

HIA REF: 38

Witness Name:

HIA 38

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 38

HIA 38 will say as follows:-

Personal Details

1. I was born on [REDACTED]. I lived in [REDACTED] with my parents, my sister [REDACTED] and my brothers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I attended [REDACTED] Primary School in [REDACTED] until I was 9 years old.
2. I was perhaps a little bit slower to learn my school work and daily learning than other children the same age. If this were the case nowadays a child would be assigned a family support worker and would be assigned a classroom assistant to help a child get the most out of the school experience. I was just seen as a disruption to the teachers. The more I tried to get their attention and the more I tried to get that little bit of extra help the worse things got for me. I was slowly disappearing into myself because not one of my teachers or the headmaster, LS46 [REDACTED] cared about what was becoming of me. I had the strong feeling of rejection.
3. I was picked on by bullies at school because I was a slow learner. I was subjected to daily beatings and lots of degrading treatment such as being forced to drink their urine and eat sweets that they had stood on in the toilets. The bullies would chase me on the way to school and on the way home. They would threaten me with beatings if I did not do things that they wanted

me to. They made me steal sweets from the local shops for them and made me do all manner of silly things. After more than a year of this treatment I approached **LS46** and the teachers and I finally plucked up the courage to ask them for help. Instead of dealing with the bullies they involved social services. Instead of getting to the bottom of the bullying and having regard to my best interests they elected simply to get rid of the problem. They decided to transfer me to a psychiatric hospital – Lissue. I was an innocent 9 year old child who did not deserve to be locked away in a psychiatric hospital as I was not diagnosed as having a mental illness. The only reason I believe I was placed in Lissue was because I asked for help because I was being bullied.

Lissue House, Lisburn (1979 – 1981 approximately)

4. I was taken to Lissue in 1979 when I was about 9 years old. There was a nurse called **LS 7** I will never forget her. She gave me an injection once a fortnight and I was made to take two Ritalin tablets every day from the age of nine and I was made to drink a brown liquid called Largactil at night. I was given a lot of medication and I don't know what it was for. I now believe it was anti-psychotic medication which I have continued to be on for life. As a 9 year old child I should never have been given such medication as my medical records show that I had no signs of a mental illness.
5. I was made to stand outside the doctor's room and smoke cigarettes. I think they were called Player's No 6 cigarettes. A girl called **LS 47** who was one or two years older than me was also made to do this. We were given three cigarettes a day to smoke – one in the morning, one around 12 or 1 o'clock and another at 4 o'clock. I believe it was just the two of us that were made to smoke. People watched us doing it and made notes. They told us it was to calm us down. I don't recall the names of these people or the roles they held within Lissue House.
6. My room was a single room and I think it had a red door. I relate it to a modern day prison cell. It had bars on the window and the window only

opened a few inches. There were rows of single rooms spaced out along the corridor. We were locked in our rooms at night.

7. If you were badly behaved you were locked in your room and didn't get any supper. This was only an occasional punishment. It happened to me once or twice. Bad behaviour could have been walking too fast on the corridor, pushing the lift button, not coming in from outside or not sitting a certain way. If you were very badly behaved the staff threatened you with an injection and if you were difficult to control they held you down, usually by sitting on you and gave you the injection in your rear to sedate you. It was the scariest thing in the world to me.
8. On a typical day, after breakfast we were taken into a room which had a big circle in the middle with cushioned seats around it. Along the back wall of the room there was a black mirror. There was a room behind the mirror. On one occasion I got off my seat and I ran into the room when the door was left open. In the room there were two men sitting on comfy chairs and there were three video cameras pointed at the glass. Along the back wall of this long room there were hundreds of labelled video tapes. I was punished for three days by being locked in my room during association time when other residents were playing. Association time was between 6 and 7.30pm. During this time we were allowed to watch TV, play games or use the tuck shop.
9. **LS 7** had a pick on me from day one. On occasions she grabbed me by the scruff of the neck and she was rough with me and other residents.
10. Next to the video room there was an interview room. We were interviewed and asked lots of questions about our medication and how we felt. There were about four or five children present each time and the interviews were video recorded. During interviews there were a number of people in the room - there was a man in a suit, two larger men in white coats who could have been doctors or orderlies, **LS 7** and a Pakistani doctor.

11. On our bedroom doors we each had a chart with stars or ticks for good behaviour. I think they were blue or red marks and points. At the end of the week they would give you a plastic toy if you were well behaved. I did not get a toy very often.
12. I have seen my records from my time in Lissue. One of the documents states 'method: 1 member of staff to set tasks and give red points from 8.00am – 5pm, another from 5 to bedtime. All staff to give blue points. Points: Compliance / Co-op interaction / attention seeking / non compliance / 3 blue points – to in bed in pyjamas. Exchange: 20 red points in a day – 'special attention' for ½ hour. 100 red points at the end of the week. HIA 38 to receive gift.' Another record describes what feeding times were like. HIA38 to be treated the same as the others during meals. If necessary be told once to eat up otherwise the plate is taken away.' This demonstrates the harshness of Lissue – 'eat now or be starved'.
13. A record shows that I as a nine year old child was not allowed to have the staff's attention – 'Usual demanding HIA38. Appears to bring out the worst in peers. Receives the odd kick and thump from the older peers. This does not discourage HIA38 he still goes back for more. Had his arm twisted by LS48 for no reason at all.' This shows that the staff knew I was being beaten by other children and they did nothing about it. If anything the tone of this record would suggest that the staff thought I deserved the beatings. I was beaten by other children almost daily. There is another similar record in my notes '1/6/81 on the verge of trouble several times during the evening sometimes heedless of warnings which earned a few thumps from peers. Needed constant supervision.' I think this also demonstrates that the staff did not intervene to prevent other children from thumping me.'
14. An entry from my records interestingly shows my fear of staff '4.3.81 HIA 38 had enough points to gain ½ hour with member of staff. Took to trains with HIA 172, they both played very well together. HIA 38 seems to watch staff through play as if he was afraid of doing something wrong or turn his back in case he would get a slap, very edgy. LS7.' I think

this entry shows that staff hit me otherwise why would I be in fear of getting a slap from staff if it hadn't happened before. I have seen an entry from my records which again states that I was thumped by another resident and that I was frightened the doctor was coming to give me an injection.

15. On the grounds of Lissue House there were barns and stables with horses. There was a wooden hut with a giant sand pit and some of us would try to dig tunnels to escape. On one occasion a boy called **LS 49** had to be taken to hospital because a tunnel collapsed on him.
16. About two or three of us always tried to escape. **LS 47** was one of them. I think one might have been **HIA 172** I have had no contact with **LS 47** since I left Lissue. We realised that we could walk out through the stables which brought us out onto the main road which was in the country surrounded by fields. The police always brought us back. This happened about three or four times. I think the police were from Lisburn Station but I don't remember any of their names.
17. On one occasion **LS 7** tried to take blood from me. She tried both arms and was unsuccessful but kept tugging at me. The needle came away from the syringe and stuck in my arm. She called me a 'stupid bastard' and gave me a slap across the head. The blood went all over her white coat. I have been petrified of needles ever since.
18. **LS 7** was evil. She would grab you by the scruff of the neck and shove you into your room if you annoyed her. She could be quite nice to you if you did everything she told you to do and acted like the robot she wanted you to be. If you didn't draw her attention she left you alone. I have memories of hearing other residents squealing but I never witnessed abuse directly.
19. The only toys I can remember in Lissue House were in a room next to the interview room. In that room there was a big train set and you had to be

extremely well behaved to get into that room. You were only allowed 10 to 15 minutes to watch the train go round.

20. My mum and dad came up to visit a couple of times. When my parents came they were given the best china cups and were told that it was for my best that I was in there. **LS 7** and the head doctor usually were present.
21. I only got home every few weeks for one night or two nights. When I visited home Dad said I was always lethargic and tired like a zombie and not the hyper **HIA 38** that went away.
22. I have no good memories of Lissue House. There were no good times and no outings. There was a mobile classroom but I don't remember doing any school work. I think the teacher was called **LS 50** There was a nice German woman called **LS 51** but she might have been at Fallowfield. I recall she taught us some German phrases which I still remember.
23. I didn't get an education at Lissue. Basic numeracy and literacy were taught but I did not learn much.
24. I believe there were many children including myself were experimented on in Lissue House. Lissue changed me. The experiences had effect on the rest of my life and I didn't have the life I was supposed to have. I know I was supposed to be something better than I became.

Fallowfield Special School, Lurgan (1981 – 1986 approximately)

25. 

[Redacted]

26.

[Redacted]

27.

[Redacted]

28.

[Redacted]

29.

[Redacted]

30.

[Redacted]

31.

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

32.

[REDACTED]

33.

[REDACTED]

34.

[REDACTED]

35.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

36. [REDACTED]

37. [REDACTED]

38. [REDACTED]

Life after care

39. After I was released from care in 1986 I was given nothing more than a train ticket to get home to [REDACTED]. I stayed at home for around a week and I struggled to mix with others. I mostly kept myself to myself, trying to figure out who or what I was. I took a job fixing old trains in Whitehead on a training course called the YTP (Youth Training Program) paying £29.50 per week. It was here I noticed that I did not fit in with family life and I acted defiantly as I could not handle the pressures of my training course. After the first week I made my way to Larne Harbour and bought a ticket to Stranraer. I finally made my way after hitchhiking and begging. I had spent all my money which was my wage of £29.50. I had 22 pence in my pocket. When I arrived in London I begged on the streets and surprisingly people were kind to a scruffy unwashed 16 year old and I often got enough money to eat. The hard bit was having to sleep outside in the cold and on a couple of occasions getting beat up by people. I recovered from the beatings and got a little more streetwise every time. After a couple of weeks of begging and sleeping on the streets I fell in with bad company and ended up taking part in gay experiences for

money. I found a place to sleep in a squat in Sheppard's Bush. I did this for a couple of weeks and it left me in a state of confusion. I moved away from that as it never felt good as it was not the right path to take in life.

40. I then moved to a hostel called centre-point and then onto other hostels. I met an American couple who gave me money to get home to Northern Ireland. When I came back I was not able to fit into family life and over the next few years I ended up in young offenders centres, Crumlin Road Prison and Magilligan Prison. I was no angel and I did things I regret. Back then I felt institutionalized and therefore I took the blame for things that I did not do because in my prison cell I was happy. I was cared for and I was fed and I didn't have to worry about fitting in and having to get by on the outside. Up until I was sixteen I was bribed to behave well – given treats – after I left those institutions I didn't know how to live in the real world. I couldn't handle it.
41. I have tried to commit suicide about ten times over the years and my attempts have left marks on my body.
42. I have reported all the abuse to the police. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
43. I am the sole carer for my nine year old son Lewis who has autism. He relies on me. He is my world and he saved my life.
44. I have never been in a meaningful relationship and I find it extremely hard to communicate with women and every time I talk about my past as it never leaves my thoughts. I have no friends, only those on social media who pretend to be my friends. I would be the guy standing at the bar on his own. I have been unable to hold down a job since I was 16 years old. I have tried

several times throughout the years to blend in and be normal like everyone else since being discarded like a piece of rubbish by the authorities. I have no relationship with my family because of the lack of investigation into bullying during my primary school years leading to me being locked up and leading to everything else that was bad happening in life. I don't sleep and I am on medication from my GP. Alcohol has always played a part in my life. Every time I see abuse on the news it all comes back to me. The only thing I am good at is being a full time daddy to my son Lewis. I am over protective of him and I am adamant that nothing or no one will hurt him. My life was destroyed by being placed in these institutions and I have been left to suffer.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed **LS 38** _____

Dated 15/9/16.

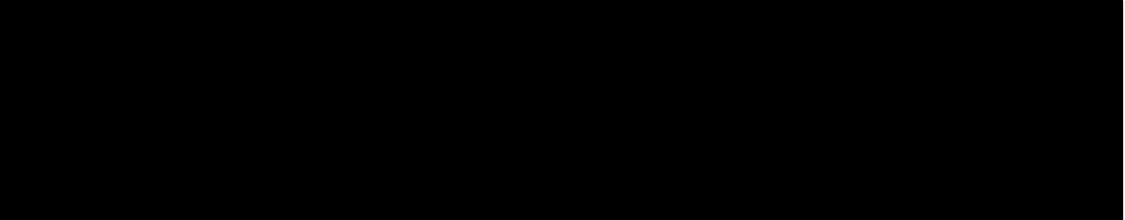
27/28/11/80. Extremely restless to night. ^{Jan 19}
 Couple of things by [LS48] but would still go
 back to her for more. Also very demanding at bed-time
 in & out of room, wanted to read on & on.
 Rather frightened by [LS72] & [LS48]
 behaviour, reassured thought doctor was coming
 in to give him an injection - went to sleep after this.
Whorsey.

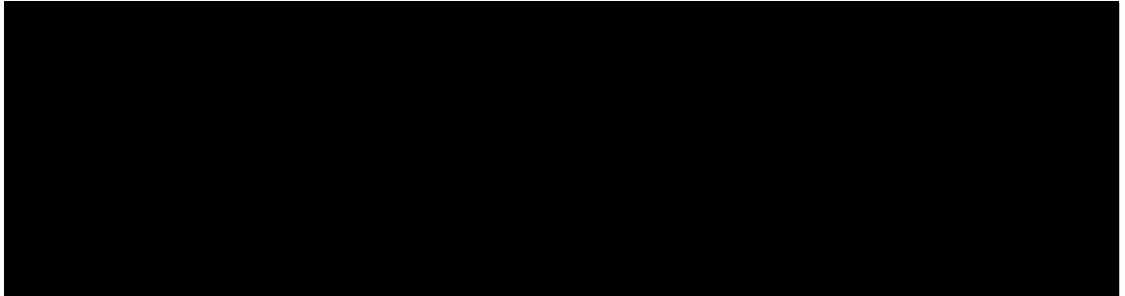
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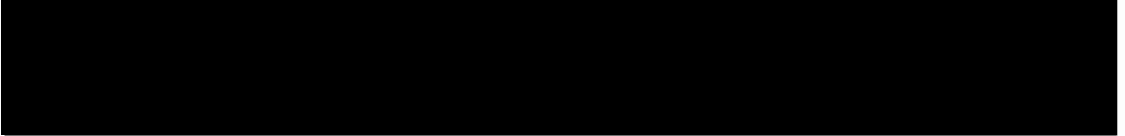
THE HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

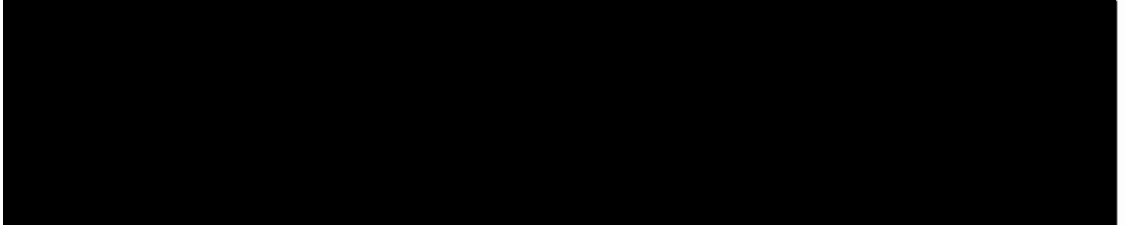
STATEMENT OF: **LS7** 

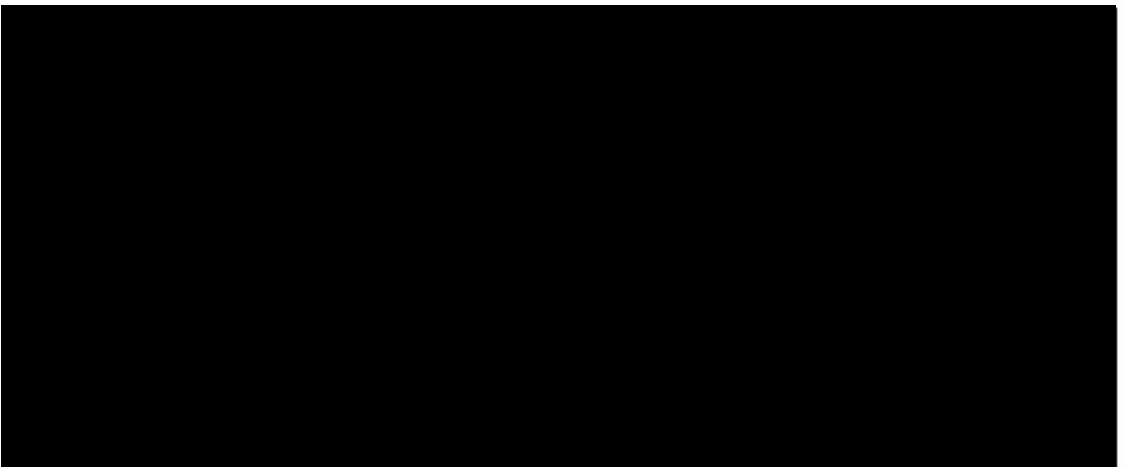
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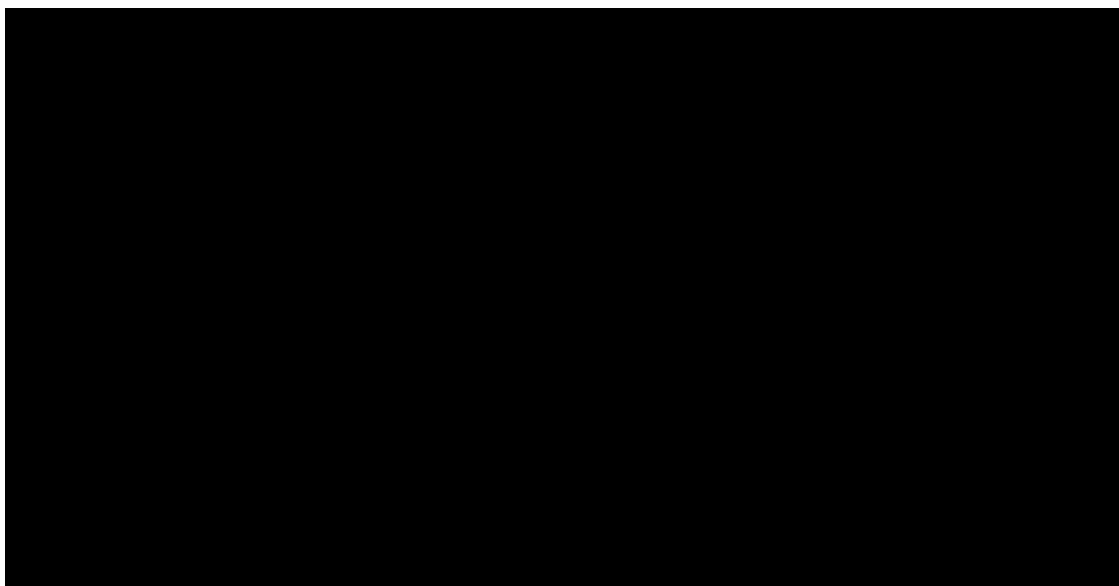
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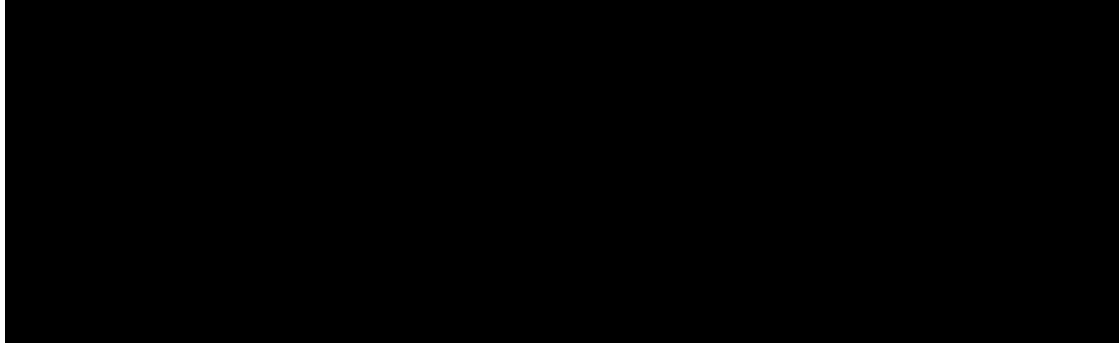
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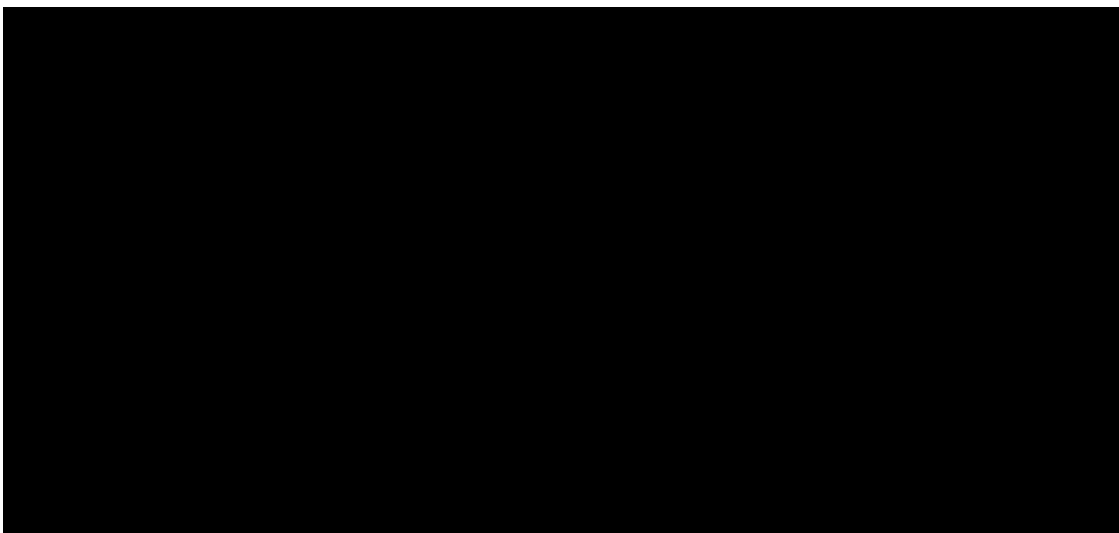
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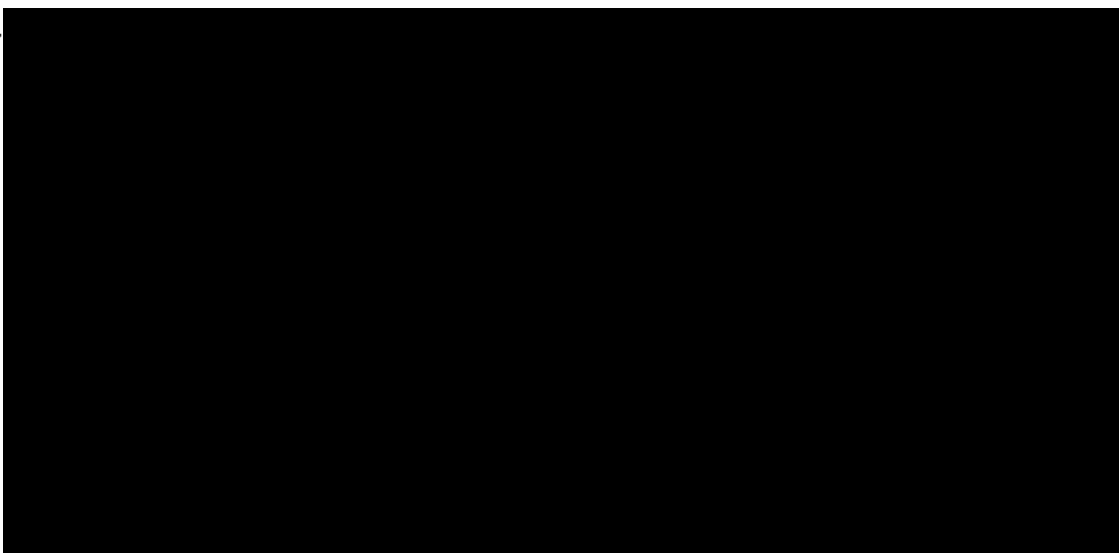
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10.



11.



01

12.



HIA38



Pertaining to any allegations of misconduct on my part, I respond as follows:

- (a) The medication [being *Ritalin* and *Largactil*] was prescribed by the medical staff in line with their experience as to the selection or dosage. These were matters for the doctors though I saw nothing that would have indicated to me in my experience that their choices were anything other than proper. Some major drugs in fact had to be signed as received by two nurses when delivered by the porters from the pharmacy at Lagan Valley Hospital. Nurses had no ambit of discretion in the administration of medication. This was a matter of clinical judgment by the doctors.
- (b) As regards the smoking of cigarettes, this was actively discouraged and all cigarettes were put in the bin if any were smuggled into the unit. I recall one occasion, a father suggesting that his daughter's behaviour was improved by smoking cigarettes and the unit agreed that she would be allowed to smoke but this was never compulsory, quite the contrary. We would have preferred if she did not smoke. I strongly disagreed with the view that any minor should be given cigarettes. I never allowed my children or my grandchildren to smoke.
- (c) Our method of trying to create an orderly atmosphere was that if a child was beginning to lose his or her temper, or behave in a manner that was disruptive then they would be invited in reasonably firm terms to stand facing a corner. That is entirely correct and true and it worked in the most instances as standing facing a corner for 3 minutes does have a calming, and

LS7



salutary effect upon a child. The second stage of that strategy, if the first failed to produce calm, then the child, would be taken by 2 members of staff in an established planned method to his/her room and placed upon their bed. They would not be stripped of their clothing and would be told that they would return upon amendment of their behaviour. I was trained in restraint techniques at that time and these would have been used if the situation required it for the safety of the child in question, the other children and the staff members, but a child would not have been struck by me or nor was a child struck in my presence. Equally children's hair was not pulled, nor were they nipped. I disagree entirely with any suggestion by any witness that this behaviour took place either through me, or by any of my colleagues;

- (d) I did not have any specific animosity towards HIA38. I found all the children that we worked with to be engaging to varying extents and almost all save one were capable of engendering affection and warmth from me and from my colleagues. That boy [who I will name to the Inquiry if asked] was a vicious deceitful bully who wound other children up to misbehave and stood back then to witness the after effects;
- (e) I did not take blood in a manner set out at paragraph 17, nor use the language suggested. I dislike the use of swear words and would not use them myself;
- (f) Equally I did not grab a child by the scruff of the neck and shove any child into its room, rather that a child would be restrained in the proscribed manner to remove that child from causing further disruption, upset and spreading his or her behaviour among the other children which was unsettling for the entire unit. No children were abused and any squealing was out-with my experience. I do not believe it happened;
- (g) Parents were treated respectfully. We tried were we could to explain our various strategies to both parents of the in-patients and the day patients. Some parents took some time to understand the ideas that were co-ordinated by the medical/ nursing staff to the benefit of their children. For example, I do recall a mother objecting to our strategy where her child would lie immobile on a bed. In order to get that child to mobilise and toilet herself, we

LS7

initially brought a commode into the bedroom and gradually kept moving it a distance from the bed, each time helping and assisting the child to use it. We then moved the commode out into the corridor and then near to the toilets so that the child could regain her loss of confidence, that may have arisen from bullying or other traumatic factors thus causing her to withdraw from society and become a recluse to the point of not using the bathroom facilities. This was explained to the mother. When she saw the results, she was persuaded of the unit's views.

HIA119

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3.

[REDACTED]

4.

[REDACTED]

HIA172

1.

[REDACTED]

2.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3.

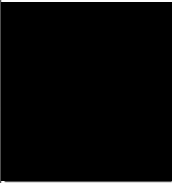
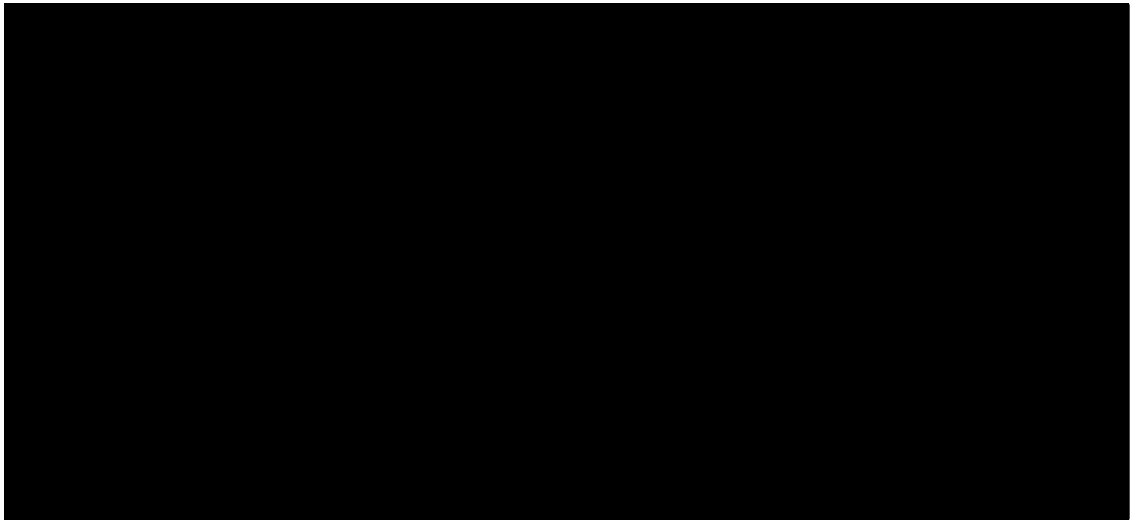
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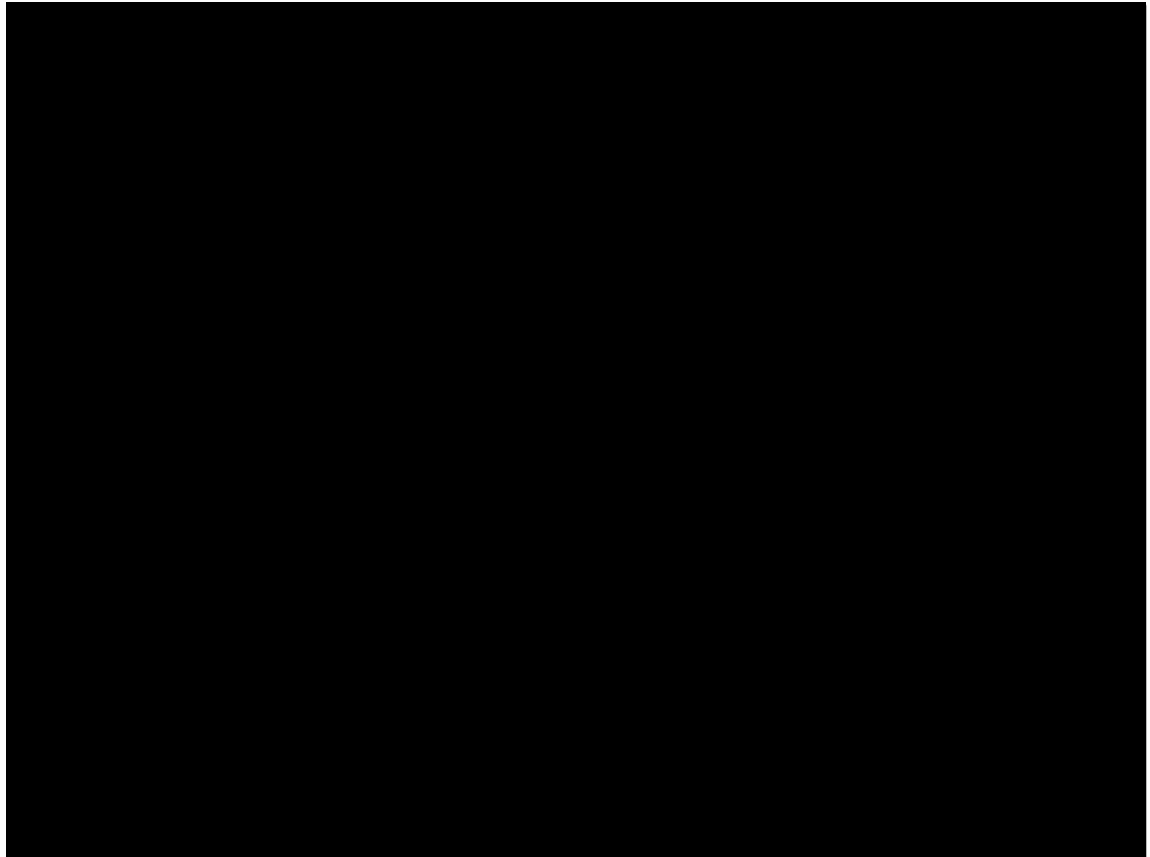
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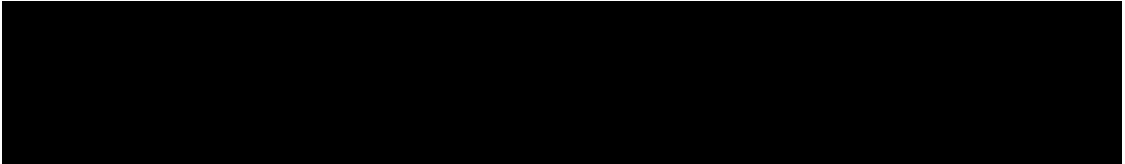


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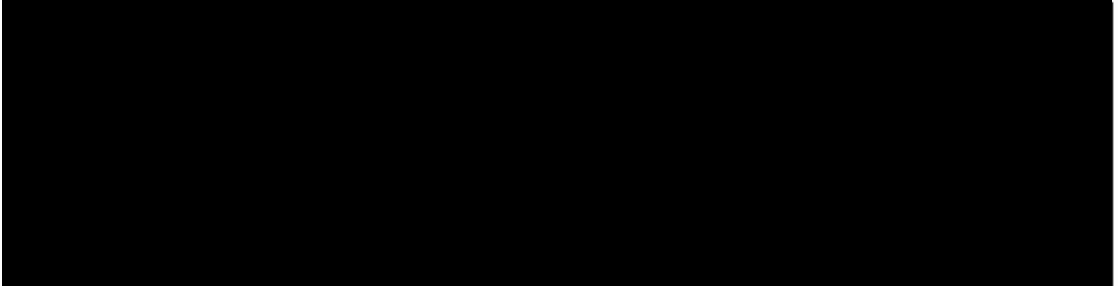


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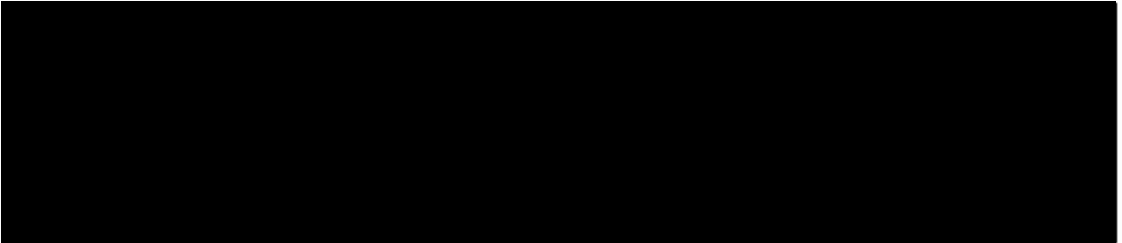




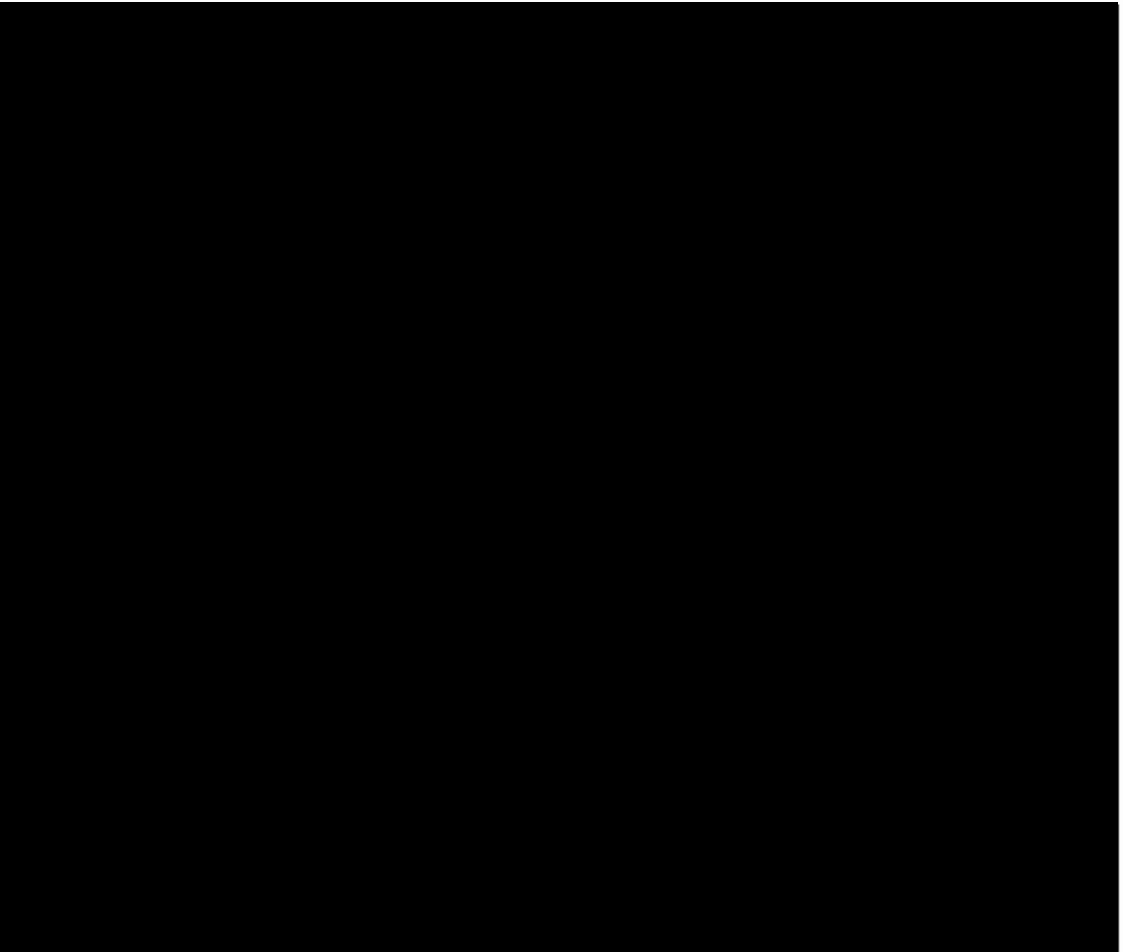
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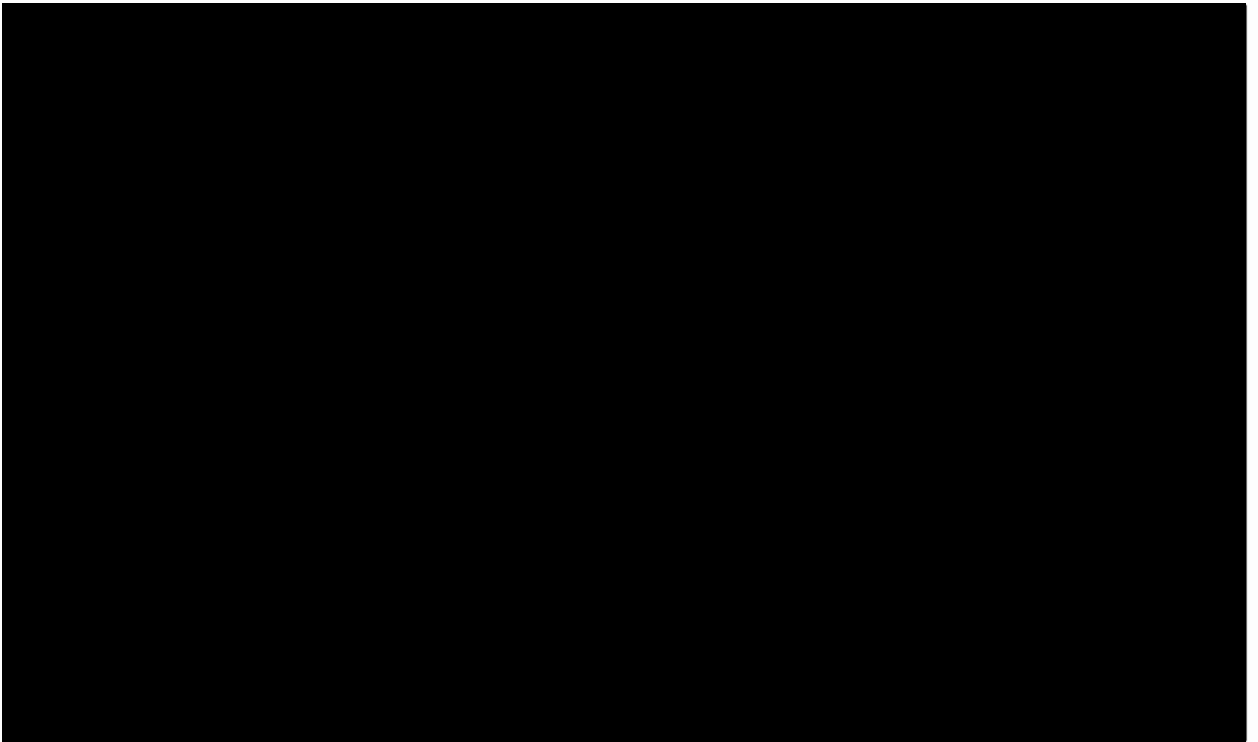
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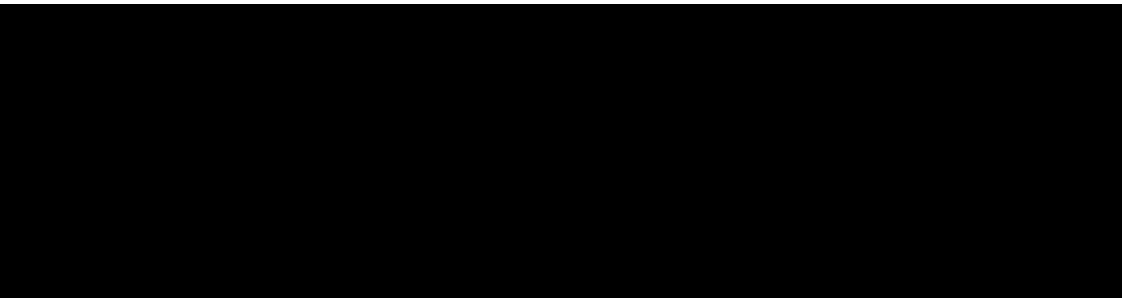
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11.



HIA38

1. As indicated in my police statement at LIS-31538, the incident pertaining to HIA38 and an injection needs to be read against the question and answer I gave when interviewed by police. I did ^{not} on occasion give injections as that is part of a nurse's job. However the manner of what transpired as set out by HIA38 did not happen.
2. Two minor points of detail [as can be seen from the photographs]. I did not wear white as HIA38 claims in his statement LIS-31556. The photographs of the two doctors, who were Pakistani in origin, were excellent colleagues with excellent English. They were husband and wife. The man

plainly does not have a beard. I do not recollect ever seeing him with a beard. This inexact recollection of detail is indicative of other misremembering by this witness to the inquiry.

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

Dated this 4th day of April 2016

Signed

LS7 [REDACTED]

24 - 3 - 81

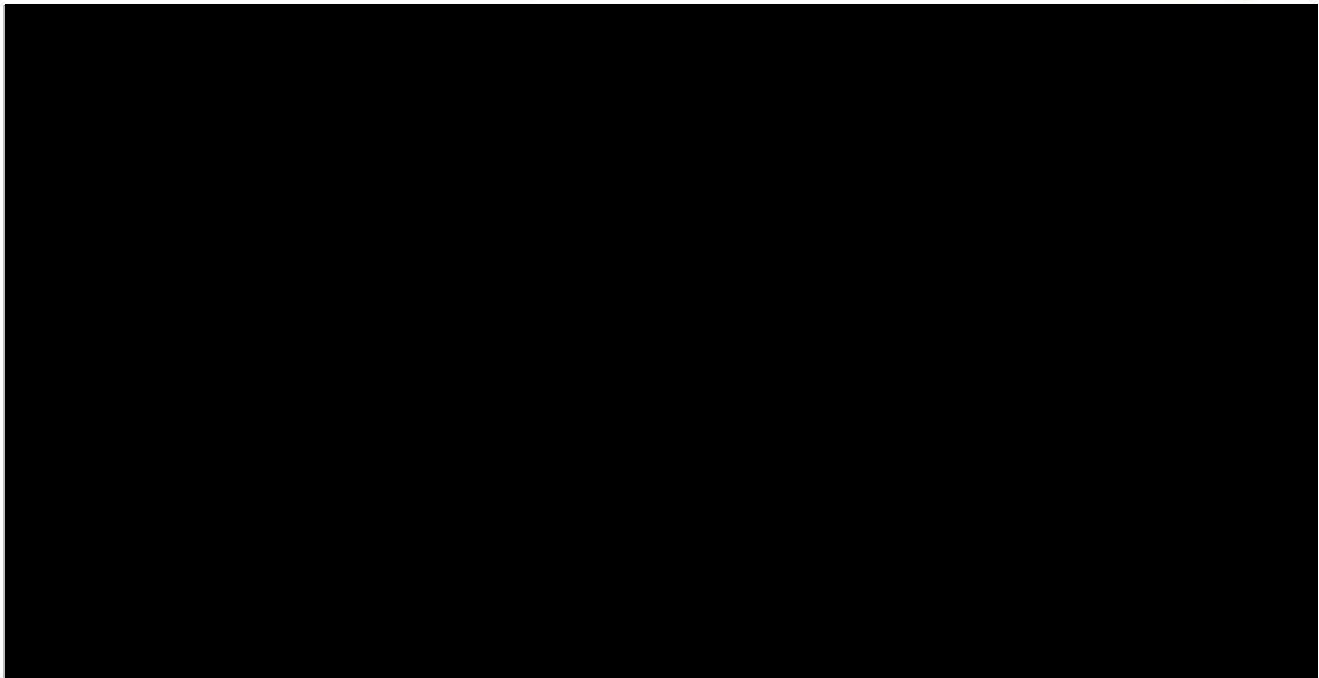
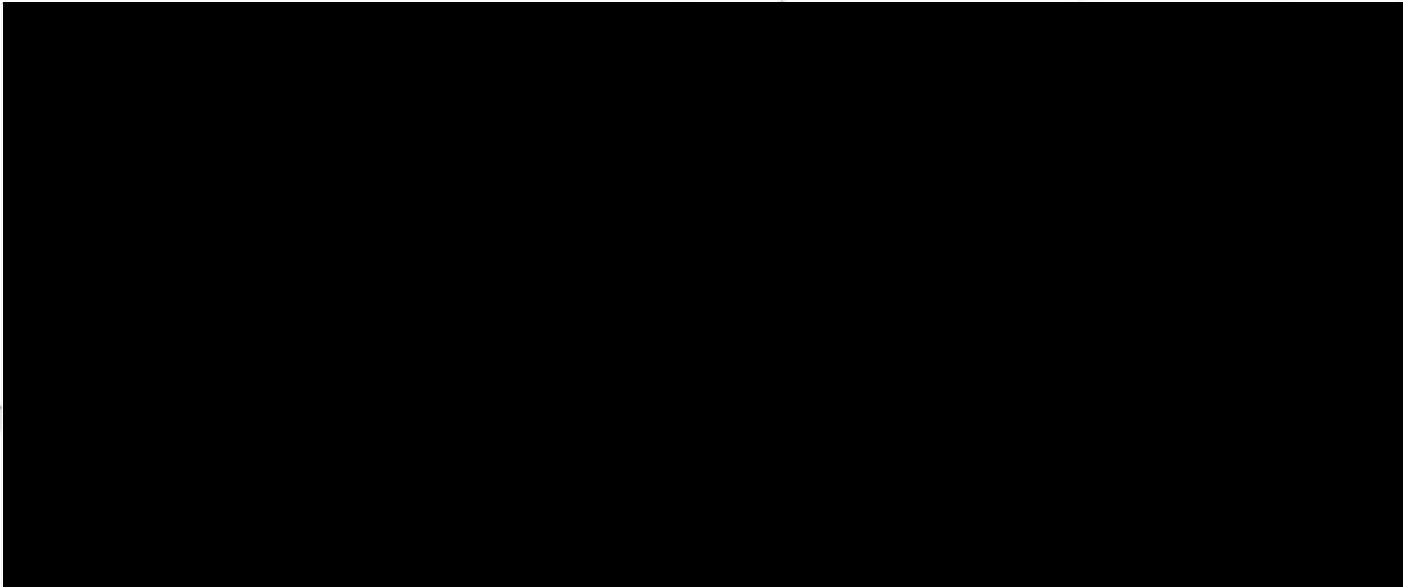
Christopher had enough points to gain
to know with member of staff, took to Graems
with HIA172, they both played very
well together, HIA38 seems to watch staff
through play as if he was afraid of doing
something wrong or turn his back in case he
would get a slap, very edgy LS7

IN-PATIENT NURSING NOTES

Name HIA38

Date.....

Doctor



25/ 26.3-81. Each and every peer tonight either complained about HIA38, or told him to leave them alone and not annoy them.

Taken into "meeting" with peers on his
own request. Ended by peers
asking he be removed from
meeting. Then went to small
dayroom where he tried to
cause disruption —

HIA172

HIA172

even advising

HIA38

to try to behave.

A. Greaney.

INTERVIEWEE LS7 AGE/DOB [REDACTED]

DATE OF INTERVIEW 29/7/28

INTERVIEW AT _____ ROOM NO _____

TIME INTERVIEW COMMENCED 1325 TIME INTERVIEW ENDED _____

INTERVIEWING OFFICERS [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(Print Name, Rank & Number)

TIME NOTES RECORDED (see Note 4)	
COMMENCED	<u>1325</u>
ENDED	<u>1515</u>

PARTICULARS OF INTERVIEW - ARTICLE 3 CAUTION + PACE Rights complied with

Q This relates to HIA172 [REDACTED] HIA38 [REDACTED] LS121
LS121 and LS116 [REDACTED]

A



Q
A
Q

[Redacted]

In relation to HIA38 [Redacted] he was about 9
He says while he was there he was given Pitavim^{everyday} + an ^{1/4}
injection every couple of weeks. Once there was one time
Whenever he was getting an injection you couldn't get
a vein and was frustrated and stuck it in. There was blood
everywhere. You have yanked his head. He said he was
given cigarettes as well.

A No I wouldn't have given injections alright but that didn't
happen. I don't really remember HIA38 anyway.
Most of the children would have smoked but they weren't
allowed and I never gave ~~them~~^{him} or any of the children
cigarettes. Whenever the children came back after home visits
they would have been searched and if any ^{were} found they would
have been taken off them and interviewed. The parents had
the weekend work. Any cigarettes found would have been
destroyed.

[Redacted]

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWEE [Redacted] LS7
SIGNATURE OF APPROPRIATE ADULT [Redacted]
SIGNATURES OF INTERVIEWING OFFICERS [Redacted]