

8 **A. None whatsoever.**

9 Q. You were born on --

10 **A. That's correct.**

11 Q. -- and are now aged 71 years old.

12 **A. Yes, sir.**

13 Q. I'm going to just summarise in very brief terms, MZ1,
14 some of the matters that are apparent from your
15 personnel file, because as part of your 38 years you
16 were an officer on duty on the day of the Maze escape in
17 1983.

18 **A. Yes, sir. I was that day.**

19 Q. You were those who were escaping from the
20 prison.

21 **A. Yes, sir.**

22 Q. You explained to me -- and the Panel and certainly the
23 Chairman in particular will understand what was meant by
24 this -- but you explained to me that you had to move
25 under the SPED system approximately a dozen times during

1 Q. And no-one ever made an allegation about you to the
2 police about your work in the Prison Service at any
3 stage.

4 **A. None whatsoever.**

5 Q. And you have never been accused of assaulting anyone at
6 any time.

7 **A. No, I have not.**

8 Q. You were explaining to me, and I am just going to use
9 one example -- perhaps if you just explain it to the
10 Panel -- that life as a prison officer was not an easy
11 road, and you were able to explain to me one particular
12 incident where you could remember precisely the date and
13 the time. Do you want to just explain to the Panel what
14 happened?

15 **A. It was Friday, , 7.45 in the evening.**
16 **I was leaving the and there was**
17 **a demonstration outside the front of the prison and the**
18 **RUC at the time asked all staff to go down .**
19 **As I drove into there was gun fire.**
20 **Somebody opened up with an assault rifle on my car.**
21 **shots were fired, of which hit my car.**

22 Q. You were then explaining to me -- we will not name the
23 individual involved, nor did you earlier to me -- but
24 you the following day went back to work.

25 **A. I went into work the next morning and all the staff were**

PRIVATE

12. If you were well behaved in the closed part of the prison, after a time, they moved you to the open part which was more relaxed. I worked in the kitchen when I moved to the open part of the prison and I prepared meals for the inmates. My daily routine began at 7 am in order to prepare breakfast and other meals and I enjoyed this work. There were also opportunities to take woodwork classes, crafts or P.E but these did not interest me. After a while, I was allowed to work as an orderly. I was given a red armband and this meant that I could work freely in the grounds of the open prison.

13. In the open prison, I slept in a dormitory with six to eight other boys. There was a night watchman **ML 2**. I remember one night I had a cough and he noticed. I was occupying a corner bed. He came over to me and he gave me a Fisherman's friend which is a cough sweet. He started leaving a couple on my locker. Then one night he put his hands under the bedding and started feeling my private area. One of the other lads started coughing and he left me alone. He warned me not to tell anyone as it was "our secret". This happened a couple of times and left me feeling very uncomfortable and afraid.

14. I found this a difficult and isolating time. I never felt safe there because of the constant fear of violence. I lost all contact with my foster family. There was no one I could talk to about my experiences. I did not feel that I could share my feelings with the other boys as they had a tendency to tease. I was always very guarded with my emotions. The other boys bullied me initially, but this stopped after a while. The staff turned a blind eye to this behaviour and we accepted it as normal to a degree. Other boys were bullied quite severely and I remember there were fights almost every day. As far as I remember, no social workers or welfare officers ever visited me at either Rathgael or Millisle.

Life After Care

15. After I left Millisle, I went down to Dublin and I made a life for myself down there. I got a job working for the **ML 2** initially. Later, I also picked up odd jobs working as a painter/decorator. I met my wife and we

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

**SUPPLEMENTARY RESPONSE BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO
WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] (HIA 248)**

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 statement relating to HIA 248's allegations about his time in Rathgael Training School (see RGL-812 to RGL-829).
2. We have conducted an extensive search of our records in relation to HIA 248's time in Millisle Borstal. However, we have been unable to locate a personal file for HIA 248.
3. The Department notes HIA 248's comments at paragraphs 10 -13 of his statement to the Inquiry. HIA 248 was finally discharged from Rathgael and committed to Borstal on 5 February 1979 (see RGL-43087 and RGL-43144). To date we do not have any personnel files which would aid the identification of the two brothers and the 'night watchman' named in HIA 248's statement to the Inquiry.
4. The Department, to the best of its knowledge, has supplied all relevant information that it could find in its possession in relation to HIA 248. If additional relevant information is discovered by the Department, it will be drawn to the attention of the Inquiry immediately.
5. The Department has not received a civil claim in respect of HIA 248.

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: DENIS ANTHONY ELLIOTT

AGE OF WITNESS [if over 21 enter "over 21"]: DOB [REDACTED]

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS: MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

TO BE COMPLETED WHEN THE STATEMENT HAS BEEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of 1 pages, each 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 5th day of May 1980

(Sgd) John Middlemiss, D/Sgt. SIGNATURE of MEMBER by whom statement was recorded or received.

D A Elliott SIGNATURE of WITNESS

From Spring 1975 until the Autumn of 1977 I held the post of Senior Medical Officer at Magilligan Prison. I was responsible for all medical services within the prison during that time. William Edmonds came under my control as a hospital officer during December 1975. Over a period of some months, my observations of this officer led me to the conclusion that he possessed homosexual tendencies. I advised the Prison Governor, Mr Cunningham orally of my conclusions at the time. Whilst I was on leave during the early part of 1977, Officer Edmonds was posted to the Borstal at Millisle on a temporary basis in his capacity of Hospital Officer. On my return from leave, the posting came to my knowledge and at this stage I drew the attention of Mr Cunningham, the Prison Department and the Chief Medical Officer (Prisons) of the unsuitability of Officer Edmonds' for the position. A short time later, Officer Edmonds posting to the Borstal was made permanent and I again advised all concerned including the Governor of Millisle Borstal of the unsatisfactory situation.

(Sgd) D A Elliott

SIGNATURE of WITNESS: (Sgd) D A Elliott

Signature witnessed by: John Middlemiss, D/Sergeant.

174

1 says:

2 "From spring '75 until autumn of '77 I held the post
3 of Senior Medical Officer at Magilligan Prison. I was
4 responsible for all medical services within the prison
5 during that time. KIN 250 came under my control
6 as a Hospital Officer during December 1975. Over
7 a period of some months my observations of this officer
8 led me to the conclusion that he possessed homosexual
9 tendencies. I advised the prison governor,
10 Mr Cunningham, orally of my conclusions at the time.
11 Whilst I was on leave during the early part of 1977
12 Officer KIN 250 was posted to the borstal at Millisle on
13 a temporary basis in his capacity of Hospital Officer.
14 On my return from leave the posting came to my knowledge
15 and at this stage I drew the attention of Mr Cunningham,
16 The Prison Department and the Chief Medical Officer
17 (Prisons) of the unsuitability of Officer KIN 250 for
18 the position. A short time later Officer KIN 250
19 posting to the borstal was made permanent and I again
20 advised all concerned, including the governor of the
21 Millisle Borstal, of the unsatisfactory situation."

22 Now if we could scroll down to the next page, there
23 is the statement of Dr McKeown, who was the Principal
24 Medical Officer in the DHSS, his responsibilities being
25 administrative work relating to prison medical services.

1 permanently to this establishment. That transfer, like
2 all others in the service, was organised by the prison
3 staffing branch at the Northern Ireland Office. Shortly
4 after the time of the initial transfer Dr Denis Elliott
5 informally expressed to me his reservations about the
6 transfer, namely because of his suspicions that KIN 250
7 had homosexual tendencies. It was emphasised by
8 Dr Elliott that he had no proof of any homosexual
9 practice -- behaviour practised by KIN 250 and therefore
10 no action -- no action could not be taken."

11 I think that probably should be "could be taken".

12 The evidence then in respect of this was summarised
13 at 108003. This is taken from the Caskey summaries. He
14 talks about KIN 250 there, giving his date of birth and
15 where he worked and sayings KIN 250 homosexual
16 tendencies have been the subject of comment. Let's just
17 scroll on down through this, please. Essentially sets
18 out all of the people that the police spoke to whose
19 statements I have just read to you. If you can scroll
20 on down, it says:

21 "When Richard Kerr was interviewed on 25th
22 February 1980, he made references to a close
23 relationship with KIN 250 who was hospital orderly
24 during which time Richard Kerr was detained in borstal at
25 Millisle.

1 He did not make any specific allegations, however,
2 and police decided to pursue the relationship and
3 interviewed KIN 250 on 10th April 1980.

4 The interview was conducted by Detective Constables
5 and ",
6 and it then says what KIN 250 has said in his
7 statement.

8 If we can just scroll on down then, I just make the
9 point there that inquiries were made of hotel staff, who
10 failed to substantiate the fact that the night porter
11 had asked him to get KIN 250 out of the room.

12 Then they go on to talk about the other people that
13 they spoke to in respect of what KIN 250 said in the
14 second statement.

15 Subsequently, as has been indicated -- I should say
16 that no prosecution was directed in 1980 and there is
17 a reference to that at 50852. I don't know that we need
18 to call it up, but subsequently when police spoke to
19 Richard Kerr in 1982 -- we can look at that statement. We
20 have looked at it yesterday, but just look at it again at
21 50864. He does say that he did -- he says:

22 "It is all true up to the point where I talk my
23 friendship with KIN 250 the medical orderly at
24 Woburn House, Millisle. He didn't do anything to me
25 whilst I was at Millisle, but after I left he committed

Introduction

The HIA Inquiry has raised with the Department an issue concerning a Hospital Officer, William Edmonds, who was employed in the Millisle Borstal in the late seventies. Mr Edmonds admitted to police that he engaged in acts of sexual abuse of Richard Kerr who was a trainee in the Millisle Borstal between December 1977 and February 1979. The Department has been invited to address any systemic issues which arise from the papers. The Department is not aware of any complaint having been raised by Mr Kerr arising out of the time spent in the Borstal, or any association with Mr Edmonds.

Background

2. It appears to the Department that during the course of its investigation into Kin-cora, the police spoke with Mr Kerr who referred to having a special relationship with a Hospital Officer, Mr William Edmonds. However, he did not mention any complaint of a sexual nature and nor did he raise any other allegations in relation to Millisle. However, when the police interviewed Mr Edmonds he admitted to committing an act of gross indecency with Mr Kerr in the surgery at Millisle as well as two failed attempts to masturbate him between November 1977 and February 1979. He also described two further incidents in hotels after Mr Kerr had left Millisle.
3. The Department has developed a timeline from the records available at KIN-108003 – 108022 (MIL-30228 – MIL-30247). This is provided at Annex A.
4. These records tell us that it was known to the police that a doctor in Magilligan Prison, where Edmonds had worked as a Hospital Officer before being posted to Millisle, had raised concerns that Edmonds displayed homosexual tendencies. However, this doctor, Dr Elliott, made it clear that this was a suspicion and that he had no substantive evidence to confirm that Edmonds was a practicing homosexual. Dr Elliott informed the Principal Medical Officer and the Governor at Magilligan Mr Cunningham (KIN-108014 (MIL-30239)). After Edmonds had been posted to the Borstal Dr Elliott also informed Duncan McLaughlan, who was Governor at Millisle at the relevant time (KIN-108004 and KIN-108013 (MIL-30229 and MIL-30238)).

1 was subsequently made permanent.

2 Dr Elliott raised the matter informally with
3 Mr McLaughlan after the initial posting. In response
4 Mr McLaughlan took the same approach as KIN 343 and
5 sought to clarify the basis for the concerns. It is
6 recorded in Mr McLaughlan's police statement.

7 The approaches taken by both KIN 343 and
8 Mr McLaughlan were consistent. Both took active steps
9 to examine the suitability of KIN 250 appointment to
10 Millisle, but when they sought to investigate the
11 matter, they were not presented with any information to
12 suggest that he was unsuitable."

13 Then if we could move down, please, to paragraph 39,
14 it says:

15 "The Department takes the view that even if it had
16 been established as a fact at the time that KIN 250
17 sexual orientation was homosexual, this should not of
18 itself have been grounds to prevent a person from taking
19 up a post at any penal institution, whether a mainstream
20 prison or a borstal. The issue whether there was -- the
21 issue was whether there was any risk posed to trainees
22 and it is clear that no evidence came forward to
23 demonstrate that trainees were at risk."

24 Then if we can go to paragraph 42, where the
25 Department of Justice sets out the position, it says

was applicable when Edmonds was in the Prison Service both refer to inappropriate relationships as a disciplinary matter.

10. The Department believes that that the conduct which Edmonds has admitted engaging in would have amounted to a clear contravention of the NIPS Code of Conduct and Discipline, and had it been detected while he was in the employment of the Service, he would have been disciplined in accordance with the Code.

Culture at the Millisle Borstal

11. The Inquiry has already received evidence from Duncan McLaughlan during Module 10 (26 January 2016). He emphasised to the Inquiry that the safety and welfare of trainees at the Borstal were paramount during his time as Governor of that institution. He explained to the Inquiry how he had made staff aware in a formal written notice that he would not tolerate any form of abuse towards trainees. He would investigate any allegation or suspicion of misconduct and would take action against any officer who he believed had a case to answer.
12. Mr McLaughlan was a very visible Governor. He engaged with the trainees directly and personally. The Inquiry has heard anecdotes about how he would be seen spending time with trainees during recreation time. It was his practice to walk around the Borstal each day and to make himself available to trainees and to any Officer who might wish to express any concern about the institution.
13. In his evidence Mr McLaughlan explained the message which he communicated to staff:

"There is a boundary within which is acceptable behaviour and as long as you stick inside that boundary, I will support you. If you choose to step out of the boundary, well, good luck, because I wouldn't be there with you". That is always made abundantly clear wherever I've been. That is what I believe in" (transcript for day 182, page 60).

1 Q. -- about you going back to closed borstal. You said you
2 had got your special privileges and were being released
3 in ten weeks. You said he was furious and threatened to
4 make you a borstal failure before the ten weeks were
5 over, but he was unsuccessful and you were released.

6 You go on in paragraph 36 to talk about the fact
7 that what you have said in your statement, HIA400, is
8 a sample of the abuse you suffered and things that
9 shouldn't have happened to you. You say life was
10 a daily struggle and you lived in fear, not knowing what
11 was going to happen to you from one day to the next.

12 We have dealt in the past with how your life turned
13 out after you left the institutions. When we spoke last
14 time, you had said to me only about 5% of the total
15 abuse that you suffered in Rathgael came from staff, and
16 I wondered what the position was in contrast with
17 Millisle, and you were saying that it was more 50:50 in
18 Millisle. There was bullying from boys there.

19 **A. There was a lot of bullying from boys. When I say**
20 **earlier in the statement that I managed to get a handle**
21 **on it and stop people walking over me, I meant**
22 **physically. The physical abuse stopped, but for me --**
23 **there was a lot of times that I was beaten and sometimes**
24 **beaten unconscious, but it paled into insignificance**
25 **compared to the death by a thousand cuts of constantly**

1 **them were brilliant, and there was a few people who were**
2 **just -- they were just evil. Do you know? They got**
3 **their kicks from being bullies, from verbally and**
4 **physically abusing the boys, and setting up other boys**
5 **to abuse boys, and that was the daily struggle.**

6 Q. Well, HIA400, I know last time you spoke to us you
7 wanted to take some time to put something down in
8 writing and I know you have done that, but you haven't
9 actually brought it, because you still want to reflect
10 on what it is you want to say about the Inquiry
11 recommendations. Isn't that correct?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Well, is there anything that you haven't covered or you
14 feel in our discussion today that we haven't said about
15 your time in Millisle that you would like the Inquiry
16 Panel to know?

17 **A. I'd like the -- I am sure you already have an awareness**
18 **because of the amount of people you're talking to about**
19 **this stuff, but I think it's important to recognise the**
20 **minutiae that contributes to that daily struggle, the**
21 **living constantly in fear at every turn, not knowing**
22 **what was going to happen next. It was constant and it**
23 **was constant in most of the institutions that I was in,**
24 **and it by far outweighs the physical abuse.**

25 Q. HIA400, thank you for that. I have nothing further that

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

1 a principal officer -- a senior officer, a principal
2 officer, a chief officer, a deputy governor. I was
3 asking you, you know, to what extent you would be able
4 to contribute about who might have known about that,
5 that he was behaving in that way. You were saying to me
6 that it was fairly common knowledge in terms of
7 discussions --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- at least in the closed borstal.

10 **A. That's correct, yes.**

11 Q. But you were saying to me obviously you couldn't really
12 comment on what the staff in the open borstal in terms
13 of how many of them knew what, but I was asking you
14 whether you felt the governor would have known, and you
15 immediately drew my attention to the first meeting you
16 had with the governor --

17 **A. Correct, yes.**

18 Q. -- who at the time was Governor McLaughlan.

19 **A. Yes. Duncan McLaughlan, yes.**

20 Q. Can you just tell the Panel what you remember taking
21 place in terms of your meeting with Governor McLaughlan?

22 **A. When we were first transferred from the Maze Prison down
23 to the closed borstal, the governor had us all in
24 a common room and he explained, "Coming from an adult
25 prison, you are coming to a borstal where there's**

1 **trainees who are young people. If any -- I catch any**
2 **person or hear of any person lifting their hand or**
3 **physically abusing any borstal boy, they will be sacked**
4 **on the spot".**

5 Q. I was asking you whether you read into that his belief
6 you must have all been behaving that way in the Maze and
7 you were saying to me that wasn't how you took it. He
8 was saying, "Don't let me even hear about you lifting
9 your hand to someone".

10 **A. That's correct, yes.**

11 Q. He obviously was the governor of both closed and open.

12 **A. He was, yes.**

13 Q. That was the instruction that was given.

14 **A. Correct.**

15 Q. Did you ever witness anyone breaking that instruction in
16 the closed borstal where you worked?

17 **A. No, I never witnessed anybody doing it, no.**

18 Q. I was asking you in terms of -- the Inquiry has dealt
19 with, for instance, training schools, children with very
20 difficult behavioural problems, the need to restrain
21 them at times because of their behaviour. Did you ever
22 have to restrain anyone in the closed borstal?

23 **A. No, no.**

24 Q. So that just was not part of life?

25 **A. No, it wasn't.**

86. An Officer Skillen is referred to in the allegations against Officer **ML 32**-January 1963, page 34 (Exhibit 29), but he is not implicated in the allegations.
87. The “Allegation against Officer **ML 38** – 1966” (Exhibit 30) evidences the communication and investigation processes in place at the time; which included receipt of formal reports and recorded interviews with those involved and with witnesses. It also records the findings of the Governor that *“while the evidence would certainly not seem to support **ML 39**s allegations the fact remains that the Visiting Committee were not able to disprove them and consequently no charge can be brought against him (Hollinger) in this instance”* (page 6). This meant that although the allegations against the Officer were unsubstantiated the Governor was not taking any further action against the Trainee who made a complaint.
88. In the “**ML 26** - **ML 27** Possible Indecency Complaint” (Exhibit 31), 1961, one trainee made an allegation of indecency against another to the Visiting Committee, and suggested that this was the reason for his absconding. The Governor noted that the allegation had a *“more than even chance of being valid”* and, in agreement with the Visiting Committee, requested that the perpetrator should be moved to another establishment. He also recorded his *“regret that this report has been made necessary, as I was confident that little, or no, indecency existed at this Establishment.”*
89. Copies of records containing these allegations were submitted to the Inquiry on 9 December 2015 in response to a Rule 9 request.
90. The Department does not have any records of Civil Claims being lodged in relation to Millisle Borstal.

Control and Restraint

91. The Department is aware that the present Control and Restraint methods were introduced to the Prison Service circa 1986. To date we have not been able to identify or evidence any formal training prior to this. The Department’s statement to the Inquiry on the use of restraint in Hydebank YOC (HYD 1674 – 2744) refers. Nevertheless, evidence has been found which shows that staff

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle.

9th September, 1971.

Minutes of Special Visiting Committee Meeting held at H.M.
Borstal, Woburn House, Millisle on 9.9.71.

The Ministry of Home Affairs having delegated their authority under rule 175 Prison Rules (N.I.) 1954, Mr. E. Mitchell - Chairman, Mr. D. Ward and Mr. N. Brown met to adjudicate in the cases of:-

1. [REDACTED] who was charged with -
1. Attempted Indecent Act against another trainee.
(Contrary to Prison Rule 30 Para. (1) Sec. (h) Prison Rule (N.I.) 1954.

[REDACTED], who were charged with aiding and abetting an attempted Indecent act against another trainee.
(Contrary to Prison Rule 30 (para. 1), Sec. (h)

Each trainee appeared before the committee individually and all pleaded guilty as charged.

The committee discussed the case in great detail and due to the nature of the offence and the particular involvement of each trainee, decided to award the following punishments.

1. [REDACTED]
28 days forfeiture of privileges.
28 days loss of pay.
Reduced to Entrant Grade.
Confined to a room for 3 days.
6 strokes of a cane.
2. [REDACTED]
28 days forfeiture of privileges.
28 days loss of pay.
Promotion deferred.
6 strokes of a cane.

The following three trainees each received similar punishment.

3. [REDACTED]
28 days forfeiture of privileges.
28 days loss of pay.
Reduced to Entrant Grade.
6 strokes of a cane.

After awarding punishment the chairman expressed his hopes that all concerned were thoroughly ashamed of themselves. The committee had looked closely into the case and expressed their opinion that it was the most unpleasant offence which they had been called upon to deal with since being appointed to this Institution. The offences were of a very serious nature and although may have started as a rag it ended up as a case of attempted indecent assault and only for the timely intervention of the patrolling Night Guard could have been much more serious.

P.T.O.

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle.

9. September, 1971.

[REDACTED]

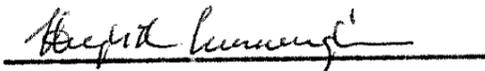
I have to state that the first named of the above trainees was on this date charged with having attempted to commit an act of indecency on fellow trainee [REDACTED]. The other trainees were charged with aiding and abetting the offence, which occurred on the night of Thursday 2.9.1971.

The charges stemmed from an investigation which was instituted as the result of information received by Officer R. McCord. The incident appears to have happened during the period immediately following the change over from day to night staff. At that particular time one night patrol is on external duty, one on duty at the door to pass out the day staff, and the other is patrolling the corridors in Montgomery and Alexander Houses. As will be seen from the statements of the trainees it was this officer who attracted by some noise from No. 5 dormitory, cautioned the inmates with regard to their conduct and prevented the act being completed. He was unaware of what had been happening as Trainee [REDACTED] was keeping a lookout and warned of the officers approach.

In my opinion the offence is of such serious nature as to merit more severe punishment than is within my power of award, and I therefore request permission to call a special meeting of the Visiting Committee for the purpose of adjudicating in the case.

To this end I have this day remanded the trainees in question to await the decision of the Ministry.

Trainee [REDACTED] was today, seen by the Medical Officer who was satisfied that the attempt to commit the indecent act had been unsuccessful.



Governor.

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

H.M. Borstal Institution,
Woburn House,
Millisle.
9th September, 1971.

[REDACTED]

This is to certify that the corporal punishment awarded by the Visiting Committee to the above named trainees was carried out in the presence of the Medical Officer and myself at 11.50 a.m., on above date.


Governor.

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

I can remember that one of these boys was called **ML 9**. He always wanted to fight. There was a prison officer called **MZ 1** who punched and slapped me. He was a very big man and I knew not to report anything to him as if I did, I would end up having to serve the full three years of a sentence. I think that **ML 9** was in cohorts with **MZ 1** and they both wanted me to lose my special privileges. It was brutal.

21. I had to continue to make my bed each morning. I was in the canteen one morning when an Officer came in and told me that I had not made my bed. He told me that I would be put on report. The next morning the same thing happened. I would walk into my room and it was always the same two boys, **ML 13** and **ML 9**, standing there. They wanted to kill me and they would batter me and beat me up. They were both bullies. I knew that whoever was doing this to me was trying to get to me. I lay in bed at night crying. I then started to make sure that I was the last person to leave the dormitory so that my bed wouldn't be destroyed. Even then it was still wrecked. I felt as though I couldn't confide in anyone. **ML 9** slept in the room facing me and at night time he would look over and tell me that he would beat me. There was nothing I could do. I just lay there waiting on it happening.

22. I was watching television in the common room and it came on the news that soldiers were blown up. **ML 10** from [REDACTED] let out a roar and a prison officers' came into the room and started to shout at us and he called us fenian bastards. The abuse was worse after this incident because we were from [REDACTED]. I received word that I was going to be beaten up in the changing rooms. The man that ran the Work shop used to let me stay there to avoid this. He let me sit on a bench as he knew that my back was bad because I couldn't stand during lessons. He was a lovely man. I tried to keep to myself and hide. All I wanted to do was to go home and see my family.

23. Everyone wanted to receive special privileges as once you received these, you only had twelve weeks until you were allowed to go home. I can recall

PRIVATE

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

PRIVATE

on my plate, laughing. I threw it on the floor. He told me to pick it up or he would put me on report. I told him if he put me on report I would tell his boss what he had done to deliberately try to humiliate me. He stormed out of the room and didn't put me on report. From then on he seemed to be out to get me. He constantly called me names and threatened to make me a borstal failure. When I went for my third Board he laughed at me when I was walking out and called me a "borstal failure". I was made a borstal failure but the Governor, who I had a good relationship with, overturned it. This meant that I was getting out in ten weeks and I was delighted. When I returned to the common room one of the prison officers called **ML 4** made a comment about me going back to closed borstal. I said that I had got my special privileges and was being released in ten weeks. He was furious and threatened to make me a borstal failure before the ten weeks were over. He was unsuccessful and I was released ten weeks later.

36. My account of these experiences is a sample of the abuse I suffered and the things that should never have happened to me. Life was a daily struggle and I lived in fear not knowing what was going to happen to me from one day to the next.

Life After Care

37. In the closed borstal there was a drug education programme which taught us the pros and cons of taking drugs. The programme had the wrong effect on me because I ended up thinking that drugs sounded great and couldn't wait to try them. I had already been a drug user when I was a child taking prescription drugs such as valium and diazepam from my Mum's medicine cabinet. I had my first overdose when I was thirteen. After borstal I consciously sought out street drugs and discovered magic mushrooms. I had no idea about dosages and took 600 of them along with three bottles of cider and cannabis. It took me eleven years to get the voices out of my head. I was asking people to kill me to help me escape from it. I was having panic attacks. I was afraid to leave the house or look in the mirror. It was by far the worst thing that has ever happened to me. I couldn't sleep. I couldn't eat and dropped in weight to nine stone. After about

PRIVATE

12. If you were well behaved in the closed part of the prison, after a time, they moved you to the open part which was more relaxed. I worked in the kitchen when I moved to the open part of the prison and I prepared meals for the inmates. My daily routine began at 7 am in order to prepare breakfast and other meals and I enjoyed this work. There were also opportunities to take woodwork classes, crafts or P.E but these did not interest me. After a while, I was allowed to work as an orderly. I was given a red armband and this meant that I could work freely in the grounds of the open prison.

13. In the open prison, I slept in a dormitory with six to eight other boys. There was a night watchman [REDACTED] ML 2 [REDACTED]. I remember one night I had a cough and he noticed. I was occupying a corner bed. He came over to me and he gave me a Fisherman's friend which is a cough sweet. He started leaving a couple on my locker. Then one night he put his hands under the bedding and started feeling my private area. One of the other lads started coughing and he left me alone. He warned me not to tell anyone as it was "our secret". This happened a couple of times and left me feeling very uncomfortable and afraid.

14. I found this a difficult and isolating time. I never felt safe there because of the constant fear of violence. I lost all contact with my foster family. There was no one I could talk to about my experiences. I did not feel that I could share my feelings with the other boys as they had a tendency to tease. I was always very guarded with my emotions. The other boys bullied me initially, but this stopped after a while. The staff turned a blind eye to this behaviour and we accepted it as normal to a degree. Other boys were bullied quite severely and I remember there were fights almost every day. As far as I remember, no social workers or welfare officers ever visited me at either Rathgael or Millisle.

Life After Care

15. After I left Millisle, I went down to Dublin and I made a life for myself down there. I got a job working for the [REDACTED] initially. Later, I also picked up odd jobs working as a painter/decorator. I met my wife and we

PRIVATE

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

PRIVATE

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Signed [REDACTED] HIA 272

Dated 9.3.15

Woodbourne House, Millisle (1967)

16. They then transferred me to Woodbourne House in Millisle. It was the same thing in Woodbourne House, there was abuse and other inmates would try to get into bed with you. I saw other people being abused. I do not know why but I was pretty strong because but I would not let any of the other inmates touch me.
17. We were all in dormitories in Millisle. I think there were about six people to a room. The routine in Millisle was that we would have got our breakfast and then we went to work. I think I worked in the laundry for a short time. There were special privileges and they gave you a badge. After that, I would have cleaned windows. I remember cleaning the Prison Officer's windows. They would have lived just across from the Woodbourne House Complex.
18. Some of the members of staff would have hit you a slap or kick you but there was no corporal punishment. You were brought in front of the Governor and he would have punished you in whatever way he did.
19. I was given parole and at the end of the first parole, I did not want to go back so I did not go back. Then they were out looking for me and they brought me back again.
20. I did not get released from Millisle. I was just sent from Malone Training School to Crumlin Road jail, Armagh prison, Woodbourne House and then back to Crumlin Road Jail. I would have been eighteen, maybe nineteen when I left Crumlin Road Jail. I reoffended a lot; I would have been in and out a lot and then back in again.

Life after care

21. I would have met with a Probation Officer during my sentence. They would have asked me questions. I did not have any general support. My experience in the Institutions really hardened me. It took a lot out of me but I just blocked it out.

1 boys?

2 **A. Only -- the only fighting -- you had the occasional**
3 **fight, but it was more young ones, younger ones coming**
4 **in being bullied --**

5 Q. Right.

6 **A. -- and sexually ...**

7 Q. Abused?

8 **A. ... abused, yes.**

9 Q. Okay. Thanks very much, HIA212.

10 **A. Okay.**

11 MR LANE: Can I just follow that up? What were the
12 arrangements at night? Were you all in one big
13 dormitory or smaller rooms or what?

14 **A. Yes, yes. You were -- you were -- you went to bed at**
15 **a certain time -- I think it was 8 o'clock -- and you**
16 **were locked in and that was you for the night.**

17 Q. Right, and were -- who was in charge at night?

18 **A. There was a night guard.**

19 Q. Uh-huh.

20 **A. You know, there was an officer that would have come**
21 **round maybe every hour or two hours and looked in and**
22 **shone the torch in and then he just went on.**

23 Q. And so when you said the staff might have known what was
24 going on at night, would there have been any other
25 officers around who would have spotted that sort of

1 **Sorry. It was a razor. He gave you a razor going in.**
2 **You would have shaved at the sinks and then into the**
3 **showers.**

4 Q. Was it a communal shower --

5 A. **Yes.**

6 Q. -- in the sense that there were two or three showers or
7 were there cubicles?

8 A. **There was about -- I think there was about ten together.**

9 Q. I see.

10 A. **So they would have.**

11 Q. So the prison officer remained outside --

12 A. **Yes. He just stood over where the razor blades were so**
13 **that no-one touched the razor blades unless you gave him**
14 **one and got it replaced.**

15 Q. Were these disposable razors?

16 A. **No. They used to give you the old 7 o'clock razors,**
17 **Gillette Sword and them razors, you know the**
18 **old-fashioned one --**

19 Q. I think I know what you mean, yes.

20 A. **-- with the wobbling brush you had. That's what it was.**

21 Q. I see. Did anybody come round to check the dormitories
22 at night?

23 A. **They did indeed. They came round every couple of hours,**
24 **so they did, but they wouldn't have -- I think they used**
25 **to clock -- there used to be an old clock on the wall**

1 Q. -- and getting ...?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. When you talk about at night the fellas, you know,
4 squealing and crying --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- we are told there was a kind of night guard that used
7 to come round and check on the dorm.

8 A. Oh, you see, this corridor is that far from where the
9 officers would be, it's that far away, they wouldn't
10 even be able to hear anything, like.

11 Q. But do you remember a guard coming round and checking in
12 the bedrooms?

13 A. Yes. Late at night they would come round and put --
14 shine their light -- shine their light through the door
15 just, you know, and see everybody was in bed and that
16 there, like.

17 Q. Do you remember them ever intervening if they saw --

18 A. No.

19 Q. No?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Because, what, the fellas would --

22 A. I never ever heard of them intervening. I have heard
23 boys moaning and groaning, and I knew what was happening
24 to them, but I just said, "It is not happening to me"
25 and ...

when I received my special privileges; a screw was trying to break me so that I would lose them. I eventually left Millisle in 1980. I did not receive any preparation for leaving the borstal. The morning I was due to leave, I was told to polish the floors as I was not out yet. I can remember that my dad came and collected me and this showed me that he cared about me.

Life After Care

1. Everything had changed when I was released. My family had changed and the troubles were going on. I was brought to see my father in [REDACTED] when I got out of the borstal and he then returned home to live with us. When I got out of the borstal, I had so much anger inside me. I had become moulded into a hardened character. I started to get into trouble. I was put into prison after this. Being in prison did not mean anything to me. I was not afraid of being inside. All of this changed when my daughter was born. I never got into any trouble again.
2. My wife died of cancer in 2005. She was the only one that I confided in. She was the only person who knew about the incident that occurred in the laundry room. I cannot tell my son about this incident. I have had trauma counselling, however, this did not help me as I was unable to talk. I have issues with my anger. I have a very short fuse. I have three children, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I never worked and this was embarrassing for my children. Children look up to their fathers. I feel as though I left school and went straight into the Borstal.
3. I find it difficult to mix with other people. I never realised the extent to which being in Millisle Borstal shaped me as an adult. I have been lying awake at night thinking about the past. I now realise that I have always found it difficult to chastise my children due to the experience that I had when I was in the Borstal. My mother, father and wife are all deceased. I feel like I have to reinvent myself. I did not get a good start in life and my experience as a young boy in Millisle was a brutal one.

PRIVATE

12. If you were well behaved in the closed part of the prison, after a time, they moved you to the open part which was more relaxed. I worked in the kitchen when I moved to the open part of the prison and I prepared meals for the inmates. My daily routine began at 7 am in order to prepare breakfast and other meals and I enjoyed this work. There were also opportunities to take woodwork classes, crafts or P.E but these did not interest me. After a while, I was allowed to work as an orderly. I was given a red armband and this meant that I could work freely in the grounds of the open prison.

13. In the open prison, I slept in a dormitory with six to eight other boys. There was a night watchman [REDACTED] ML 2 [REDACTED]. I remember one night I had a cough and he noticed. I was occupying a corner bed. He came over to me and he gave me a Fisherman's friend which is a cough sweet. He started leaving a couple on my locker. Then one night he put his hands under the bedding and started feeling my private area. One of the other lads started coughing and he left me alone. He warned me not to tell anyone as it was "our secret". This happened a couple of times and left me feeling very uncomfortable and afraid.

14. I found this a difficult and isolating time. I never felt safe there because of the constant fear of violence. I lost all contact with my foster family. There was no one I could talk to about my experiences. I did not feel that I could share my feelings with the other boys as they had a tendency to tease. I was always very guarded with my emotions. The other boys bullied me initially, but this stopped after a while. The staff turned a blind eye to this behaviour and we accepted it as normal to a degree. Other boys were bullied quite severely and I remember there were fights almost every day. As far as I remember, no social workers or welfare officers ever visited me at either Rathgael or Millisle.

Life After Care

15. After I left Millisle, I went down to Dublin and I made a life for myself down there. I got a job working for the [REDACTED] initially. Later, I also picked up odd jobs working as a painter/decorator. I met my wife and we

1 speaking earlier, that you felt in Millisle Borstal that
2 you were treated like an animal.

3 **A. Yes, I was indeed. That's why I actually asked, as**
4 **I said to you there, [REDACTED] to move me back to the**
5 **closed borstal, because you were treated as a man there.**

6 Q. HIA272, normally, as I explained to you earlier, at the
7 end of someone's evidence I ask them two questions about
8 recommendations. We dealt with that on the last
9 occasion.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. So I am just going to ask you the second of the two
12 questions, and that's whether there's anything else
13 about your time in Millisle Borstal that I haven't
14 covered, or haven't got quite right, or haven't covered
15 in the depth that you would have wanted to explain. Now
16 is your time. If there's anything else you want to
17 explain to the Panel, if you take the chance to do that
18 now.

19 **A. I just feel that if I had been treated like a human**
20 **being, I would have stayed and finished off my time.**
21 **It's just I was treated like an animal from day one from**
22 **I complained. I wasn't given a chance, and as you can**
23 **see there, I mean, my behaviour just previous to it in**
24 **Armagh was perfect. I was down within eight weeks down**
25 **from the closed borstal to the open, because I was quite**

relevant information is discovered by the Department, it will be drawn immediately to the attention of the Inquiry.

4. The Department has not received a civil claim in respect of HIA 212.
5. The Department has not received a disclosure of personal data (Form 81) from PSNI.
6. 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 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.

Statement of Truth

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



Date: 14 January 2016