

HIA REF: LS21

NAME: **LS 21**

DATE: 11 February 2016

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF **LS 21**

I, **LS 21**, will say as follows:

Personal details:

1. I would wish to have my name, date of birth, address and personal details kept private and not disclosed to the public. I am willing to provide full details to the Inquiry but wish to have same anonymised in terms of this statement and any appearance if necessary before the Inquiry. I do this for the following reasons:

2. I was born on [REDACTED] and accordingly I am aged 73 at the time of writing and 74 shortly. I live with my wife who is aged 74 years at [REDACTED].

3. I have suffered from depression from initially 1992 for a period of months. This led to my medical retirement [REDACTED]. Between 1996 and approximately 2000 my health improved. I started to suffer from arthritis from in or around 2000 and this condition persists. It currently affects everywhere from my neck and shoulders through my upper limbs and lower limbs and my back. It causes me great pain and discomfort. It also greatly limits my mobility.

4. When I was asked to visit the police on a voluntary basis about these allegations my depression reoccurred and since in or around February 2015 to date I have been suffering from depression. With receipt of the documents from the Inquiry my depression got to such a stage that I had suicidal thoughts. I attended my doctor about this.

5. I live in a small community where everyone is well aware of everyone else's business. I have a particularly unusual surname and therefore any publication of my surname would lead to immediate identification of myself and I do not believe that either my wife who is also suffering from severe depression and suicidal thoughts or myself would be able to survive this.

Response to the allegations:

6. When I was contacted by the police I attended Banbridge Police Station on a voluntary basis with my Solicitor. I was interviewed on 25 February 2015 between 2.00pm and 4.23pm.

7. In each of the three tape recorded interviews I answered every question that was put to me by the police. I supplied the police with as full and complete answers as I possibly could, considering that the allegations apparently related to the periods between 1975 and 1976 – almost 40 years.

I state that all the answers I provided to the police were true and complete to the very best of my memory and recall.

I wish to rely upon the contents of my interviews with the police as being my version of the events.

8. I received a letter from the Public Prosecution Service which unfortunately I have not kept, advising me that there was to be no further action taken against me. I believe this was probably in August or September 2015. I did not keep the letter because I wanted nothing about me relating to these foul allegations. I was trying to move on having had the recurrence of the depression because of the necessity of being interviewed by the police to repudiate the allegations.

9. It came as a complete surprise to me that I was therefore required to provide any evidence to the Inquiry. I have already outlined the effect that this has had upon myself and my elderly wife.

10. I worked at Lissue from in or around 1971. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

11. There would have been two staff members for every child and I worked in the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Department. Our primary function was records. We had to develop relationships with the children. We had to record their views, their feelings, how they were and how they were interacting. We had to act as liaison with the teachers and the other team members. Much of our work was in meetings and then with the children from perhaps 3.00pm to 7.00pm or perhaps 7.30pm. We had to be in a position to implement the therapies that were assigned and determined for each individual child on a daily basis. Everything we did was designed to have detailed records prepared for meetings. These meetings involved the multi disciplinary team which included psychiatrists, social workers, nurses, head teacher and psychologists. This work was done every morning from 9.30am until 11.30am. Determinations about the progress of each child was then assessed and we

then moved on from these determinations. Any change in any child which was apparent was noted and determined on a daily basis.

12. Once I became [REDACTED] I then undertook the training of my staff and maintaining their progress records. I had evaluations to do on each of them and prepare them for different courses that they might have undertaken and evaluate their reports and the records that were made by each of the staff. Although I would have observed the staff with the children I had an enormous amount of administrative work to do. My involvement directly with the children would have been in therapy. In particular I was involved with systems theory. In it I would direct sessions that were taking place between a family, child and psychologist. A session would be looking at the issues that were presented and ways of how to cope with it. I remember working with Dr Nelson and Dr McAuley. Some of my other duties included attending the main hospital and meeting [REDACTED] managers.

13. I would only have done night shift if I had to cover for someone who was sick or some other particular reason. Any night shifts I would have done would have been quite rare during my career at Lissue.

14. I both gave out medication and supervised the giving of medication. Initially this was done through a medicine trolley. In later years there was a defined letterbox for each child. I was one of 15 staff who were trained in this role.

15. My designation was child and adolescence psychiatry. I did not work in the paediatric area. Both units were on separate floors. The children in my ward would have been aged between 4 and 14 years of age.

16. I worked on the first floor of the building. It also had access to the ground because the building was built on a hill. There was a play ground and garden accessible where I worked. There was a day room. Off it were 3 x 4 bedded dormitories. The dormitories were not mixed sex. There was one 8 bedroom dormitory which was across the corridor from the main office used by all staff.

17. I did not wear a uniform. I would wear casual trousers, a shirt, jacket and tie.

18. I have been asked what type of motor car I had between 1971 and 1988. I had many cars. I would change my car every 2 or 3 years. I remember having an Austin Maxi. I also drove Fords including a Ford Cortina and Ford Capri.

19. I did not drive a Mark 3 Ford Cortina. I have been asked if I had a silver car and I remember having a Renault 18 which was silver. The Ford Cortina I had was a 1300 CC standard Cortina. I think it was grey. I do not think it was silver.

20. I never worked with a nurse called [REDACTED] LS26 [REDACTED]. I did not work with a nurse called [REDACTED] LS 27 [REDACTED]. I remember [REDACTED] LS 22 [REDACTED] as a staff nurse who was very competent. I remember [REDACTED] LS 23 [REDACTED]. She was not called [REDACTED] LS 23 [REDACTED] LS23 [REDACTED].

was a paediatric nurse but she was so good we gave her a place in psychiatry. I recall **LS 7** **LS 7** was a staff nurse. **LS 25** was a nursing auxiliary. I do not remember anyone called **LS 74**. I was asked about a cook or domestic called **LS 75**. The cook was called **LS 75**

21. I confirm the hospital did use a mini bus. The driver was called **LS76**. Perhaps patients may have referred to him as **LS91** but I do not know.

22. I do not remember a teacher called **LS20**. I remember **LS2** and **LS3**

23. During my time in Lissue I did not witness any inappropriate behaviour.

24. There was a bathroom on the floor at the top of the stairs. There was a small day room on the right and off it was a bathroom with a bath not a shower. Beside the 3 x 4 bed dormitories at the bottom of that corridor was a toilet and I think there was a bathroom there.

25. On a normal day would have worked an 8 hour shift at Lissue. There were 15 trained staff assigned to 25/26 children. I was asked did I recall a patient called **LS 14**. I recalled him clearly as he was the first boy child with anorexia nervosa. He was aged about 10 and he died in his teens.

26. I do not recall **LS 29**. I recall particular children if they had particular types of history. The average length of stay per child was between 9 to 13 weeks. If it was longer than that there had to be very serious discussions about their condition. Some children also were returned with conditions reoccurring. I do not remember **LS 16**. I recall **LS13**. I do not recall **LS28** or **LS19**. I remember a **LS19** **LS19**

27. I do not remember **HIA220**. There were copious records and I kept very detailed records of all the children. It was my function to collate the reports of my staff. I had to be present at the multi disciplinary unit each morning. We met there as a team and looked at, evaluated and measured the previous 24 hours. This was done every day. The consultants would chair these on Mondays and Fridays. On the other days it would be chaired by a senior registrar. Everyone kept records not just me. The psychologist kept records. The social worker kept records. Senior Registrar kept records and the teachers kept records. After 1973 I was involved with the more sophisticated types of therapy. I would see the family and work with the consultants or the psychologist with special programmes of care.

28. The discipline system was a reward system. Punishment could be being timed out for 2 or 3 minutes in a corner or go to your room. Someone could just remove them from the situation depending on how acutely difficult it was. Sometimes they could injure themselves or injure each other. It was also during the time of Northern Ireland's social

unrest and there were sectarian issues. I banned all things like Ulster badges or tri colour badges. I began a morning meeting after breakfast to prevent them "killing" each other before going to school. There would be a big circle where everyone would sit around and they would bring up their particular difficulties. We quietly managed to get these things sorted out before the children actually went for the first period of school. It was very successful and meant that the child was not left with a conflict unresolved for the whole day. The children were escorted to school at 9.00am. They had a break at 10.45am for 15 minutes. They then went back to school until about 12 noon. They had their lunch between 12 noon and 12.45pm. They would go back to school to 3.00pm. They would then come back to the unit. Organised activities would be arranged and some may have had ongoing treatment. The evening meal would be at 5.00pm. On occasions I would be present after 5.00pm if I did a shift between 1.00pm and 8.00pm. Sometimes I also worked to 6.00pm from 8.00am. Once a month I may work on a Saturday between 8.00am and 5.00pm depending on the need for cover. Most of the children went home on Friday afternoon for the weekend. There would have been 3 or 4 children staying at the weekend.

29. The police asked me again about HIA220 aged 9 or 10 in or about 1975/1976. I do not remember anyone of that name. Given the age and sex put to me I believe that such a person may have been there because of conduct behaviour disorders or school difficulties.

30. Each of the allegations made in his statement to the police was put to me and I deny and continue to deny each and every allegation about HIA220. Having those allegations put to me made me very upset.

31. If anyone had been held for longer than 13 weeks I believe I would have remembered him. The suggestion that he was there continually between 1975 and 1976 does not make any sense to me. I believe such an assertion is improbable.

32. There are records of staff which are available and accessible. There was no one called LS26 at Lissue at the time I was working there.

33. I do not believe there was any nurse working there called LS27.

34. I deny that there would have been dormitories shared between boys and girls. The only exception would be dormitories for babies.

35. I do not believe there was a teacher called LS20. The teaching staff were there before I joined and were still there when I left.

36. I would state that Lissue did not have any animals in particular a pony. However the house was set in a rural setting and there may have been animals in the neighbouring fields.

37. The specific allegation of sexual abuse carried out by me against HIA220 in the dormitory is completely denied by me. The threats and intimidation alleged against me by HIA220 is again completely denied by me. All these allegations are completely false.

The further suggestion that this abuse then happened maybe twice or three times every month is again completely denied by me. Such allegations are completely false.

38. A further allegation which took place at some unknown time maybe about 7.00pm in the evening when HIA220 alleged that I brought him to a craft room is completely denied by me. All allegations relating to this are completely false. The other persons who allegedly took part in this namely the nurse called LS27 and LS26 are people who I believe do not exist. I believe that records should be checked to confirm whether or not these people exist. If they do not exist I would state that this is an example of complete concoction by HIA220. The only craft room that I recall was very small. In size it was like the police interview room. It could even be smaller than that. There were no toys in it. There was no bed in it. There would have been easels on the floor for painting. Perhaps 5 in number. There would have been a small table with paint and water jars and items for mixing paint.

39. HIA220 then makes further allegations that he tried to escape with other persons. I do recall having to chase after children who were absconding. I would never have done this alone. I would have had other staff with me. I never chased after absconding children with anyone called LS27. I would have gone into Lisburn in the car and taken female staff with me if a child had absconded. Although I tried to catch absconders I never succeeded. It was either the police or the army who found them and brought them back. The allegation that I caught HIA220 and then returned him and threw him into a bath full of ice is completely false. Ice cubes would not have been available outside the kitchen. The kitchen was adjoining the separate paediatric unit. It was closed from 5pm. I had no access to it. Night staff would have been present. They would never have allowed a child to go to bed in a soaking wet cold condition. Children would have been checked in particular by LS25 in case there were soiling marks on their pyjamas. Other staff would have done similar checks.

40. The suggestion that the following morning I then threw HIA220 into a bath of cold water and ice cubes is completely false. The night staff would check every hour on the children. Any with particular difficulties would be checked every 15 minutes.

41. I was asked about my clothing while working at Lissue. I remember wearing black flannels. I remember wearing a black belt but not a brown belt.

42. Throughout my life I have been brought up as a Christian and have tried to live my life according to Christian principles. I completely deny all the allegations made against me. I find the allegations distasteful and disgusting. In Lissue we had many sex abuse cases which we had to investigate. We had a psychology department with a full armoury of anatomically correct dolls. I believe it is inconceivable that anything such as alleged against me could have happened. If any of these incidents had happened someone's suspicions would have been triggered. The unit was multi disciplinary and included daily discussions, examining,

evaluating and looking at the treatment therapies. The staff responded to all kinds of issues. The particular allegations of anal abuse made against me by someone who at the time would have been perhaps 12 years of age would have been easily investigated and would have had medical repercussions which would have been noticed and reported very quickly. There would have been a very very strict evaluation of any circumstances where a child would present with any of the symptoms of any kind of abuse.

Additional points occurring to me after my police interview:

43. It is my belief that any fire escape referred to by HIA220 was at least 90 feet from his dormitory and therefore not a short distance as he described.

44. The route between any such bathroom and his dormitory involved the passing of 3 x 4 bedded dormitories. These dormitories had glass windows in their doors and therefore movement would have been visible. If any allegation relates to day time, staff would had to have passed through a busy and occupied day room to get to HIA220's dormitory – assuming he was in the 8 bed dormitory. I recall LS13 was in this 8 bed dormitory to be closest to the office.

45. With regard to the first allegation against me by HIA220 he states that this took place in the dormitory. That dormitory would have been a matter of a few feet away from a busy office which was constantly occupied throughout the day time by doctors, psychologists, nursing staff seeking treatment plans. In addition after 3.00pm teachers may have used the office. Domestic cleaning staff would have been present from time to time. I estimate that approximately 30 people would have used that office on a daily basis. LS77 was the secretary daily in this office.

46. During these alleged attacks a severely epileptic child LS13 would have been present in the same dormitory as described by HIA220. That child would have required constant supervision and monitoring throughout the day and night because of his severe epilepsy.

47. In describing another incident HIA220 says it took place in an arts and craft room which he said contained a bed beside a radiator. There was never any bed in any arts and craft room.

48. I would never have gone out from Lissue in my own car with any patient unless accompanied by a female member of staff. Hospital records should verify this.

49. The suggestion at paragraph 15 by HIA220 that LS14 was force fed is wrong. Such a response was never used at the Hospital. The allegation is a complete fantasy.

50. The whole programme at Lissue at the time of HIA220's complaints was designed to have each child discuss, reveal, report and share every thought that they had with the team

of professionals that was based in Lissie. Therefore the suggestion that any abusive behaviour was not revealed or reported either immediately or very soon after any such incident goes against the whole basis of the Lissie treatment programme. For someone therefore to wait approximately 40 years to make such a report goes entirely against the focus of any programme at Lissie. This can be confirmed by all the professionals who either worked at Lissie, or who were visiting professionals or who are outside professionals and can give such evidence to the Inquiry.

LS21

Signed

Dated this 1st day of April 2016

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1972 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF LS21 (ADDITIONAL)

I LS21 will say as follows:

1. I have had disclosed to my Solicitor a statement of LS66 and a statement from Sergeant of the RUC dated 5 August 1993. I confirm and adopt the contents of the statement of Sergeant in relation to my comments after caution concerning the allegations made by LS66.
2. I deny any allegations of sexual assault, assault or any inappropriate behaviour with LS66.
3. I was advised that no further action would be taken against me and I confirm that I was never prosecuted for any matter arising out of any allegation made by LS66 or any other person.

Dated this 7th day of April 2016

Signed LS21

LS21 LS66

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: LS66

Name Rank

AGE OF WITNESS (if over 21 enter "over 21"):

TO BE COMPLETED WHEN THE STATEMENT HAS BEEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of 4 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 29th day of May 19 93

Const LS66

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom statement was recorded or received

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I was born on the ... My father is called ... and my mother was called ... I have one sister called ... she is a year younger than me. I went to ... Secondary School. I was doing well at school until I took ill when I was 13 years of age. My thoughts were disturbed, and I would sleep a lot. I was taken to Lissue Children's Hospital. I remember a nurse called LS21. The second day I was in Lissue I was having my dinner. LS21 stood and stared at me. I don't know what it was but I got a terrible feeling about the way he looked at me. Because of my illness I was kept heavily sedated. I remember that I was very weak and would have fainted, LS21 grabbed me by the hair because I fell and pulled me along. My hair was much longer than it is now. A number of weeks after I had arrived in Lissue I was lying on a bed in the first dormitory. This was the dormitory for younger children. I remember LS21 coming into the dormitory and he lay down on top of me. I was wearing my day clothes. I think I had on brown cords, a shirt and v-neck jumper. LS21 was always well dressed. I think he had on beige trousers off a suit. While LS21 was lying on top of me he give me a passionate kiss on the lips. I remember him touching my chest. This was on top of my clothes. I remember these things through a haze because of the tablets I was on. LS21 was always hanging about the girls dormitories. I remember seeing

Form 38/36 (Plain)

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: LS66

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him dry his hair in one of the girl's room. The girl wasn't in the room at the time. I remember one day LS78 give me an awful kick up the behind. I know I had done wrong by scribbling on the table but it was an awful kick. LS21 and another nurse LS78 were always violent with the children. Especially children over six years of age. If they done anything wrong LS21 or LS78 would grab them by the hair and pull them down the corridor. There were times when other staff were present when LS78 or LS21 would grab the children by the hair. The staff never ever done anything about it. During this stay at Lissue I got injections. Usually LS21 give me them but sometimes LS78 give me the injection. I always got the injection in the hip. One day when LS78 was taking me to school I said to him about how violent he was to the younger children. I will always remember his answer, "I'm sure I'll be forgiven for that." There was no need for the violence LS21 and LS78 used, especially on children as young as six. I remember one day all the staff were at a conference. I was in the Day Room. Although I was heavily sedated I can remember lying on the floor in front of the settee. LS21 was lying beside me. He opened the zip on his trousers and took out his penis. He made me touch it. Because of the medication I was on I was unable to control my hands to masturbate him. I just fondled him. I had never seen a penis before that day. He had an erection. At first when I thought back I thought LS21 may have been wearing a Durex because of a knob at the end of his penis, but now that I know the difference I think LS21 may be circumcised. I remember that there was semen, so I take it he must have came. I then went to the toilet which was beside the day room. Again because of the medication I couldn't do up my trousers when I had been at the toilet. I remember standing at the door and LS21 fixing my trousers. I was discharged when I was 14 years of age. Due to pressure at home with my father shouting about me for taking my tablets and the fact that I had fell behind at my schoolwork I felt under stress. There was the odd tablet that I forget to take. I also had lost some very close friends during my stay at Lissue. Due to all this I went back to Lissue

SIGNATURE OF STATEMENT MAKER: LS66

LS21 LS66

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when I was fifteen. I never got any injections during this stay and I had less medication to take. I remember Boxing Day that year. That would be 1980. I was sad because I had to stay at Lissue for Christmas, although I didn't want to be at home anyway. I felt terrible. There were only two other wee seven year old boys staying over Christmas. I remember giving LS21 a hug. I know now it was stupid but I just felt so terrible. LS21 then picked me up and carried me into the observation room and lay me on the bed. LS21 lay on top of me. He put his hand up my skirt. I had tights on. He put his hand inside my tights and touched me between the legs. I had my period at the time and was wearing a sanitary towel. When he felt me between the legs he must have felt the towel and this must have put him off. He kissed me at least once. Then he got up and washed his hands. I remember times when LS21 would have had his penis between my legs. It wasn't inside my clothes. He never penetrated me. I remember it felt hard and was sore pressing against me. I don't remember any particular incident that this happened. I told LS25 about LS21 kissing me. I told her the day after Boxing Day. I didn't tell her anything else. I remember LS25 kept asking for details. I told her because I know it wasn't right what LS21 had done to me. I remember there was a girl called LS47, she was from [REDACTED]. She was eleven. One day I saw her in the middle dormitory with LS21. She was pulling up her skirt in front of him. I was always suspicious about what he done to the other girls. There was another girl called LS126, she was the same age as me. She was from [REDACTED]. She went to [REDACTED] School. I fell out with her because I remember her telling me one night that she had 'done it' with LS21. I didn't believe her. I knew she was talking about having sex with LS21. LS21 is an attractive looking fellow. Some of the girls would have referred to him as their boyfriend. LS7 was a nurse in Lissue. She would have seen LS78 and LS21 being violent. She was very hurtful to me. She would make comments about me looking pregnant but this would have been because

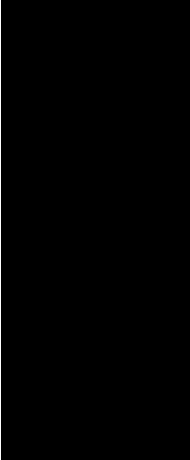
LS21 LS66

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my medication caused me to be overweight. I was never happy in Lissue and I think the atmosphere in the place caused me take must longer to get my illness under control. The other night when I told the details of Lissue was the first time that I really talked about this. My medication changed last August and now I can think back quite clearly to what happened during my two stays in Lissue.

LS66



Certified a true copy of original

SIGNATURE OF STATEMENT MAKER: LS66

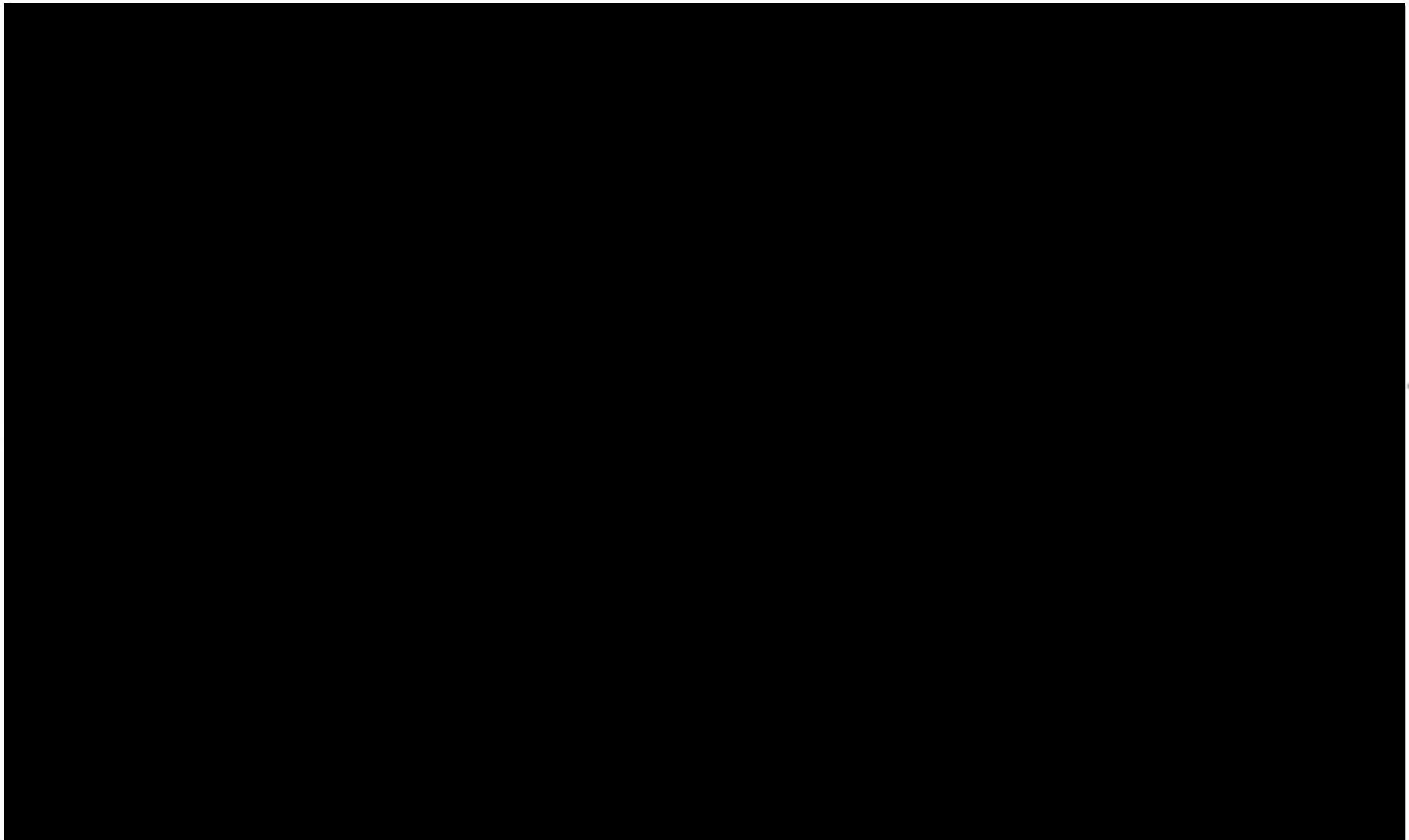
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IN-PATIENT NURSING NOTES

Date

Name HIA220

Doctor *Riswan*



7/8/20, Absconded from unit at 8.15pm

Accompanied by LS29 [redacted] Brought back by

LS21 [redacted] thought it was great fun, no noise
alarm and f----- and blinded all a
sight when he was put to bed.

