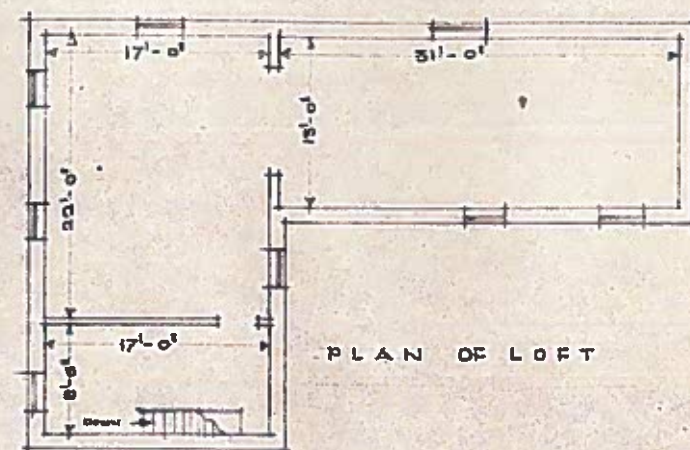
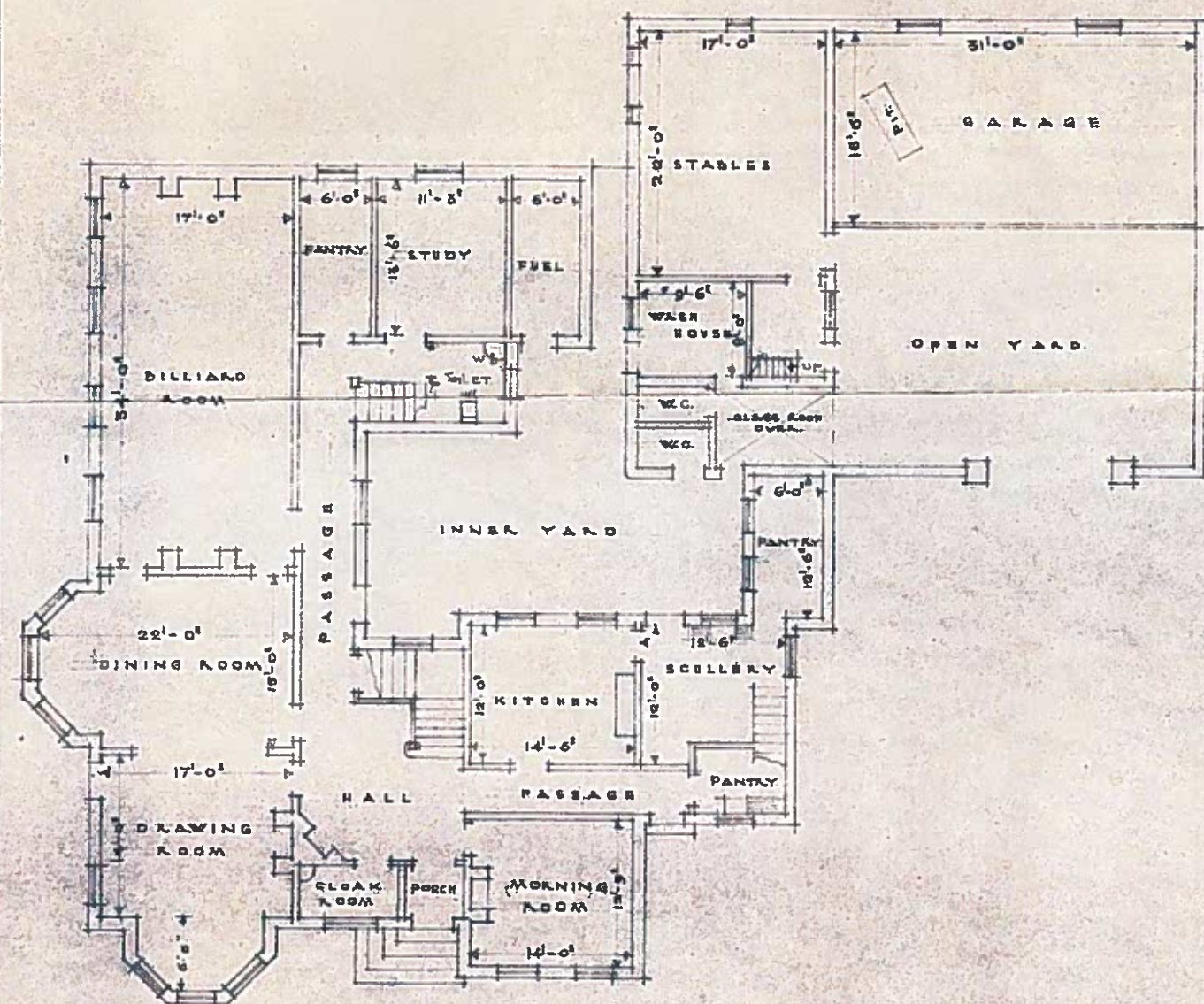


NOTE
DIMENSIONS ARE
SCALED ONLY.

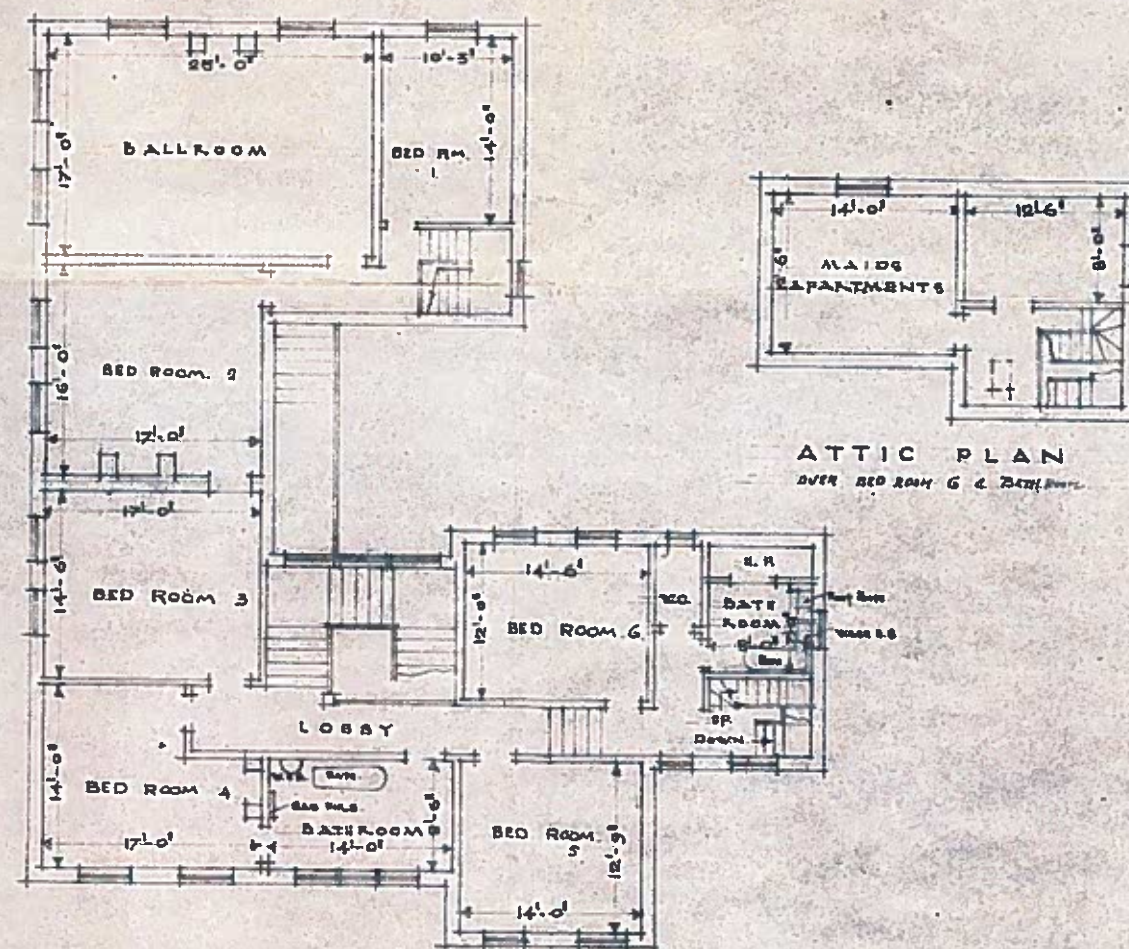


PLAN OF LOFT

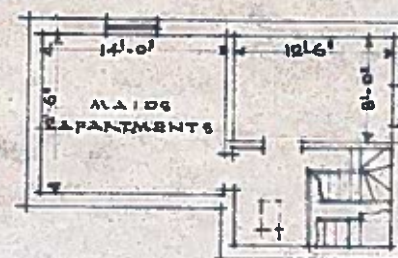


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 3/4" = 1" = 3/4" = 1" = 3/4" = 1"



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.



ATTIC PLAN
OVER BED ROOM 6 & BATH ROOM

NOTE: GENERAL SURVEY ONLY
NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY CONTRACT USE

'BAWNMORE' WHITEHOUSE C^o ANTRIM

JOHN HANCOCK J.A.R.A.
1904

Welfare Committee

Tuesday, 24th June, 1969.

MEETING OF WELFARE COMMITTEE

Members present: Aldermen Cardwell (Chairman) and Lawther;
Councillors Elliott, Horan, Hughes, Mrs. Laird,
McCullough, Orr and S.N. Shannon.

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Councillors Kelly and Smith.

Minutes

Tenders

Children

Reports:

1.

2. BAWNMORE Visited - 6th and 30th May.

There are 31 boys in residence. All are well. **BM 4** has taken up duty as Assistant Superintendent. Apart from the upheaval caused by the electrical re-wiring, conditions in the Home have improved generally.

3.

MEETING OF WELFARE COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Mrs. Laird (in the Chair);
Alderman Lawther;
Councillors Elliott, Hughes, McCullough,
Orr, S.N. Shannon and Smith.

Minutes

Children

Reports:

"1.

2. BAWNMORE Visited 9th June and 9th and 28th July.

Of the 30 boys normally resident, 5 have been allowed home for holiday periods of varying durations. One of the boys at home with his grandmother fell and broke his arm. He is still in hospital but his condition is satisfactory.

Otherwise the boys are all well.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the facilities at Bawnmore are not adequate for the number of boys cared for there and it would seem that consideration must also be given to increasing the staff in order to allow for more individual attention to be given.

"1.

2. BAWNMORE Visited 12th September.

There are 33 boys in residence and there seems little prospect that numbers can be substantially reduced in the near future. Although fully staffed in accordance with established posts it is probable that the staff/children ratio is too low.

3.

4.

5.

6.

MEETING OF WELFARE COMMITTEE

Members present: Aldermen Cardwell (Chairman) and Shannon;
Councillors Hughes, Mrs. Laird, Senator
McCullough and Smith.

An apology for absence was reported from Councillor Orr.

MinutesChildrenReports:

"1:

2: BAWNMORE Visited 14th and 31st October

There are 29 boys in residence and every effort is being made to retain this level of occupancy though it means refusing to admit children to care. The electrical work is not yet completed but it is already evident that the re-newing of the wiring will detract further from the appearance of the Home.

It has not yet been possible to fill the vacant post of Housemother's Assistant and the remaining staff are finding it extremely difficult to afford each boy the individual attention which he requires. On the whole, however, the boys are fairly adequately cared for and in good health.

113

Welfare Committee, Tuesday, 20th January, 1970.

1. 2. BAWNMORE Visited 18th and 20th November, 5th and 25th December.

There are 30 boys in residence, one of whom is in hospital.

Some re-decoration has improved the appearance of this home, but it continues to be rather unsatisfactory as the electrical re-wiring is still not complete.

A post of Housefather's Assistant has remained unfilled and it is proving extremely difficult to attract suitable staff not only for Bawnmore but for all the Committee's Children's Homes.

3. 4. 5. 6. 

Visited 21st November and 22nd December.

Wednesday, 18th March, 1970.

MEETING OF WELFARE COMMITTEE

Members present: Aldermen Cardwell (Chairman),
Lawther and Shannon;
Councillors Elliott, Hughes,
Mrs. Laird, Orr and Senator McCullough.

MinutesChildrenReports:Bawnmore:Concert:Extension:

Further to the minute of 23rd November, 1969 when the Committee had authorised the City Architect to carry out a feasibility study on the question of providing an extension to the above Home, the City Welfare Officer reported that two schemes had been put forward, one to convert the present building, and the other to build a new Home at the present site.

After discussion and having heard the City Welfare Officer on the matter the Committee decided that a new Home to accommodate 36 boys be erected at the present site, and that the City Architect be authorised to prepare plans and estimates etc. for their consideration.

Tuesday, 25th May, 1971.

MEETING OF WELFARE COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Mrs. Laird (Chairman);
Aldermen Cardwell, Lawther and Shannon;
Councillors Donaghy, Gildea, Hughes,
Orr, O'Hara and Smith.

Minutes

Children

Bawnmore Children's Home:

Further to minute of 18th March, 1970 when the Committee had authorised the City Architect to prepare plans and estimates in connection with the extension to the above Home, the City Welfare Officer reported that the design stage for the project had been reached. The City Architect had indicated that because of the work load in his Department the staff would not be able to deal with the preparation of the necessary documents, plans etc. and he had recommended that the commission of Mr. W.D. Clarke, private Architect appointed for the original staff block scheme, be amended to include the proposed extensions.

Welfare Committee

Tuesday, 11th May, 1971.

MEETING OF WELFARE COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Mrs. Laird (Chairman);
Aldermen Lawther and Shannon;
Councillors Hughes, Napier, Orr
and Smith.

Minutes

Children

Report:

*1.

2.

BAWMOTE

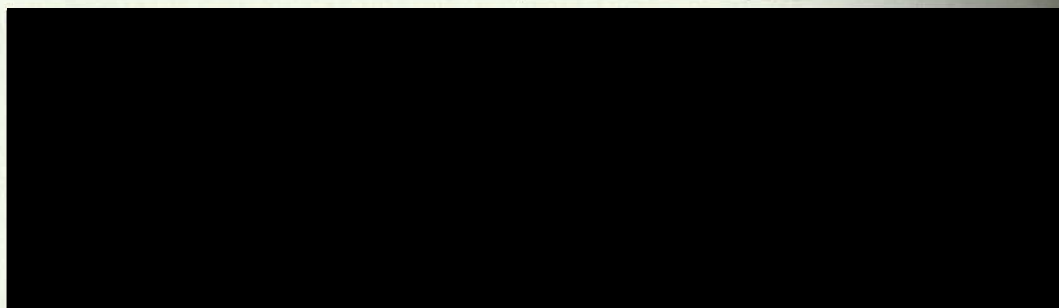
Visited 20th and 29th April.

There are 32 boys in residence. All the boys, bar one who has a cold, appear to be in good health. Some of the boys have been unsettled recently and there have been several abscondings. One of the House-mother's Assistants has resigned and a successor has not yet been appointed. Material conditions in the Home leave a lot to be desired and efforts are being made to effect an improvement.

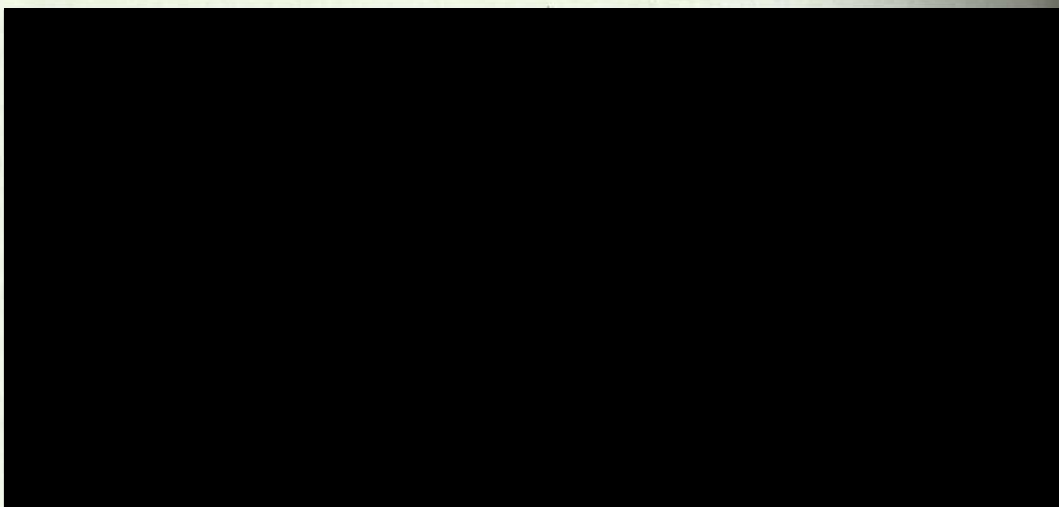
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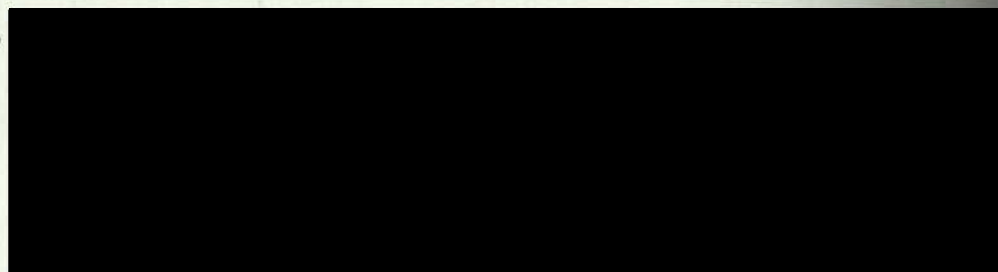
11th



Children



1.



2. BAWNMORE Visited 20th May.

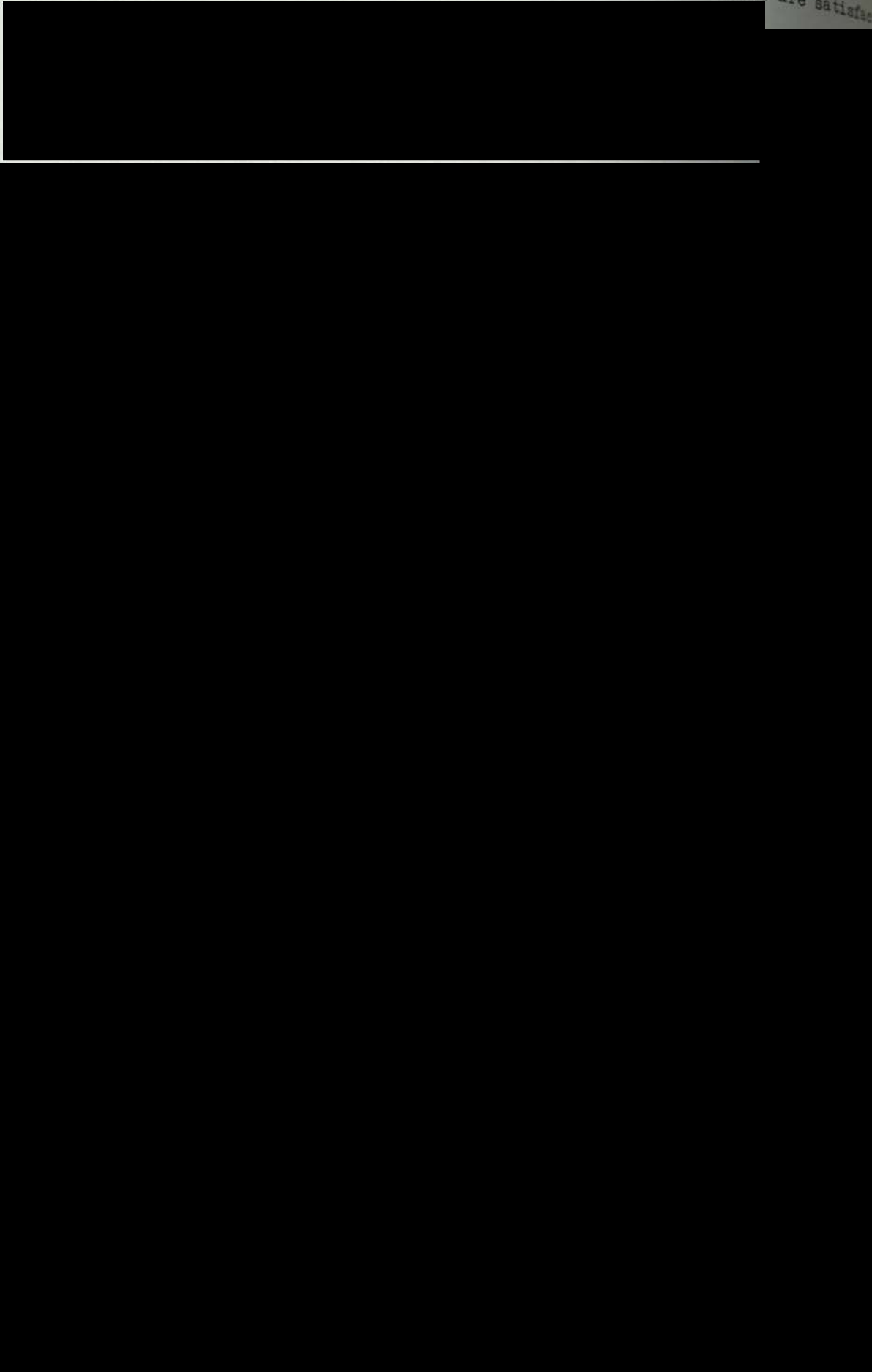
There are 31 boys in residence. They are all in good health. The behaviour of some of the boys continues to cause concern and are finding it difficult to meet the boys' needs. Conditions in the Home are satisfactory but there is over-crowding.

Welfare Committee, Tuesday, 18th January, 1972.

2. BAWNMORE

Visited 22nd and 25th December.

There are 28 boys in residence. They are all in good health and had a very enjoyable Christmas. The Assistant Superintendent and Senior Housefather's posts are vacant leaving the staff situation weak though we have been able to get temporary help. Apart from this conditions in the Homes are satisfactory.



10

11

12

13

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE-PERSONAL

BWN-7304

~~Town Clerk~~~~City Treasurer~~~~Establishment Officer.~~

WELFARE DEPARTMENT,

16 COLLEGE STREET,

BELFAST, I.

RECEIVED
23 DEC 1961
BELFAST

COPY OF LETTER RECEIVED ON 21st November, 1961.

From Ministry of Home Affairs


Date 20th November, 1961.

Ref. No. T.246

Dear Sir,

I write in reply to your letter of 13th November to convey approval to the appointment of Mr. and Mrs. BM3 to the joint post of Houseparents at Bawnmore Children's Home.

I note that Mrs. BM3 will commence at a salary of £500 per annum, less an emolument charge of £140 per annum, and perhaps you would be good enough to let us know the date on which she takes up duty. I see that Mr. BM3 is not expected to be available for full-time duty until next September but that, in the meantime, he will do part-time duties in the Home and in return will receive free board and lodging. You will, no doubt, notify us in due course of the date on which he is available for full-time duty and also the rate of remuneration it is proposed to pay him.



Yours faithfully,

L. S. McCartney

For Secretary

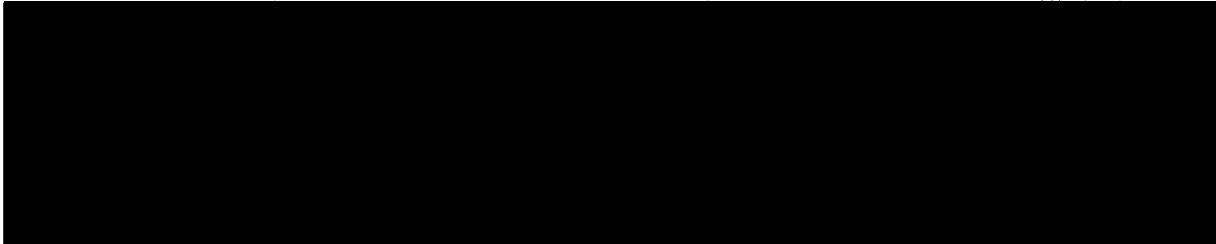
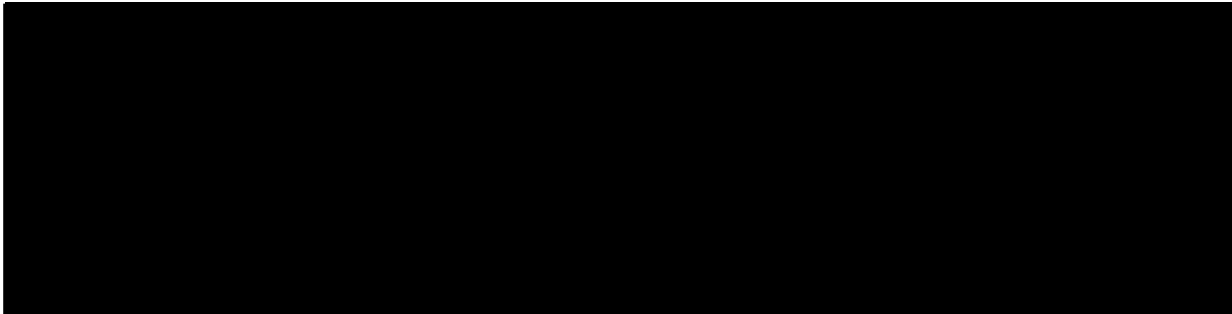
The Welfare Officer,
Belfast County Borough Welfare Authority,
16 College Street,
BELFAST 1.

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE-PERSONAL

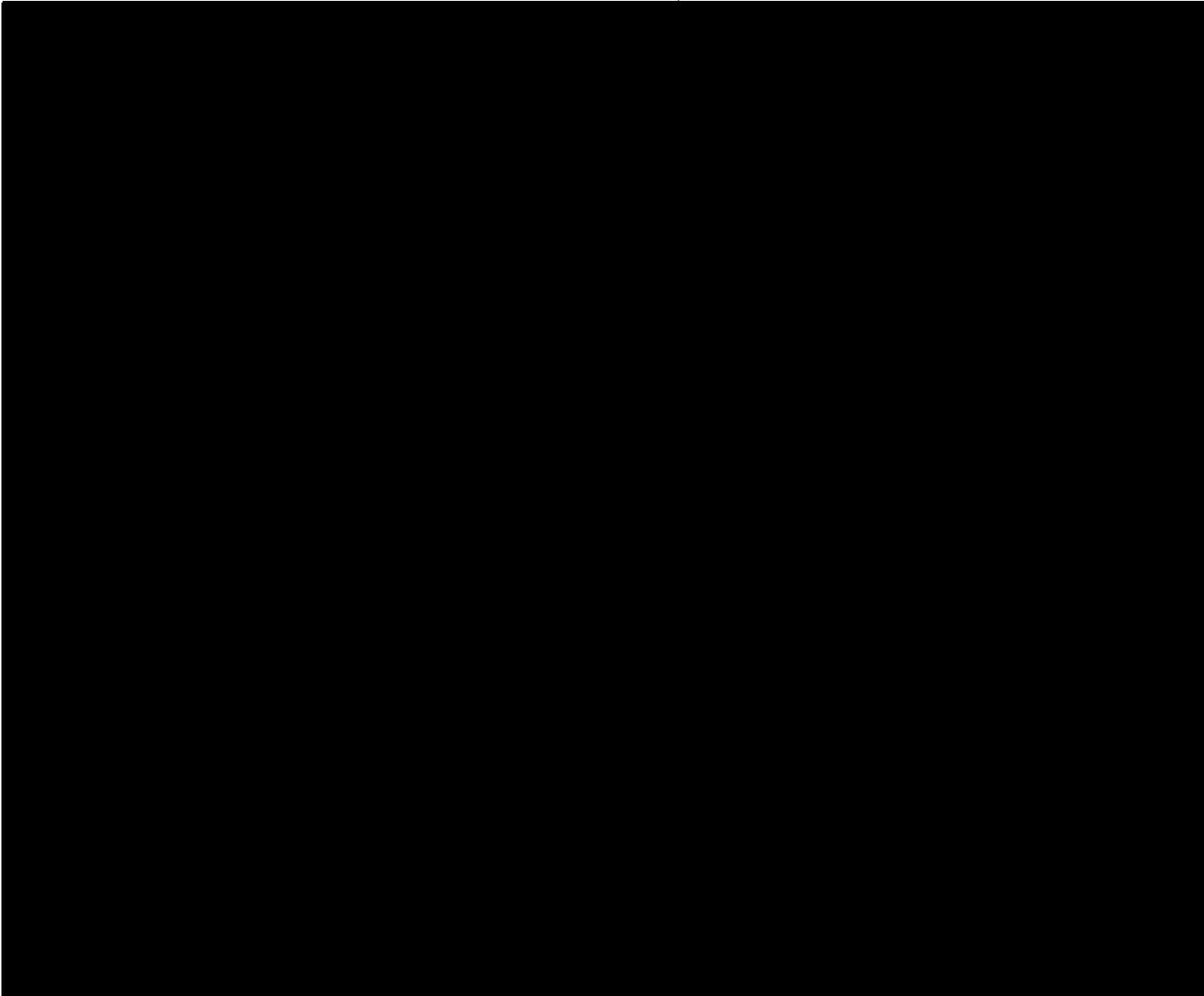
457

Welfare Committee, Tuesday, 26th May, 1959.

"I have to report that I visited Brefne, Bawnmore and Williamson House this month.

BAWNMORE:

Visited on 11th May and found the children all well except for the one little boy still in hospital. There are now only six girls in Bawnmore; one of these is seventeen and will shortly be transferred to a hostel for working girls; another is the responsibility of the Antrim Education Authority. The proportion of girls to boys in the Home has been steadily decreasing over the past year as the numbers of girls needing residential care is comparatively few while it is often difficult to accommodate the larger and increasing number of boys who come into care."



48.4

Welfare Committee, Tuesday, 18th August, 1959.

BAWNMORE.

Visited on 21st and 30th July. The Home still has 28 children of whom all but five are boys. They have been visited at Brooklyn House by the Senior Children's Visitor and appear to be enjoying their holiday.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

T.407

14th November, 1957.

Dear Town Clerk,

Proposed Family Group Homes at Bawnmore

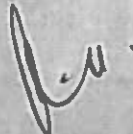
There has been a great deal of correspondence and many discussions between the Corporation and the Ministry about this project. From the data which accompanied your letter of the 11th October last it seems that the expenditure now contemplated is £18,687 and even this does not, as far as we can see, include provision for the cost of quantity surveyors' fees, necessary supervision, etc.

At the discussion on the 3rd October at Stormont Duff agreed to put this matter as fairly and as favourably as possible before the Minister personally for his decision. This has been done and I have to tell you that the Minister regrets he is unable to approve. He feels that he could not at the present time stand over expenditure of this order involving as it does something like £1,000 per child place. He considers that the project should be dropped, and he would like to see the Children's Committee, if their need for additional child places remains, meet this need by the acquisition and adaptation of existing property in one or more of the residential areas of the City. By such means he feels that any need could most probably be met with reasonable expenditure and in a manner more in keeping with the generally accepted ideas of family-group homes.

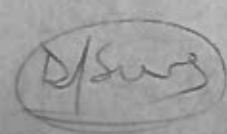
In coming to this decision the Minister has not overlooked the fact that earlier in the year, when he saw Corporation representatives in the City Hall, he undertook that approval would be forthcoming if costs could be reduced to the original figure of £18,000. Despite all the cuts and reductions which we have made over the past month or two we have not been able to bring the cost down to £18,000. When quantity surveyors' fees, etc., are added the new figure will be at least £19,000. In any case a comparison of this with the original figure of £18,000 is hardly a fair one. Omitting the cost of the approach road (which apparently should never have been included in this scheme) the expenditure originally contemplated was £14,500 for three houses (including a service road as distinct from the approach road) and £2,200 for furniture and equipment, making a total of £16,700. The actual cost of this same thing is turning out at something in the region of £19,000 - a true excess for comparison purposes of some £2,000-£2,500, and something which, in the Minister's view, makes this project altogether too costly.

It is very much to be regretted that so much time and effort have been given to this matter without tangible result, but we are hopeful that all of it has not been in vain and that family-group homes, if needed, will in due course emerge in the various City residential areas.

Yours sincerely,



John Dunlop, Esq., C.B.E.,
Town Clerk,
City Hall,
BELFAST.



NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD NEWTOWNABBEY DISTRICT

REPORT RE SITUATION AT BAWNMORE CHILDREN'S HOME

INTRODUCTION:

Since the setting up of the Northern Board there has been a continuing saga of difficulties with Bawnmore Children's Home. At Re-organisation the home was in a dreadful physical state, with 75% of its staff having left and a 50% absconding rate. Our targets since Re-organisation have been related to these factors:

- a) Improving the physical condition of the Home and its equipment.
- b) Increasing the staffing level, recruiting new staff and improving the calibre of staff.
- c) Improving the standards of care as a result of the above two factors.

We have been largely successful in achieving these. The Home was extensively modernised, new furniture was supplied, new younger and more capable staff appointed and a group system of care introduced.

Our progress towards our aim of positive therapeutic care has been greatly marred however by problems of relationship with the local community. In the 1960s there was a fairly good involvement of the local community in the activities of the home. The then Superintendent [REDACTED] BM 3 actively encouraged this and joint sports activities, parties, etc were held. Local residents even helped decorate the Home. However, with the onset of the troubles this diminished somewhat and there was an occasional incident between boys from the Home and the local estate. The local Council in the early 1960s built new homes in an area of the estate that had been a recreation area. With the arrival of the new tenants a marked deterioration was noticed in the behaviour of boys coming into the grounds of Bawnmore House. One factor obviously in this was the now lack of any suitable play area in the estate, although [REDACTED] BM 3 saw the new tenants themselves as part of the problem.

Since 1973 when the Northern Board took office the situation has gradually worsened. The nature of the incidents have slowly changed from simply unruly activity with occasional fights to what would appear now to be at times a planned attempt to disrupt the Home and to cause injury to our children. I enclose a chronological sequence of reported incidents on the campus which demonstrated the escalation of events over the three years. I would also refer you to the enclosed copies of my memos on the subject. It is difficult to be specific about the causes of the escalation but I have attempted below to examine some of these. Attempts have obviously been made to alleviate and to deal with the problems and I have also outlined these below.

CAUSES:

1. Bawnmore Home has traditionally been a boys home, although since Re-organisation it has been our plan to change the nature of the unit to a mixed children's home. Incidentally we are just now at the point of introducing girls to the unit. The home also traditionally catered for difficult boys - and to some degree we have had to continue to cope with difficult and quite disturbed boys. These boys tend to react aggressively to provocation.

NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
NEWTOWN ABBEY DISTRICT

BAWNMORE CHILDREN'S HOME

Chronological Sequence of Events Since Re-Organisation

- 11.11.73. Boy attacked on Whitewell Road by local youths - set fire to his shirt.
- 30.12.73. Lighting in the main drive and intruders are a problem.
- 2.1.74. Car abandoned in main drive in suspicious circumstances.
- 4.1.74. Increase in amount of intrusion into grounds, placing restrictions on our children's movements at night.
- 19.1.74. Another car abandoned - causing bomb scare.
- 24.1.74. Staff complain of lighting in drive being broken constantly - worried about being molested.
- Regular comments from staff but no major incidents. Staff always very anxious at night.
- May, 1974. District meets local representatives.
Use of football pitch arranged by Superintendent with local representatives.
- 24.6.74. Bomb Scare - Wing in Ben Madigan evacuated.
- Problem of intruders continuing during Summer and repeated incidents in grounds during summer evenings;
- a) commandeering of football pitch
 - b) commandeering of swings and play equipment
 - c) abusive language to staff
 - d) increasing use of grounds as right of way
- 25.9.74. Staff woken by prowler at 1.30 a.m. Female staff heard scream, became very frightened.
- 29.9.74. Children from estate set alsatian dog on some residents at Bawnmore. Staff complain of abuse when dealing with the incident.
- 5.10.74. Staff request to be transported to and from work because of hazards in grounds, and lack of lighting in main drive being smashed by vandals.
- 11.11.74. Gun battle and local man sought asylum in Old People's Home. Police involved.
- 27.12.74. Intruders - staff abused. Police called. No help able to be given.
- 28.12.74. Intruders - police called. No help. On both occasions intruders escaped through fence.

NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
NEWTOWNABBEY DISTRICT

- 2 -

- 14.3.75. Large crowd playing football on lawn.
- 17.3.75. Superintendent reports stone-throwing incidents and increased use of grounds as right of way.
- April, 1975. Break-in by local youths when staff had children away for the day.
Fight with local youths. Injury sustained with iron bar.
Staff are alarmed and have been asking about protection.
- 10.5.75. Vandalism in grounds.
- 13.5.75. Memo from Deputy Superintendent. Footballers in grounds. Residents upset. Police called - police abused as well as our staff.
- 17.5.75. Vandalism in grounds.
- 28.5.75. Matter raised in D.E.T. - agreed to improve security arrangements.
- 28.6.75. Visitors upset by behaviour of local children. Workmen's materials scattered. Equipment stolen.
- 19.7.75. Youths in grounds again.
- 2.8.75. Youths in grounds again. Windows broken in Old People's Home.
- 18.8.75. Fire lit in grounds by local boys.
- 3.9.75. Superintendent approached Principal Social Worker about stone-throwing on 2.9.75. and expressed anxiety about several other matters including safety coming to and from work.
- 6.9.75. Several incidents reported. Staff threatened with hatchet. Police at Home every night that week.
- 4.10.75. Strange car in grounds at 1.15 a.m. Pursued by police and left at speed.
- 15.11.75. Shooting in area. Army and Police to grounds to investigate.
- 22.11.75. Telephone cable cut. Drain blocked - causing flooding.
- 6.12.75. Flood lighting erected.

/continued*

Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast.

D/PC

Annual Report - Bawnmore Children's Home

On the 6th of June Dr. Simpson and I visited Bawnmore Children's Home, 119 Whitewell Road, Belfast.

Premises: Bawnmore is a pleasant house which is well maintained and in good order throughout. The provision of wooden beds and bedside lockers is a great improvement in the dormitories. The kitchen premises were in excellent order.

Staff: **BM 29**, the Matron, had just returned from the 3-week Residential Course for Staff of Children's Homes held at Rhyl, N. Wales. She had found the lectures and discussions most interesting and helpful although the main part of the time was devoted to the study of younger children than those for which Bawnmore caters. She has been fortunate in having as her deputy a **BM 30**, a former school teacher. I had found **BM 30** in charge on several earlier occasions when I visited the home and was impressed by her capable manner and pleasant way of dealing with children.

Health and Activities: There were 29 children in residence and they all appeared to be happy and well cared for. The older children were enjoying ball games on the lawn. Matron has arranged that one of the playrooms is available for homework after tea. At present 1 girl attends Belfast High School, 2 Belfast Technical School, 3 Mount Vernon Special School, 9 Star of the Sea Primary School and the remainder the newly-built Primary School at Ballygalan. A younger age group in general have been in residence during the past year. They are friendly, responsive children and discipline is good.

The children continue to enjoy considerable freedom and spend their pocket money in the local shops and go to the pictures and the swimming baths. In the evenings and on wet days a TV set and electric gramophone are available.

Records: We inspected the statutory books. The diet continues to be of a high standard and is suitably varied. Medical records were found to be satisfactorily maintained.

Details of fire drill and events of importance are sent to the Welfare Officer in College Street weekly.

General: We have always found a very happy, homely atmosphere at Bawnmore. There is, however, one improvement which might be considered. For a total of 29 children there is one slipper bath and 2 shower baths on the first floor and one bath with shower on the ground floor. Home Office standards indicate that in a Home accommodating this number of children there should be at least 4 slipper baths and showers are not suitable for the younger child. It is possible that a bath could be installed under the showers on the 1st floor.

M.A.P. Wright. M.A.P. Simpson
20th June, 1956.

KA

Mif. Hill:

Shortage of staff. High numbers,
delay in providing adequate heating &
decoration suggest that this home isn't getting
enough priority in Belfast. Should the
Children's officer (or homes officer) be
exerting more pressure.

Staff shortage in particular seems to
need positive action. Have they thought of
building another bungalow to attract resident
staff? And making a house available
elsewhere pending completion of the bungalow?

UAF

9/12/65

T.582

CHILDREN'S HOMES AND TRAINING SCHOOLSREPORTS BY MINISTRY'S INSPECTORSDEPARTMENTAL ACTION, ETC.

The following information and instructions are issued for the guidance of the staff when dealing with reports by the Ministry's Inspectors or Children's Homes and Training Schools:-

1. Inspectors' Reports are made for the information of the Ministry; they are confidential and are regarded by the Courts as privileged documents.
2. Normally verbatim copies of Inspectors' Reports will not be sent to the authorities concerned. If, exceptionally, it is considered desirable in any circumstances to depart from this rule, the approval of the Asst. Secretary or, in his absence, the Principal, must be obtained before any report is communicated verbatim.
3. Where an Inspector's Report draws attention to any matter affecting the premises, equipment, organisation or management of a Home or School, which, in the Ministry's view, calls for action by the authority concerned, the procedure will be as follows:-
 - (a) Where the Inspector indicates in his Report that the matter has been taken up locally with the authority or its officials, and that as a result he is confident that the desired end will be achieved, no action need at that stage be taken by the Ministry on the particular matter. In these circumstances it will be the responsibility of the Inspector to follow up the matter in due course and report results to the Ministry. Only in the event of failure of the Inspector's endeavours locally will the Ministry pursue the matter officially.
 - (b) Where the matter is not being dealt with locally by the Inspector as indicated in (a) above, consideration should be given by the Branch, in consultation with the Inspector, to an official approach to the authority concerned.
4. Except in the cases referred to above, it should not normally be necessary to make any communication to the authority concerned following inspection of a Home or School by a Ministry Inspector.

A. ALEXANDER.

January, 1959.

NI.H.A.18/7/70/1/59R.

Reference TC 287

Ministry of Home Affairs
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast BT4 3SU

I visited Bawnmore on 28 March 1972 and was received by **BM 1** and **BM 2** **BM 2** in the absence of **BM 3** on holiday. The boys were off school, some because of ordinary Easter holiday, others because their schools were closed by power cuts. There were 23 boys in residence and two more are expected. These are lower numbers than usual. Many will be at home or with relatives over Easter. Outdoor activities, including minibus excursions, are being arranged for the others. Meanwhile boys were having a happy time, building huts and lighting fires (in appropriate safe places and with permission). Swimming expeditions to Grove Baths are useful for wet days.

Material has been delivered to the site for the construction of a recreation hut (the solid parts of former temporary houses). Contact has been made with Mr Campelson (of Community Relations Commission), who is involved in this project, which will provide for other local boys as well as Bawnmore. Other bodies, including local Tenants' Associations, are also involved.

There have been considerable problems with some of the boys, but 2 or 3 have recently been committed to Rathgael, including the boy **BM 31** referred to in Miss Hill's recent report. (Ascertained Special Care but no room for him in their establishments - Commander Mullan reluctantly committed him to Rathgael presumably pending a vacancy). Several boys had quite a harmful effect while there by taking other boys "mitching". In the few weeks since their removal there has been a marked improvement in school attendances and behaviour.

The Home is without a Deputy Superintendent since **BM 4**'s departure. Present staff under **BM 3** are:- **BM 1**, **BM 2**, **BM 32**, **BM 23**, a **BM 33** and **BM 34** as relief. I have suggested to Mr Mason that they consider grading this Home as a Group 2 Home in order to be able to offer more attractive salaries. It certainly contains a concentration of "children with physical or mental handicaps or requiring special forms of treatment" (to quote Circular 11/71). A high proportion are boys committed by the Juvenile Court. Mr Mason has undertaken to look at this /and also Ettaville Hostel in the same light as well as considering those in charge of Williamson Houses to be "officers in charge" instead of senior housemothers/. Some of the boys are very attention-seeking, some dull, some disturbed, some both. It should be a great advantage, when the new Bawnmore finally emerges, to be able to do some segregation in groups of this crowd of boys with very varying needs.

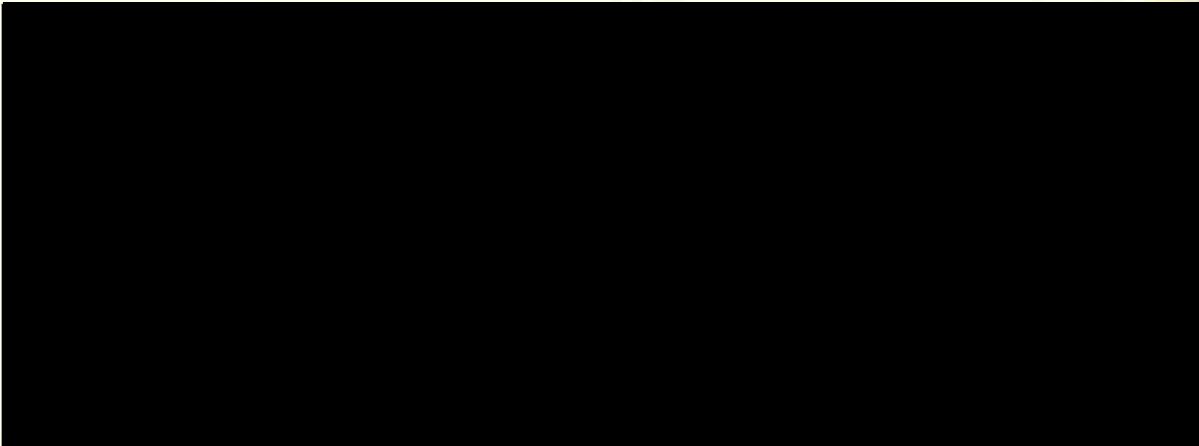
Dr [redacted] 24/4
to see please.

K 3 Fennell
16th April 1972

CW 24/4
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72

REPORT OF COUNCILLOR WATSON ON HIS VISIT
TO BAWNMORE, BREFNE AND PARK LODGE CHILDREN'S
HOMES AND BALMORAL BOYS' SCHOOL ON
28th SEPTEMBER, 1956.

While each Home was functioning satisfactorily, I wish to mention the following matters:-

- Bawnmore:
- (a) With 10 boys and 12 girls in residence, there are six vacancies in the Home.
 - (b) Steps should be taken to deal with rust on the ^{upside} inside of the washing machine.
 - (c) Dampness in a bedroom wall is in my opinion due to defects in the spouting outside the bay window.
- 

6.12 We do not consider that there is any evidence to suggest that a formal vetting procedure for visitors to the home would have prevented the offences for which Mr Bone was convicted. Mr Bone was married, was a professional man employed by a public authority, was known to the Officer-in-Charge of the home and had no previous convictions. He had a connection with the Scouting movement which could reasonably have been taken by the Authority as evidence of a genuine, properly motivated interest in youth work as could his participation in a community care course. It should also be borne in mind that it was a deliberate policy of the Authority to foster contacts between its homes and local communities and this is a policy which we would endorse.

6.13 No formal system of supervision could have applied to visitors to the home, except insofar as their entry to the home and activities while there would have been subject to the approval and oversight of the Officer-in-Charge and the other caring staff. In addition, however, there do not seem to have been any guidelines governing visitors taking children out of the home. We consider that this was a material gap in the Belfast Welfare Authority's arrangements for the supervision of children in its care. Mr Bone's relationship with one resident, referred to in evidence as B1, and the nature and quality of the supervision of B1 are considered in this context at paragraphs 6.39-6.42 below.

Management & monitoring of the home

6.14 The statutory provisions and administrative procedures relating to monitoring by the Belfast Welfare Authority have already been detailed in previous parts of this report. We consider below the following aspects of the monitoring of Bawnmore Boys' Home:

- a. statutory inspection and reporting by the Children's Officer;
- b. statutory inspection and reporting by members of the Belfast Welfare Committee;
- c. inspections by the Ministry of Home Affairs Inspectors.

Inspections by the Children's Officer

6.15 We scrutinised the Belfast Welfare Committee minutes from 1963 to 1973 and found that from February 1963 to September 1965, during which time Mrs Wilson as Homes Officer undertook the inspection function, Bawnmore was visited each month with only a single exception. The statutory requirement from September 1965 to the end of 1967 was met by Miss Brown

or Mr Moore, with some omissions. The Belfast Welfare Committee's minutes from early 1968 to September 1973 demonstrated almost full compliance with the statutory requirement. While the Welfare Committee minutes for this period referred generally to the Children's Officer, we understand that Mrs Wilson carried out these inspections as Assistant Children's Officer, as was the case for Kincora.

6.16 As indicated above both the record book and file record of the visits by the Assistant Children's Officers/Children's Officer to Bawnmore were missing and it was not therefore possible to scrutinise these records.

6.17 The reports on the statutory inspections as minuted by the Belfast Welfare Committee tended to be short and stereotyped and dealt mainly with the number of residents, their health and whether conditions at the home were satisfactory. From 1965 the Children's Officer's reports, as minuted, contained some adverse references relating to the conditions of the home, truancy and boys absconding. The absence of the Bawnmore records prevented us from establishing what action was taken to deal with these problems.

6.18 The opportunities for untoward matters at Bawnmore to come to attention in course of these inspections were doubtless restricted by the fact that Mr Elder was only on his student placement for 5/6 weeks and Mr Bone was a casual, though apparently quite frequent, visitor. In any event, their offences were committed at a time when inspections of home by Mrs Wilson were regular. Mrs Wilson made a statement to us to the effect that she never received a complaint of a sexual nature relating to any boy or member of staff at Bawnmore. Our conclusion, in respect of Bawnmore as for Kincora, was that the failure of regular inspections to prevent or detect the offences lay in the nature of the activity. We do not believe that Mrs Wilson could have detected the offences in the absence of specific signs of distress or of any complaint made directly or indirectly to her. We find no basis for criticism of the statutory inspections by officials in the relevant period.

Visits by members of the Welfare Committee

6.19 We scrutinised the Welfare Committee minutes for the 1960's and found that the visiting requirement was met in the years 1960-1965 with some omissions. The frequency of visits appeared to decline thereafter and

during 1967 and 1968 there were three month periods when no statutory visits were minuted. Bawnmore was also included in the global entry of May 1970 to which we referred in paragraph 3.33. A significant further decline in visiting began in 1971 and only three statutory visits were minuted from January 1972 to September 1973. We have already suggested that some caution must be exercised in interpreting these minutes. As no record book was available for Bawnmore, the record of visitors' signatures could not be checked.

- 6.20 We consider that visits by members of the Belfast Welfare Authority had less chance than the Children's Officer's inspections of detecting homosexual abuse in the home, much less outside it. To criticise the brevity and contents of their reports would be to ignore the practical constraints imposed on members of the Belfast Welfare Committee by their role and function. The Welfare Committee's record on statutory visits from late 1967, however, is open to criticism. Even if the members would have been unlikely to detect any offences it is unsatisfactory that the Welfare Committee should have in part neglected its statutory duty. We would emphasise, however, that there is no evidence that this had any bearing on the incidence of offences or on the likelihood of detection.

Inspections by the Ministry of Home Affairs

- 6.21 Our scrutiny of the Ministry of Home Affairs' extant records revealed that thirteen reports on inspections of Bawnmore were made between 1962 and 1970, one or two reports being made each year. The inspections were carried out either by Miss Kay Forrest or Miss Mabel Hill (the Child Welfare Inspector, and Assistant Child Welfare Inspector respectively). The reports were sent to the Child Welfare Branch of the Ministry. These were usually one typed page in length and normally followed the same format, commenting on the physical conditions and amenities in the home; on the staffing position; on the number of boys in residence; and leisure activities. There were usually also comments on the health of the boys (and indications that the Inspectors had actually seen the children), on the medical records and on visits by the home's doctor. The reports also usually noted that the statutory records had been inspected and were properly maintained. The assessments were generally favourable although concern was expressed in the mid 1960's about shortages of staff, the high numbers of children in the home and delay in providing adequate heating

and redecoration. These points were followed up by the Ministry and it was noted in the next inspection report that there had been an improvement on each count.

- 6.22 As there was no record book available for Bawnmore, it was not possible to check if the Ministry's Inspectors visited Bawnmore on occasions other than those which resulted in the reports.
- 6.23 The Ministry of Home Affairs' general policy in relation to the frequency of inspections and the scope and content of inspection reports during the period to 1973 has already been dealt with in chapter 3. Specifically in regard to Bawnmore, we consider that the record of the Ministry of Home Affairs' inspectors during the relevant period was more than adequate in terms of frequency. Our view that the scale and nature of the inspections was not entirely satisfactory is qualified by the commendable frequency and regularity of them. The opportunity which the Ministry of Home Affairs' inspectors would have had for detecting the homosexual offences involving Bawnmore residents, however, was minimal.

Alleged complaints against S1

- 6.24 A former resident of Bawnmore, referred to in evidence as B3, gave evidence that he made complaints against a member of staff, referred to in evidence as S1. The DPP directed in 1981 that no prosecution should be brought against S1. A further referral in 1982 also resulted in a direction that no prosecution be brought. Our consideration of alleged complaints against him is directed to how, if made, they were handled by the Welfare Authority. We refer to these as alleged complaints because no contemporary record of complaints against S1 came to our attention.
- 6.25 B3 was admitted to Bawnmore in January 1963 when he was fourteen years of age and discharged from there in July 1963. During this time it seems that he spent a period or periods "home on trial" with his father.
- 6.26 There is evidence that B3 had some sexual experience while at a voluntary residential home prior to his admission to Bawnmore. A memorandum of 17 August 1962 on B3's personal file recorded a member of the home's management committee as reporting "serious sexual malpractice.... involving B3 and his brother" to the Down County Welfare Authority. Down County reported the matter to the Ministry of Home Affairs and a meeting

CHAPTER 6

BAWNMORE BOYS' HOME

- 6.1 Bawnmore Boys' Home in Newtownabbey was opened by the Belfast Welfare Authority in the mid 1950s. It catered for boys of all ages but usually in the 10-15 age range. In many cases, residents were placed in Kincora after they reached the maximum age for Bawnmore. The home was closed in March 1977 and the residents were transferred to another home.

Homosexual offences

- 6.2 In December 1981 two persons, not members of the staff at Bawnmore, were convicted of homosexual offences involving a resident of the home.
- 6.3 Mr Robert Elder was on a student placement at Bawnmore for a period of five to six weeks in 1967 or 1968. This placement was part of a course in Child Care at Rupert Stanley College in Belfast. Mr Elder was convicted on one count of gross indecency and one of indecent assault involving one resident of Bawnmore (in respect of whom Mr Bone was also convicted). He was sentenced to one year's imprisonment on each count. The sentences were to run concurrently and were suspended for two years. The offences for which Mr Elder was convicted occurred during the period from January 1967 to December 1968 and related to one boy resident in Bawnmore and to the term of his residence. It is likely that the offences occurred during Mr Elder's placement, at some time during the academic year September 1967 to June 1968.
- 6.4 Mr Peter Bone visited Bawnmore regularly in 1967 or 1968 as a student on a community care course. After finishing the course he continued to visit Bawnmore in a voluntary capacity to assist the staff. Mr Bone was convicted on two counts of gross indecency and two counts of indecent assault involving one resident of Bawnmore. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment on each count, all sentences to run concurrently. Nolle prosequi was entered for one count of gross indecency and one of indecent assault involving one further resident of Bawnmore. The offences involving Bawnmore residents with which Mr Bone was charged fell within the period from January 1968 to December 1970 and related to the terms of the boys' residence at the home.

Bawnmore records

- 6.5 A difficulty arose in connection with certain of the Belfast Welfare Authority's records relating to Bawnmore. No file containing the Children's Officer's/Assistant Children's Officer's notes was available to us; nor was a file dealing with the general administration of the home; nor the record book required to be kept under the 1952 SR&O. Mr Bunting, who was Children's Officer in Belfast at the time of local government reorganisation, gave evidence that he had made extensive enquiries which established that all files relevant to residential child care facilities and their residents were boxed for transmission to either the Headquarters or District offices of the incoming Health and Social Services Boards. No central record of the allocation of files at the time of reorganisation appears to have been made, however, and receipt notes were not raised by the receiving offices. Mr Richard Black, who as DSSO for the Newtownabbey District of the Northern Board would have inherited the Bawnmore records, gave evidence that the files referred to above were not received at that time. He did state, however, that the Bawnmore record book, which was kept at the home itself, was known to have been present and available at the time of reorganisation. We are satisfied that Messrs Bunting and Black went to very considerable lengths to discover the whereabouts of the missing records and that no particular significance need be attached to their non-availability. It is likely that the Bawnmore files were mislaid or misdirected during the upheaval caused by reorganisation, whereas the record book appears to have been mislaid after the home closed in 1977. The minutes of the Belfast Welfare Committee went some way to make up for the absence of the Children's Officer's/Assistant Children's Officer's notes. In addition we had access to a number of personal files for boys resident in the home, though again there were some gaps in the records.

Vetting and supervision of students

- 6.6 At the material time, ie 1967/68, there were no formalised procedures relating to the placement of students in children's homes or hostels. Mr Moore, the Children's Officer at that time, gave evidence in particular that it was unlikely that there was any formal vetting of students prior to placements. The colleges might have made the arrangement directly with the Officer-in-Charge of a residential establishment. He was not sure whether the information would have been passed on to the Assistant Children's Officer or Children's Officer. It is safe to assume, however, that these officers were aware that students did take up placements in the

ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY

ACTION SHEET IN Bawnmore ENQUIRY

Job No.

Log No.

Date..... Information

KIN286

Hm Simon Mage

Origin Page 113

To Det. Insp./Sgt./Con.

m Bane

Action to be taken

Trees and Interview -H. M. Pinner, Mage.10/4/78 -Jim Elmore
Investigating Officer

Result:

Was in Bawnmore for 2/3 weeks in 1972/73
Has no complaint to make about any staff.
W. Smithwhite M/S

Statement Taken

YES / NO / REFUSED

Date

Det. Insp./Sgt./Con.

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: **BM 3**AGE OF WITNESS [if over 21 enter "over 21"] : **'OVER 21'**OCCUPATION OF WITNESS: **OFFICER IN CHARGE CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT CENTRE**ADDRESS: **[REDACTED]**TO BE COMPLETED
WHEN THE
STATEMENT HAS
BEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of 1 page, 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 **24th** day of **June** 19**80**(Sgd) **M W Braithwaite, D/Sgt.**SIGNATURE of MEMBER by whom
statement was recorded or received.

(Sgd)

BM 3

SIGNATURE of WITNESS

I was the Superintendent of Bawnmore Boys' Home, Mill Road, Whitehouse, from approximately 1960 until 1973. I had overall responsibility for the day to day welfare of the boys in the home. I have heard the allegations made by various boys against members of staff. I can only remember one being reported to me. I remember **HIA 532 / B1 / R13** complaining to me about a student from Rupert Stanley College, Robert Elder, showing him dirty photographs. I spoke to Elder and he admitted having these photographs and I told him not to have them in the home as they were not proper things for young boys to see. I cannot remember any other complaints of sexual behaviour by any boys. I would get complaints from boys about staff hitting them but these were of a trivial nature and I dealt with them accordingly. These were not frequent complaints.

SIGNATURE of WITNESS: (Sgd.) **BM 3**

WRITTEN STATEMENT 'AFTER CAUTION

STATEMENT OF ROBERT DEWAR ELDERADDRESS: [REDACTED]OCCUPATION FIRE SAFETY OFFICERAGE: 45 YEARSTAKEN BY: D/INSPECTOR McCLUREAT: GLENGORMLEY RUC STATIONON: 10 JUNE 1980 IN PRESENCE OF: W/D/CONSTABLE MONTGOMERY.

I, ROBERT DEWAR ELDER : Wish to make a statement.
I want someone to write down what I say. I have been told that I need
not say anything unless I wish to do so and that whatever I say may be
given in evidence.

(Sgd.) R ELDER

SIGNATURE OF STATEMENT MAKER

During 1967/1968 I was a student at the Rupert Stanley College in
residential child care. During this period I do not remember the
exact dates I was sent to Bawnmore Boys' Home, Mill Road, Newtownabbey.
This was for a period of about five or six weeks and it was for
practical experience. I remember HIA 532/B1/R13 he was an inmate of
the Home. I had a typewriter in my bedroom and I used to type reports.
I used to let HIA 532/B1/R13 use the typewriter. On two or three occasions when
HIA 532/B1/R13 was in the bedroom with me I got involved with him. I cannot
remember the exact circumstances, but it amounted to him masturbating
me and me masturbating him. There was oral sex as well. I remember
this happening in the middle of the night. I must have gone into his
bedroom and brought him to my room. As far as HIA 532/B1/R13 was concerned there
was no buggery. I remember HIA 532/B1/R13 told BM 3, the Head of the
Home about what had happened. BM 3 approached me about this and I
denied it. BM 3 obviously believed me and all he told me was not

STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: ROBERT DEWAR ELDER CONTINUATION PAGE NO: 2

to become too friendly with any of the kids. About a week after that I left the Home and returned to the Rupert Stanley College. I finished the course in September 1968 and did not go into child care. I have never been involved [REDACTED] in any homosexual activity since the time with [REDACTED] I can't explain now why I did it but it was a one off thing at the time.

(Sgd.) R ELDER.

I have read the above statement and I have told that I can correct, alter or add anything I wish. This statement is true I have made it of my own free will.

(Sgd.) R ELDER.

Statement commenced: 10.10 am.

Statement terminated: 10.25 am.

Witness:- P J Montgomery, W/D/Con. (Sgd.)

SIGNATURE OF STATEMENT MAKER: (Sgd.) R ELDER.

the Head of the home, about what had happened. Smyth approached me about this and I denied it. Mr Smyth obviously believed me and all he told me was not to become too friendly with any of the kids. About a week after that I left the home and returned to the Rupert Stanley College". Mr Smyth emphatically refuted the inference that B1 complained about Mr Elder's homosexual advances as well as the photographs. Mr Elder's statement was not, of course, tested in cross-examination and we took due account of that in weighing its value.

6.38 Again we were confronted with a direct conflict of evidence between B1 and Mr Elder's police statement on the one hand and Mr Smyth on the other. We found it difficult to understand why B1 would, in complaining about the photographs, have elaborated on Mr Elder's homosexual activities yet omitted to mention Mr Bone and S2, particularly as the alleged indecent assault by S2 took place on the very day of the alleged complaint. He said that he did not realise that their activities were wrong and at the time they began he was only eleven years of age, but we are inclined to the view that he concealed the nature of his relationship with Mr Bone specifically because of the material and social benefits which it provided. On balance, however, we believe that the evidence is that a complaint about Mr Elder's homosexual activities was made and that Mr Smyth was deceived by a denial and a story about the photographs which he should at least have sought to check by insisting on their production. We are satisfied that B1's complaint should have prompted Mr Smyth to report in writing to the Children's Officer with a view to his considering referral to the police. The short term nature of the placement meant, of course, that any possible danger to the Bawnmore residents was almost immediately removed.

6.39 B1's case also raised several other issues, in particular the circumstances in which Mr Bone was able to take him out of the home on a regular and frequent basis. Mr Bone's introduction to the home arose in the context of his Scouting activities, in the course of which he approached Mr Smyth with a view to doing voluntary work in the home. He took a photography class in the home and befriended several of the boys including B1. Mr Smyth gave evidence that he welcomed Mr Bone as a member of the community who was willing to be of assistance to the home. Bawnmore had a Scout troop of its own and its leader spoke highly of Mr Bone's Scouting activities and Mr Smyth also knew him as a professional

man, married with a family. Since there was no formal vetting procedure or guidelines, this information was gathered on Mr Smyth's initiative. He said that he was aware that Mr Bone took a particular interest in B1 but not of the frequency with which he took him out of the home and that he never developed any suspicions about their relationship. B1 was visited regularly by Social Welfare Officers between late 1968 and late 1970, during which time the relationship with Mr Bone was continuing.

Surprisingly, given the relative regularity of visits, B1 gave evidence that he could not recall the names of his Social Welfare Officers. There was only one anonymous reference to Mr Bone in the file notes, suggesting that the Social Welfare Officers were not aware of the extent of contact between him and B1. There was no evidence of regular visiting before late 1968, reflecting the fact that the monthly visiting policy was not introduced until that time. On the face of it, a breakdown in communication must have occurred between the residential staff and Social Welfare Officers to allow B1's lengthy relationship with Mr Bone to have gone virtually unremarked in the Social Welfare Officers' notes. The result was that this aspect of his supervision at the home was less than satisfactory.

6.40 We have noted that the frequency and regularity of visiting to B1 is not open to criticism. We were satisfied that B1 had sufficient opportunity to register a complaint with staff outside the home had he wished to pursue that course.

6.41 In his evidence, B1 referred to being very fond of the member of staff S1 but indicated that he probably would not have complained to him and that it would have required someone to approach him and enquire whether anything was wrong in order to elicit a complaint. In any case, S1 left Bawnmore in February 1969 so that he was not there for the full period of Mr Bone's relationship with B1.

6.42 In the event, B1 made no complaint against either Mr Bone or S2. B1's youth, the comparatively limited extent of S2's alleged activities, and the social and material benefits which were provided by Mr Bone combine to explain the absence of such a complaint. It is to be regretted that the complaint against Mr Elder did not reach the police, since a skilled and sensitive interview at that stage might well have uncovered Mr Bone's activities almost two years before they ceased.

STATEMENT OF: ROBERT DEWAR ELDER
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
OCCUPATION: UNEMPLOYED FIRE OFFICER AGE: 47 YRS DOB: 28.8.34
TAKEN BY: D/SGT D B ELLIOTT AT: CASTLEREAGH POLICE OFFICE
ON: 10 MARCH 1982 IN PRESENCE OF: D/CONST QUIGLEY

I, Robert Dewar Elder, wish to make a statement.
I want someone to write down what I say. I have been told that I need not say anything unless I wish to do so and that whatever I say may be given in evidence.

R Elder (Sgd)

SIGNATURE OF STATEMENT MAKER

During my year's child care course at the Rupert Stanley College in 1968 or 1969 I was sent to Bawnmore to do practical work experience. I think I was there about 4 - 6 weeks. During that 6 weeks I had buggery with KIN284 on two or three occasions. I think there must have been talk between KIN284 and another boy called HIA 532 / B1 / R13 about me. It came about by KIN284 having to be wakened by me and I would ask him to go to my bedroom. We then had sex together and played about on my bed. Probably we had oral sex as well. I think I may have buggered KIN284 on two or three occasions and that would have been in the bedroom as well. There was no force used on the boy because he consented so easily. I now have cleared my sheet in relation to any sexual activities. I'm sorry I didn't admit these offences with KIN284 the last time but I was afraid of the consequences.

Signed: R Elder

I have read the above statement, I have been told that I can correct, add or alter anything I wish, this statement is true, I have made it of my own free will.

Signed: R Elder

Statement Commenced: 11.10 am 10.3.82
Statement Completed: 11.20 am 10.3.82
Taken by: D/Sergeant D B Elliott
Witnessed by: D/Constable T H Quigley

BWN-20217

STATEMENT AFTER CAUTION

WRITTEN PERSONALLY BY MAKER

STATEMENT OF: JAMES HENRY CLARKE
ADDRESS: Box 2169 (412-3rd St. W) Meadow Lake Sask., Canada
OCCUPATION: Minister of Religion AGE: 43 July 04 42
(Christian-Missionary Alliance)
WRITTEN BY: James H Clarke AT: Antrim RUC
ON: July 4. 85 IN PRESENCE OF: D/C. Bell
D/C. Henry

I make this statement of my own free will. I have been told that I need not say anything unless I wish to do so and that whatever I say may be given in evidence.

J H CLARKE 4 40pm

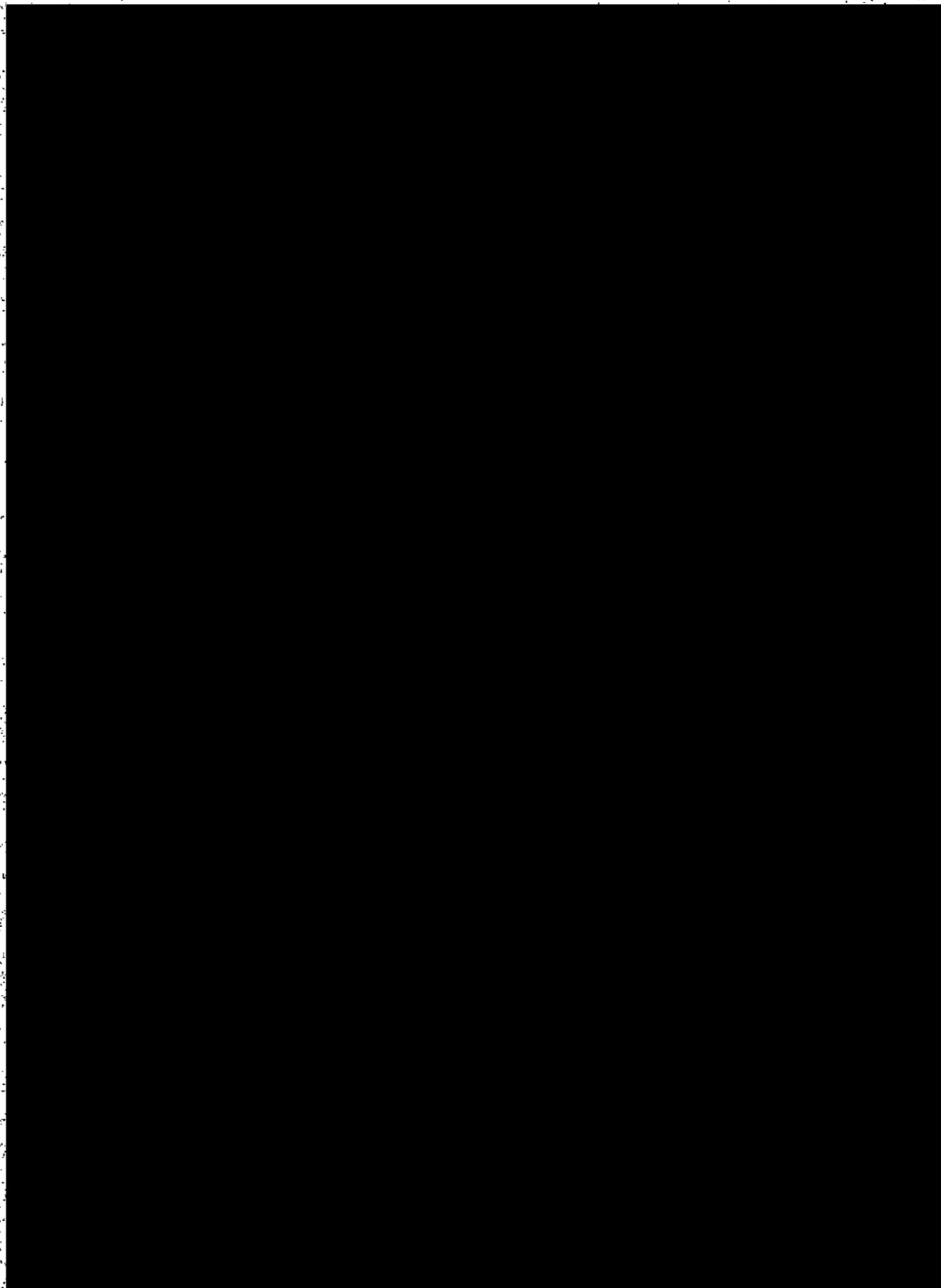
SIGNATURE OF STATEMENT MAKER

In my early teens I was involved by an older youth at his introduction to male sex. We masturbated and he had Anal sex with me. During my teen years I had sex with school friends, when I tried to have sex with females it was with little success. At aged fifteen I joined the Royal Air Force as a Boy Entrant and was in the Air Force for the next ten years, during my years in the Air Force I had sexual relationships with a number of males including Anal, Oral and Masturbation. Homosexuality grew on me to be the natural way to express sexual feelings. I left the Air Force in 1966 and joined the staff at Bawnmore Boys Home as an Assistant House Father and then Deputy Superintendent. It was here that I met HIA 532/B1/R13 and on one occasion just before I married in 1968 I slept with HIA 532/B1/R13 in my parents home and I remember masturbating him. I was interviewed by two RUC Detectives about this in Canada and at that time denied this because of fear and the fact Billy seemed to be saying more than I remembered. I am sorry for this and sought legal advice on the grounds that I had lied to these men and wanted to tell them the truth - Legal Council advised me to say nothing. (The advice was sought from [REDACTED]). After Bawnmore I was married August 1968 and went to work in Shaftesbury House School, Royston, England.

J H Clarke

STATEMENT OF: James Henry Clarke

CONTINUATION PAGE, NO: 2

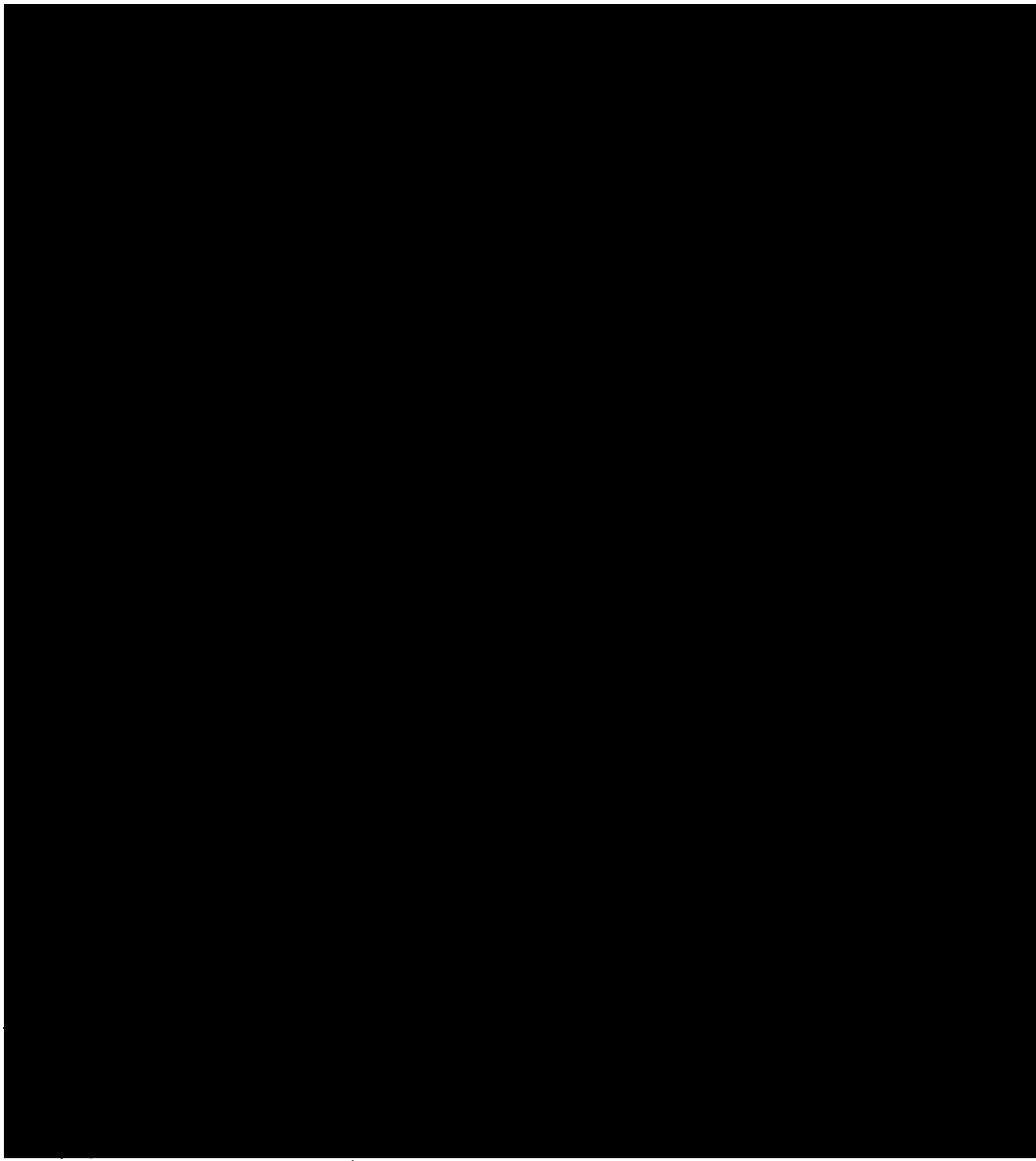


BWN-20219

STATEMENT OF: James Henry Clarke

CONTINUATION PAGE NO: 3

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL:



J H Clarke

I have recorded this statement in my own handwriting. Before handing it to D/C Bell I have read it and have been told that I can make any corrections or alterations I so desire. This statement is true I have made it of my own free will.

J H Clarke

The above statement was handed to me by J H Clarke at 6 10pm on Thursday 4 July 1985. Before commencing to write the statement I read over the Caution to him and invited him to sign it which he did.

Statement Witnessed By: RAYMOND BELL, D/Con.

H HENRY, D/Con.

SIGNATURE OF STATEMENT MAKER:

BWN-20178

S/DIVISIONAL REF. NO:

REF. NO:

DIVISIONAL REF. NO:

ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY

"P"

Division ANTRIM

Sub-Division/Department

ANTRIM (CID)

Station/Branch

4 September 1985

Date

SUBJECT: LETTER RECEIVED FROM PASTOR JAMES HENRY CLARKE OF CANADA.

ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY

'P' DIVISION

-4 SEP 1985

C.I.D. 73/85/1

C.I.D.

ANTRIM

TO: D/CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT,
NORTH REGION:

With reference to your minute of 15 August 1985, I have to report as follows:

██████████ has been traced and identified as ██████████
 DOB: ██████████ Unemployed Butcher, ██████████
 He was interviewed on 27 August 1985 and the attached written statement obtained from him.

It will be seen that he alleges Clarke masturbated him on one occasion while he was at a B.B. Camp at Newcastle, Co Down. He states that this happened to him only once when he was about 13 years of age. ██████████ is not aware of this happening to anyone else.

It will be seen that Clarke was Assistant Matron of Conway House and also played a leading role in B.B. affairs, so he would have had an opportunity to carry out similar acts with other boys had he so desired. Against this, however, ██████████ who was with ██████████ at the B.B. Camp has been interviewed re Firmount and he has no allegations to make against Clarke. ██████████ states Clarke only masturbated him on one occasion and he never heard of this happening to any other boy.

From facts to hand at present we have nothing to suggest that any other children from Conway House were molested by Clarke and on those grounds I do not see the need for any enquiry into that Childrens Home but I would be appreciative of any further directions which my Authorities wish to issue in respect of this matter.

I now submit this report for information and seek directions on the following points -

- (a) What further action, if any, to take regarding the children in Conway House.
- (b) What action, if any, to take in relation to Clarke's admission of Indecent Assault on ██████████
- (c) What action, if any, to take in relation to his query re informing the ██████████ as set out in paragraph three of his letter attached.

W M Farr

W M FARR
 D/Inspector 8558

BWN-20177

S/DIVISIONAL REF. NO:

REF. NO:

DIVISIONAL REF. NO:

ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY

North Region

Division D/C/Superintendents Office

Sub-Division/Department

CID Antrim

Station/Branch

6/9/85

Date

SUBJECT: LETTER RECEIVED FROM PASTOR JAMES HENRY CLARKE OF CANADA

TO: D/Chief Superintendent
C.I.

The offence against [REDACTED] would appear to have been an isolated incident and occurred 15 years ago.

There is no evidence or suggestion by Clarke or anyone else that any other children at Conway House were involved or interfered with.

Conway House has been closed since April 1982.


In answer to the three issues raised by Mr Farr I recommend as follows: -

(a) No further action.

(b) In view of recent DPP's direction regarding other alleged offences committed by Clarke (HQ Ref. No C.64/15/80) no further action.

(c) As Clarke has not been convicted of any offence there is no obligation to notify the R.C.M.P.

ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY
NORTH REGION C.I.D.
10 SEP 1985
NR 216/85
R.U.C. STATION
ANTRIM

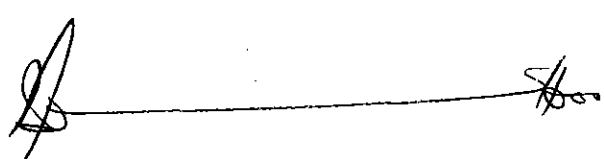

E C DREW

D/Chief Superintendent
North Region

SUBJECT:- LETTER RECEIVED FROM PASTOR JAMES HENRY CLARKE OF CANADA

Assistant Chief Constable
'C' Department

1. You will recall the speedily carried out investigation into offences of indecency allegedly committed by the above-named person while resident in Northern Ireland. A copy of the said investigation file is attached for information and it will be noted that DPP directed 'No Prosecution'. Pastor Clarke who was on holiday in Northern Ireland during the said investigation was permitted to return to Canada.
2. Pastor Clarke has now written to D/Inspector Farr and admits to a further indecent act against [REDACTED] whose statement is attached.
3. In view of the information contained in D/Inspector Farr's report of 4 September 1985 and that of 6 September 1985 by D/Chief Superintendent, North Region I would agree with the latter's recommendations although you may feel that a file should be prepared for DPP's direction in connection with the alleged indecent act committed by Clarke on [REDACTED]


T Hood
Chief Superintendent
C2

20 September 1985

BWN-20174

Reference

LETTER RECEIVED FROM PASTOR JAMES HENRY CLARKE OF CANADA

Chief Superintendent C2

I concur with the recommendations of D/Chief Superintendent North Region.

As the act admitted by Clarke is not punishable in law there is no necessity to forward papers to the DPP.

W. J. Thompson

W. J. THOMPSON
Chief Superintendent
Deputy ACC Crime

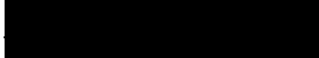
2 10 85

BWN-20332

FOR COURT PURPOSES ONLY

R. V.

EXHIBIT NO.

PART 2 FOR RUC USE ONLY	
DESCRIPTION OF ITEM <i>Letter of Resignation dated 28/1/1969 - Brian Bawnmore</i>	
IDENTIFICATION MARK	<i>9 E 73</i>
AS REFERRED TO IN MY STATEMENT	
SIGNATURE	DATE
	<i>8.6.82</i>

PART 3
FOR LABORATORY USE ONLY

CASE REF.NO.	<i>1</i>
SERIAL NO.	

4/80

DCW
CC
EDWO AA
DWCO DWO(S)
28 JAN 1969	
DWCO (W)
SOP H.O
Copies to.....	

can you take to me

Signature Hall
6/1/69
Ch. Bawnmore

I wish to give one weeks notice with view to my resignation. My notice to commence on Friday 31ST January, 1969 and terminate on Friday 7th ~~February~~ *January*, 1969

For some time now I have felt that at the present time in Bawnmore something is lacking in staff relationships.

I feel that this may be having an adverse affect on me at times whenever I have to correct a boy.

I find instead of keeping calm and thinking things over I have found

to lose my temper.

To me this is a sign to get out and leave a change. I know that I shall regret leaving the friendships of the children, whom I think I got on well with most of my time in Bawnmore.

This matter was brought to a head when Mr [REDACTED] one of bullying a boy. To my knowledge I have never deliberately bullied any boy in this house and any of the children may be asked on that point. I think I have been very fair to them all.

At times I may have been a little tougher in my approach when dealing with a child but I did this not to

P.T.C.

BWN-20334

satisfy my own temper but always
with the good of the child in mind.

Since **BM 3** has suddenly
changed his views on the way I
deal with a child I am afraid
the time has come to part it all up.

I am indeed deeply hurt by
this accusation as I have at all
times been sensitive to any child's
needs and problems.

With all the years experience
I have had in dealing with children
I have never at any time been accused
of pushing a child around indeed
many parents and youth workers could
vouch for this.

Since the accusation comes
from a person whom I hold in
very high esteem and would not

BWN-20335

embarrassed in any way, the matter
has been the wound even deeper.

Bearing all this in mind and knowing
that his views were probably influenced
by someone else. I knew I must
leave before my admiration for
a man who taught me most of my
child care is tarnished.

To me **BM 3** is a very
sincere + dedicated person towards
his views on Child Care and I
believe in them myself.

Therefore Mr. Moore I ask
you to accept my resignation with
the deepest regret from me.

I wish to thank you for any
help you may have given me in the
past and trust that this resignation is accepted.

Yours Faithfully,

S 1

Continuation Page

Page No. 6

20. D/Superintendent Caskey then read aloud the contents of the witness statements recorded by each of the complainants and then asked S 1 to account for the allegations. Throughout the readings he had remained composed. He denied the allegations but stated "I was very strict, it's very possible they had it against me. I had nothing to do with the allegations, nothing whatsoever".
21. S 1 admitted that he had bathed some of the boys using a face cloth because he "had to inspect them for lice on their bodies" but he suggested that any examination of their testicles was done "without embarrassment to the child".
22. When he was asked for details of the assault on him by Mains at Kincora which he had referred to earlier, S 1 hesitated and to some extent avoided the question. However, he admitted he had told BM 3 the officer in charge, that he did not wish to return to Kincora although he did not give a reason to BM 3
23. D/Superintendent Caskey referred S 1 to his resignation letter dated 28.1.1969, now marked GC73, which was contained in S 1's personal file marked GC72. It was pointed out that the letter did not contain any reference to the assault by Mains but referred to a physical assault by S 1 on a resident. S 1 alleged that he did not get sufficient backing, thus his reason for resigning.
24. S 1 continued to deny the allegations but suggested that complaints had been made because "Perhaps hatred towards you basically, that's it. If you have to discipline someone, some of them hold it against you forever. In some cases they would be out to get you. I worked on some situations where people tried to knife me".

Part III

GC73

Pages 1 - 4

Continuation Page

Page No. ...7...

25. In relation to B3/R1's allegations, S 1 related how B3/R1 had witnessed him giving medical assistance to B3/R1's father who had injured his penis in the toilets of Bawnmore Home. S 1 was apparently suggesting that the boy could have misconstrued the situation and consequently made the allegation against him.
26. D/Superintendent Caskey then asked S 1 to make a comment in respect of each of the complainant's allegations. In relation to B 4's complaint, S 1 suggested that he resented discipline.
27. In B 5's case, S 1 recalled that he smacked him because he was in a temper tantrum.
28. S 1 could not recall B 2.
29. S 1 refused to undergo a medical examination and he considered it "Irrelevant at the moment". He agreed however to record a statement after caution.
30. At that stage 5.25 pm the interview was suspended to permit S 1 private consultation with his solicitor. When the interview was resumed at 6 pm D/Superintendent Caskey recorded a one-line statement after caution at S 1's dictation, in which he said that the allegations were "completely false and untrue". The statement is marked GC74. The interview terminated at 6.05 pm.
31. One ex resident of the Bawnmore Home, HIA 532/B1/R13, has recorded 2 allegations against James Henry Clarke. His statement is attached at Part II of this file and reference


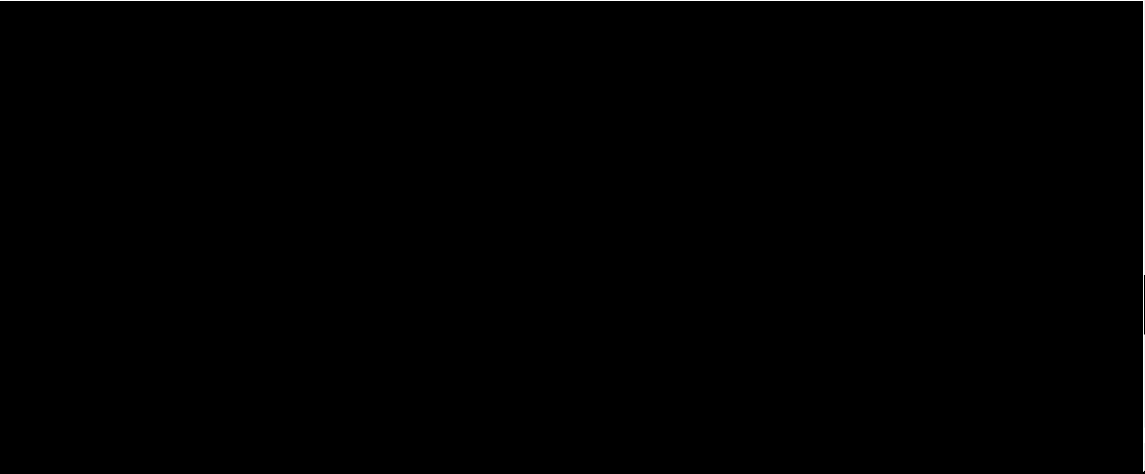
Part III
GC74
Page 5

Part II
Pages 44 - 48

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Interview Log - Audio/Video Tape

Page No

Time	Description
	
	<p>The first home that he has any memory of was when he was about 12/13 years old. It was a home called 'Bawnmoor'. He had been placed there when he was about 9 years old. He had been in and out of there a few times as a result of his mother coming and going at home. His memory is of a lady being there who would check to see if they were clean and would lift up their genitals. He states that this was too much and he would often have erections. At that home was also male called S 1 who liked to rub himself up against the boys and always had an erection. KIN135 felt this was totally foreign to him and states that this went on for while. 5</p> 

OCD-213-(280pg) R v BM 1 c64-19-82 -Palmerston

NORTHERN IRELAND CENTRAL SERVICES AGENCY
FOR THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICESPLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
THE CHIEF LEGAL ADVISER25 Adelaide Street,
Belfast BT2 8FH.
TEL 324431

YOUR REF. C64/19/82

OUR REF.

LW/26E/1D/17

DATE 28 October 1987

Chief Superintendent T Hood
Royal Ulster Constabulary
Headquarters
Brookland
Knock Road
BELFAST
BT5 6LE

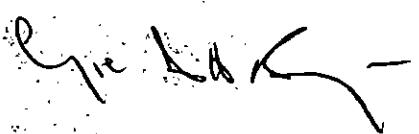
Dear Sir

I thank you for your letter of the 22nd instant, the contents of which I note. I am disappointed that the information in your possession has not been made available to the Board as same would appear to be in direct conflict to the sentiments expressed in Chief Superintendent Thompson's letter of the 28 July 1986, addressed to the Director of Social Services.

As I have endeavoured to explain, BM 1 now makes the suggestion that his conviction in respect of the charges of indecent assault was as the result of him having administered corporal punishment in an inappropriate manner. The Board, on the other hand, is in possession of information which would suggest that BM 1 came into a bathroom when a boy was bathing, he made the boy bend over the bath and smacked and rubbed his backside and touched his private parts. In addition, I am advised that BM 1 on another occasion told a boy to come out of a shower and then grabbed the boy's private parts. It is alleged he held them for a few seconds until the boy jumped back into the shower. On a third occasion BM 1 requested a boy to take down his pyjamas and bend over a bed. It is alleged that he then rubbed the boy's backside and smacked him lightly. Are you in a position to confirm that these allegations formed the substance of the charges brought against BM 1?

I await your early reply.

Yours faithfully,



Chief Legal Adviser

GB/AD/9

OCD-213-(280pg) R v BM 1 c64-19-82 - Palmerston

The Chief Legal Adviser
Northern Ireland Central Services Agency
for the Health and Social Services
25 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8FH

LW/26E/1D/17

C64/19/82

17 November 1987

Dear Sir

Please refer to your communication dated 28th ultimo concerning
the supply of statements in the BM 1 case.

You now seek confirmation of allegations made against BM 1
in 3 particular cases and I must inform you that the allegations
enumerated in the 2nd paragraph of your letter are substantially
correct.

I trust that this information will be sufficient to meet your requirements.

Yours faithfully


G. Pollock

Superintendent
for Chief Constable

STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY

I was employed by Belfast Welfare Authority as House Mother at Bawnmore Home from 1964 to 1975 after undergoing a course in child care at Rupert Stanley College.

During the second period of **S 1** employment at the Home I can recall one evening after tea some sort of disturbance in the Home, as a result of which **BM 3** the Head of the Home, went upstairs and spoke to **B 5**. I did not hear what was said as I was coming up the stairs at the time. When I arrived upstairs **BM 5** told me that **S 1** had beaten him. **BM 5** was very upset and I comforted him. I heard no conversation between **S 1** and **BM 3**. I think that **S 1** went home that night and did not return to the Home.

If **B 5** had told me that he had been sexually assaulted I am sure that it would have stuck in my mind. I saw **B 5** at the Home many times afterwards, and after he left the Home, but at no time did he mention the incident again.

BM 2

Saturday 23 February 1985

Certified a true copy of the original statement.

I. D. M. Merino

Solicitor to the Inquiry.

- 6.43 B1 was transferred to Kincora after his discharge from Bawnmore and his evidence on his time there is considered in paragraphs 3.100-3.106.

A further alleged complaint against S1

- 6.44 A further allegation that a complaint of homosexual misconduct against S1 was made to Mr Smyth was laid by a former Bawnmore resident, referred to in evidence as B5, in his May 1980 police statement. The DPP directed in 1981 that no prosecution should be brought against S1. No person was convicted of homosexual offences involving B5. Again, in the absence of a conviction or disciplinary action, our interest was confined to whether a complaint of homosexual misconduct was made and how, if made, it was handled. B5 is a person of below average intelligence. He was admitted to Bawnmore in July 1967 when he was nearly eleven years of age and was discharged in April 1973.

- 6.45 In his police statement B5 said that he was sexually assaulted by S1 when about fifteen years of age. In fact, S1 left employment in Bawnmore in February 1969 when B5 was under thirteen. B5's statement referred to his telling one of the Bawnmore staff, shortly before 6 pm, that he had a headache and did not want to go to the Cubs. He was sent to bed. The statement then described S1 coming into the dormitory and shouting at B5 for not attending the Cubs. It alleged that S1 twisted B5's arm up his back, pulled his pyjamas down and committed buggery. B5 then ran out and smashed the fire alarm, bringing several members of staff onto the scene. B5 "told them what had happened" and Mr Smyth told S1 to go home. The statement went on to say that B5 was examined by a doctor the next morning and told to stay in bed for a couple of weeks. S1 came to apologise that day but B5 refused his offer of sweets and when S1 came back later in the day, he was told to leave B5 alone by Mr William Kerrigan, a member of the staff (see paragraph 6.49).

- 6.46 In his evidence to us B5 said that he told Mr Smyth that S1 had hit him but that he had been too frightened to tell him or Miss Helen Lowry, a Housemother, what S1 had done. He could not recall if he told the examining doctor on the following day. Mr Smyth gave evidence that one of the residents came to him and told him about the fire alarm and that, when he arrived on the scene, S1 and B5 were shouting at each other. He told S1 to go home and that he would discuss the matter with him the next day. He said that S1 was defending himself against B5's allegation that he had

manhandled him but that there was no allegation of homosexual abuse. Miss Lowry made a statement to us to the effect that she recalled a disturbance in the home, one evening after tea, as a result of which Mr Smyth spoke to B5. When she arrived, B5 was very upset and she comforted him. She stated that B5 told her that S1 had beaten him. Mr Smyth gave evidence that he discussed the incident with S1 subsequently and S1 told him that he had been trying to help B5 who had reacted with verbal abuse. S1 and B5 subsequently were brought together, agreed that the incident had been an explosion of tempers, and shook hands.

- 6.47 Mr Smyth also gave evidence that the incident would have been recorded in the minutes of staff meetings which were held in the home. This is one of the Bawnmore records which was not available to us. He told us that, in addition, he informed B5's Social Welfare Officer about the incident. B5's Social Welfare Officer in the period preceding S1's departure from Bawnmore in February 1969 was Mrs Margaret Robinson. She made a statement to the effect that she had no recollection of Mr Smyth telling her about any incident involving S1 and B5, or of B5 being bullied or of a fire bell being set off.
- 6.48 Neither of the two doctors identified as having acted as Medical Officer for Bawnmore at the material time had any recollection of the incident described in evidence. B5's current doctor was unable to provide any relevant records.
- 6.49 Mr Kerrigan (see paragraph 6.45) provided evidence which established that he was not employed at Bawnmore at any time during which S1 was employed there. We are satisfied that B5's references to him in his police statement were based on an incorrect recollection.
- 6.50 The lack of documentary evidence made it difficult to date this incident. S1 submitted a letter of resignation in January 1969, however, which may throw some light on the matter. In his letter, which was addressed to Mr Moore as Children's Officer, he said:-

"For some time now I have felt that at the present time in Bawnmore something is lacking in staff relationships. I feel that this may be having an adverse effect on me at times, whenever I have to correct a boy. I find instead of keeping cool and thinking things over I have tended to lose my temper..... This matter was brought to a head when

the Head of the home, about what had happened. Smyth approached me about this and I denied it. Mr Smyth obviously believed me and all he told me was not to become too friendly with any of the kids. About a week after that I left the home and returned to the Rupert Stanley College". Mr Smyth emphatically refuted the inference that B1 complained about Mr Elder's homosexual advances as well as the photographs. Mr Elder's statement was not, of course, tested in cross-examination and we took due account of that in weighing its value.

6.38 Again we were confronted with a direct conflict of evidence between B1 and Mr Elder's police statement on the one hand and Mr Smyth on the other. We found it difficult to understand why B1 would, in complaining about the photographs, have elaborated on Mr Elder's homosexual activities yet omitted to mention Mr Bone and S2, particularly as the alleged indecent assault by S2 took place on the very day of the alleged complaint. He said that he did not realise that their activities were wrong and at the time they began he was only eleven years of age, but we are inclined to the view that he concealed the nature of his relationship with Mr Bone specifically because of the material and social benefits which it provided. On balance, however, we believe that the evidence is that a complaint about Mr Elder's homosexual activities was made and that Mr Smyth was deceived by a denial and a story about the photographs which he should at least have sought to check by insisting on their production. We are satisfied that B1's complaint should have prompted Mr Smyth to report in writing to the Children's Officer with a view to his considering referral to the police. The short term nature of the placement meant, of course, that any possible danger to the Bawnmore residents was almost immediately removed.

6.39 B1's case also raised several other issues, in particular the circumstances in which Mr Bone was able to take him out of the home on a regular and frequent basis. Mr Bone's introduction to the home arose in the context of his Scouting activities, in the course of which he approached Mr Smyth with a view to doing voluntary work in the home. He took a photography class in the home and befriended several of the boys including B1. Mr Smyth gave evidence that he welcomed Mr Bone as a member of the community who was willing to be of assistance to the home. Bawnmore had a Scout troop of its own and its leader spoke highly of Mr Bone's Scouting activities and Mr Smyth also knew him as a professional

man, married with a family. Since there was no formal vetting procedure or guidelines, this information was gathered on Mr Smyth's initiative. He said that he was aware that Mr Bone took a particular interest in B1 but not of the frequency with which he took him out of the home and that he never developed any suspicions about their relationship. B1 was visited regularly by Social Welfare Officers between late 1968 and late 1970, during which time the relationship with Mr Bone was continuing.

Surprisingly, given the relative regularity of visits, B1 gave evidence that he could not recall the names of his Social Welfare Officers. There was only one anonymous reference to Mr Bone in the file notes, suggesting that the Social Welfare Officers were not aware of the extent of contact between him and B1. There was no evidence of regular visiting before late 1968, reflecting the fact that the monthly visiting policy was not introduced until that time. On the face of it, a breakdown in communication must have occurred between the residential staff and Social Welfare Officers to allow B1's lengthy relationship with Mr Bone to have gone virtually unremarked in the Social Welfare Officers' notes. The result was that this aspect of his supervision at the home was less than satisfactory.

6.40 We have noted that the frequency and regularity of visiting to B1 is not open to criticism. We were satisfied that B1 had sufficient opportunity to register a complaint with staff outside the home had he wished to pursue that course.

6.41 In his evidence, B1 referred to being very fond of the member of staff S1 but indicated that he probably would not have complained to him and that it would have required someone to approach him and enquire whether anything was wrong in order to elicit a complaint. In any case, S1 left Bawnmore in February 1969 so that he was not there for the full period of Mr Bone's relationship with B1.

6.42 In the event, B1 made no complaint against either Mr Bone or S2. B1's youth, the comparatively limited extent of S2's alleged activities, and the social and material benefits which were provided by Mr Bone combine to explain the absence of such a complaint. It is to be regretted that the complaint against Mr Elder did not reach the police, since a skilled and sensitive interview at that stage might well have uncovered Mr Bone's activities almost two years before they ceased.

531. ELDER was interviewed by Detective Sergeant BRAITHWAITE and Detective Woman Constable MONTGOMEREY. After a brief denial, ELDER admitted that [HIA 532 / B1 / R13] s account of what had taken place between them was right. He admitted, somewhat unconvincingly, that KIN284 allegation was true. In his cautioned statement ELDER makes no reference to KIN284 allegation but makes a clear admission of his gross indecency with [HIA 532 / B1 / R13]. He also refers to [HIA 532 / B1 / R13] complaint to BM 3 which I have already referred to in paragraph 528 of this report. According to ELDER, BM 3 spoke to him about [HIA 532 / B1 / R13] s complaints, not only dealing with the pornographic photographs, but putting the indecency allegations to him. ELDER states that he denied the indecency to BM 3 but admitted possessing the pornographic photographs.

532. Here is yet another instance where a boy in care in a childrens' home made a complaint of a serious criminal sexual offence to a person who was responsible for the boy's welfare, but once again the official declined to notify the police but embarked upon an investigation of his own. In this instance BM 3 had a prompt indication that there was some credence in the allegation made by the boy when the story about the pornographic photographs was confirmed by ELDER, but BM 3 thereafter accepted the denial made by ELDER regarding the allegations of indecent behaviour. In fairness to BM 3 it has to be said that he denies receiving a complaint from [HIA 532 / B1 / R13] but the combined evidence of [HIA 532 / B1 / R13] and ELDER makes it reasonably clear that BM 3 did receive the complaint particularly in view of further complaints made to BM 3 as detailed in this report.



BM 35

Tele: [redacted] (home)
[redacted] (mobile)

Email [redacted]

24/9/04
Mr Gary Smyth
Honours Secretariat
O.F.M.D.F.M.
Room E4.15
Stormont
Belfast
BT5 3FR
N Ireland

22 SEPTEMBER 2004

Dear Mr. SMYTH

Nomination of **BM 3** for an Honour

Please find enclosed nomination form, downloaded from U.K. government website, duly completed. I have been advised to send this application to you since it involves a citizen of Northern Ireland.

May I just say a word about myself before submitting a brief resume on **BM 3**. I am 54 years old, originally from [redacted], and have lived in [redacted] for over 27 years. My only brother, **BM 36**, also lives nearby in [redacted]. We have both married (and divorced) since arriving in [redacted] and have raised 6 children (1 grandchild on way) between us. I am a successful [redacted] whilst my brother is unable to work through disability, but in any event has his daughter, aged 16 years and pregnant, at home. In 1961 **BM 36** and I were taken into Bawnmore home, where for the first year or so we suffered physical and psychological abuse from the female "carers". **BM 3** took over. The abuse ended. We were treated like human beings, young people with a right to respect and a right to life. We left "the home" in 1964.

The past 40 years have not been easy but thanks to **BM 3** we have survived. We were given the basic tools by him to allow us to have a decent life and make our contribution, however small, to society. Many, many, people like us are so grateful to **BM 3** who went way beyond just "doing his job ". He kept us safe and free from abuse of all kinds, was, and still is, thank God, the father we never had.

Systems Failures

82. The Board identifies the following systems failures from the evidence available thus far in this Module:

- a. B1's complaint against Mr Elder ought to have been recorded in writing to ensure the information was shared with relevant professionals. In particular "... *B1's complaint should have prompted BM 3 to report in writing to the Children's Officer with a view to his considering referral to the police*" [HIA 872, para 6.38]
- b. The relationship between B1 and Mr Bone went "*virtually unremarked in the Social Welfare Officer's notes*". The HSCB notes that this may have arisen from either a breakdown in communicating information from the residential staff to the fieldwork staff, or through a lack of recording by the fieldwork Social Welfare Officer. As records from the Home are not available the HSCB cannot confirm which difficulty arose. Notwithstanding this, the Hughes Inquiry found and the HSCB accepts "*The result was that this aspect of his supervision at the home was less than satisfactory*" [HIA 872, para 6.39]
- c. As detailed by the Hughes Inquiry, the HSCB accepts that between 1968 and 1970 "... *there do not appear to have been any guidelines governing visitors taking children out of the home. We consider that this was a material gap in the Belfast Welfare Authority's arrangements for the supervision of children in its care*" [HIA 864, para 6.13]

Statement of Truth

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

Signed



Dated 6 May 2016

no prosecution was directed by the DPP.

- 4.6 The Belfast Welfare Authority, MoHA or the DHSS were not aware of the above offences and allegations prior to the commencement of the police investigation which preceded the Hughes Inquiry.
- 4.7 In its search for information on which to base this statement, the Department considered the contents of a Departmental file entitled "Child Care Policy Directorate Bawnmore Children's Home"¹⁹. The contents of this file cover the period September 2004 to September 2005 and relate mainly to the Bawnmore Children's Home in Belfast which was opened in 1974 by the Eastern Health and Social Services Board and had no connection with the Bawnmore Boys Home, Newtownabbey which featured in the Hughes Inquiry. However, it would appear that the file was originally intended to store papers relating to Bawnmore, Newtownabbey, as its first set of documents relate to an Honours nomination received by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) in September 2004 from a former resident of Bawnmore, BM 35 BM 35 was nominating a former member of the Bawnmore staff, BM 3 for a UK National Honour. The relevant documents are presented at Annex A.
- 4.8 BM 35 intimated in his supporting letter to the nomination that in 1961, he and his brother had been taken into Bawnmore Home *"where for the first year or so we suffered physical and psychological abuse from the female 'carers.'"* The nomination information was passed by OFMDFM to the Department by letter dated 29 September 2004. The OFMDFM letter drew attention to the statement made by BM 35 in relation to abuse. On a date in October 2004, the then Chief Inspector, Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) wrote to BM 35 seeking from him more details regarding the incidents to which he had referred in his correspondence. The Departmental file does not contain any further records in relation to this matter and it is assumed that a response was not received from BM 35. It is not known whether the EHSSB was alerted to the information contained in BM 35's letter.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 In its review of the above information, the Department has come to the conclusions outlined in paragraphs 5.2 to 5.5 below in relation to Bawnmore.
- 5.2 With reference to its inspection record, the Department has in previous statements to the HIAI acknowledged the limitations of the inspection approach taken by MoHA in terms of its nature and capacity to effectively evaluate the quality of care in the home. The Department has suggested, however, that the methodology was of an acceptable standard for its time and inspections appear to have been carried out in general on an annual or biannual basis. This seems to have been the case with Bawnmore until 1970. As noted above, the frequency with which MoHA inspections were carried out

¹⁹ File No BS 1019/04 sent to the HIAI on 1 May 2015

- 5.5 The Department has also considered its response to the 'incidental' allegation by **BM 35** regarding his care in Bawnmore. Although the Bawnmore Home had closed in 1977, this had been an NHSSB home and the Department is of the view that this information should have been passed to the NHSSB with a view to the Board taking any action it might have felt appropriate in the circumstances. This is likely to have included a review of the case records of **BM 35** and his brother for the period in question, regardless of whether or not they wished to take the matter further.
- 5.6 Whilst the Department acknowledges some shortcomings in relation to the above matters, it has no reason to suggest that opportunities to prevent the abuse of children were missed or that if the shortcomings had been addressed, this in itself would have had the potential to detect or prevent the abuse of children in the absence of a complaint or the actual witnessing by Inspectors/SWAs of physical evidence, behaviour or relationships which gave rise to concern.



Signed

Date **29 April 2016**