

HIA REF: [MZ1]

NAME: [MZ 1 ██████████]

DATE: [05/02/2016]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Written Submissions on behalf of ██████████ (MZ1)

1. MZ 1 provided two written statements to the Inquiry dated 8/1/16 in respect of two accusers, namely HIA 374 (who gave evidence on day 179) and HIA 416 (who gave evidence on day 180). The contents of said statements are self-explanatory and in which he denied all allegations against him.
2. Notwithstanding the said written statements, MZ 1, now aged ██████ years and with ailing health, attended the HIA Inquiry Hearing on 25/1/16 to give oral evidence to the Inquiry to repeat his denials in person and to assist the Inquiry with any other matters he could.
3. MZ 1, who has no criminal record whatsoever was a member of the Northern Ireland Prison Service for ██████ years which included the time during which the so-called 'Hunger Strikes' unfolded within the Northern Ireland Prison Service.
4. During that time he was never disciplined for any matter touching on his treatment or care of either Borstal trainees or inmates.
5. In oral evidence MZ 1 set out the extent of the danger faced by Prison Officers during that particular period. He himself had had a bomb placed under his car and indeed had had to move house in excess of 12 times due to security considerations. He revealed also that he had received a number of so-called 'home visits' and that an attempt had been made to kidnap his son

from school. He stated that he had received all this attention “just for being there” i.e. being a member of the Prison Service.

6. Although the HIA Inquiry is not concerned with inquiring into events at the Maze prison, by virtue of paragraphs 10 and 11 of the written statement of HIA 416, dated 19/3/15, (SPT-119) the panel was aware of certain allegations of sexual abuse against MZ 1 and he was adamant that he wished to address these in his oral evidence.
7. MZ 1 described to the Panel how in the Maze the borstal trainees had an open means of communication with paramilitary inmates of both republican and loyalist persuasions. He made the case that to have abused boys either physically and/or sexually in the way complained of by HIA 416, would have been tantamount to having a ‘death wish’ which would “...put your life and your family in great danger.” and that “...you’d never have come out of the wing...”. He stated that it was inconceivable that any Prison Officer would have acted in such a manner against that factual backdrop. In an event, apart from the obvious threat of reprisals, he stated that he found such alleged behaviour to be “absolutely disgusting”.
8. MZ 1 stated that he adopted the attitude that “... these people are in here as punishment not for punishment”.
9. MZ 1 readily accepted that he was not suited to working within the Borstal system. He accepted that he could not “... get [his] head ‘round” a system which he considered lax and difficult to control. “The relaxed system just wasn’t for me.” It is submitted that this self-awareness is exemplified by his own written request for a transfer from Millisle back to HMP Belfast (dated [REDACTED] and found at MIL-21952) on the basis that “... I feel I am not suited to work with borstal trainees.”. It is further submitted that this written, transparent assessment on his part was sure to bring the spotlight upon him and his behaviour rather than hide the actions of a covert bully and/or abuser.

Macaulay Wray Solicitors