

## HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY 1922 – 1995

Statement of [REDACTED] SPT141

Module 7 – St Patrick's Training School

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015

19 AUG 2015

I, [REDACTED] SPT141, will say as follows;

1. I was a resident of St Patrick's Training School for [REDACTED] months in [REDACTED] I was aged [REDACTED] when I arrived.
2. I went straight into the Senior Section.
3. I had an individual room.
4. We were all well fed. I can safely say we got as much food as we liked. It was like a hotel. Even before bed you could grab a glass of milk and a bun.
5. I was taught by lay staff. I received painting and decorating training with some additional classes in religion and a few other subjects.
6. At night there were 2 civilian nightwatchmen who patrolled the dorms.
7. The Brothers I associated with most were Brothers [REDACTED] BR26 [REDACTED] BR94 and [REDACTED] BR91 I always found [REDACTED] BR94 to be a real gentleman, just a genuinely nice person. [REDACTED] BR26 was similarly but slightly more strict. [REDACTED] BR91 was fine as well.
8. I never absconded from St Patricks. Other boys may have absconded or misbehaved but the older boys would have discouraged them, telling them to stop causing trouble for the Brothers who we considered were good to us.
9. I never saw anyone get slapped or strapped and was I was never in receipt of corporal punishment.
10. Both [REDACTED] BR91 and [REDACTED] BR26 may have come into my room in the evenings. [REDACTED] BR26 would have called by to check on you. [REDACTED] BR91 was often calling to get names for the various activities the next day.
11. I'm aware that serious allegations have been made against [REDACTED] BR26 I don't believe those allegations. If anything like that had been happening, whether from [REDACTED] BR26 or another Brother, you would have heard something.

12. In terms of activities I mainly went swimming or to the TV/Snooker room. It was generally lay staff who supervised the activities.
13. I vaguely remember [REDACTED] BR1. I recall that he worked in the office. He took very little to do with the boys.
14. My father visited me regularly, perhaps every night. I didn't get out at the weekends but on the odd occasion one of the lay staff would bring me home for a few hours.
15. I often went back to visit the school, the Brothers and the civilian teachers. I have kept in touch with the Brothers since [REDACTED] and regularly see BR94. I can safely say I have never met a nicer person in my life – a real gent.
16. I live [REDACTED] Since I left the only negative thing I read or heard about the Brothers was an article about BR1 about [REDACTED] years ago. I have never heard a bad word said about the others. I was shocked and saddened to hear that BR 94 and Br BR26 are facing allegations. All I can say is that neither of them or any other Brother slapped or interfered with me and I did not hear even the slightest whisper of it happening to anyone.

SPT141

Signed: [REDACTED]

Dated: 15-8-15

CONDUCT MARKS SHEET

NAME [REDACTED] SPT141

ST. PATRICK'S TRAINING SCHOOL

ADDRESS [REDACTED] REG. NO. .... L GRADE... *J. R.* .....

DATE	HOUSE	VOCATIONAL	TOTAL	REMARKS
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	2	10	12	Talking in line of <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> missing
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	10	10	20	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>			20	HOLIDAYS
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>			20	- - -
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	10	10	20	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	4	10	14	late in for supper - Talking in class
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	10	9	19	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	10	10	20	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	10	10	20	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	8	10	18	DINING ROOM.

REPORT AFTER 12 WEEKS

CONDUCT MARKS SHEET

NAME [REDACTED] SPT141

ST. PATRICK'S TRAINING SCHOOL

ADDRESS [REDACTED] REG. NO. .... L GRADE III (R)

DATE	HOUSE	VOCATIONAL	TOTAL	REMARKS
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	-	-	20	EASTER HOLIDAY <sup>UPGRADED</sup> TO III R
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	5	10	15	BTH IN DINING ROOM; OUTSIDE
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	10	10	20	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	10	10	20	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	10	10	20	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	10	10	20	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	10	10	20	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	10	9	19	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	10	10	20	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	10	10	20	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>	10	10	20	

REPORT AFTER 12 WEEKS

CONDUCT MARKS SHEET

NAME [REDACTED] SPT141

ST. PATRICK'S TRAINING SCHOOL

ADDRESS

REG. NO. .... L GRADE..... *R* .....

DATE	HOUSE	VOCATIONAL	TOTAL	REMARKS
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> 7	8		15	Average
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> 0	8		8	Absconded.
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> 8	9		17	House-work.
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> 5	9		14	Messing in Corridor.
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> 6	10		16	Slow to rise + lin
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> 7	10		17	General noisy behaviour
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> 10	10		20	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> 10	10		20	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> 10	10		20	
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> 0	10		10	Talking at 10.20 p.m.
<span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> 10	10		20	

REPORT AFTER 12 WEEKS

OCCURENCE SHEET

SPT141

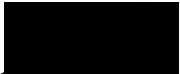

NAME



DATE

NOTES



Admitted on Remand. PAR NOT ✓   
absconded with  - Reported!  
Returned @ 10.40 PM on his own - cancelled.

SPT141 is the third child in a family of [REDACTED], [REDACTED] girls and [REDACTED] boys. The family reside in a modern semi-detached house in the [REDACTED] area. They had lived in the [REDACTED] area originally and their home at that time was damaged in a sectarian bomb attack, they were forced to leave this area. The mother [REDACTED], is a full time housewife and the father [REDACTED] is the manager of a [REDACTED]. Both parents are very concerned about the boy, and they have been attentive to him and given him every encouragement to behaviour during his remand period here.

He is a boy who is good humoured, reasonably intelligent and co-operative in all aspects of school life. He did have some difficulty settling down when he first arrived (he absconded on two occasions during his first week here, but these were for very short periods 1 hour approximately and he returned to the school on his own). However the remainder of his stay i.e. [REDACTED] has been trouble free. He participates in recreational activities e.g. swimming, football, etc., and has a very good relationship with other boys and staff.

SPT141 is a steady sort of worker who is fairly easily distracted. He is much more competent at physical work i.e. writing or Maths, than communicating with others in class discussions, where he finds it more difficult to express himself. His attitude to classwork is average in so far as he would rarely have the initiative to start work first. Good-humoured lad who likes to participate in class (banter!), which he'd prefer to prolong than work. He works better on his own than in the company of others. His work content reflects his average ability and intelligence.

Influences outside the home, and possibly the fact that the family did suffer because of the existing civil unrest.

Yes.

He is involved in the Painting Department. His attitudes and response have been very responsible his instructor is well pleased with his progress. We have no doubt that the Training School has a good deal to offer this youth and that he would benefit from a period of residential Training.

Dear Sir,

Re: [REDACTED] SPT141

D.O.B: [REDACTED]

With reference to the above named and the attached enclosures I have the following observations to make. [REDACTED] SPT141 was admitted on remand on [REDACTED] on a charge of [REDACTED], he was jointly charged with another youth and [REDACTED]. The other youth absconded repeatedly and initially this had a somewhat unsettled affect on [REDACTED] SPT141

His marks for Vocational Training and from the Caring Staff speak for themselves. In our opinion this youth exercised a good influence in the school and we would be quite prepared to have him back in St. Patrick's should the authorities see fit to grant it. We have no doubt that the Training School has a considerable amount to offer this youth.

Yours faithfully,

Headmaster,  
Senior School.

Mr. R. Sterling,  
Assistant Secretary,  
Northern Ireland Office,  
Dundonald House,  
Upper Newtownards Road,  
Belfast,  
BT4 3SU.





NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
DUNDONALD HOUSE  
UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD  
BELFAST BT4 3SU  
Telephone Dundonald 4522

BR26

St Patrick's Training School  
Glen Road  
BELFAST  
BT11 88X

Dear BR26

RE: SPT141

This boy's case has now been very thoroughly examined by the Department. If all goes well he is due for release on remission on [REDACTED] next and in the meantime has settled well in the [REDACTED] where there is a wide range of useful activities available to him. In the circumstances and as the Court has recently dealt with his case it would seem as well that he should serve out his sentence where he now is.

If future cases of this kind should arise in the future it is important that the boy's case is fully presented in Court and indeed it does seem that SPT141 was well represented. It should be made clear that if a case has been initiated before age [REDACTED] that the training school option is still available to the Court even though age [REDACTED] has been attained in the interim period to the court hearing. His conduct in the training school while on remand should be fully explained to show that he is suitable for training school treatment and that you are prepared to have him if the Court so orders.

If this is all fully explained to the Court and the Court nonetheless decides that for other reasons, particularly the gravity of the offence, a prison sentence must be imposed you will appreciate that it would be quite wrong to attempt to alter that decision by administrative action.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
PP R S STERLING

DKR

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Sterling,

Re: [REDACTED] SPT141 [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] re: the above named. I note  
that all going well this youth could qualify  
for release on the [REDACTED] next. In  
the circumstances I quite agree that there  
would be no point whatever in making any  
further representation on his behalf.

I appreciate your interest in this  
case.

Yours sincerely,

Headmaster,  
Senior School.

Mr. R. Sterling,  
Assistant Secretary,  
Northern Ireland Office,  
Dundonald House,  
Upper Newtownards Road,  
Belfast,  
BT4 3SU.

## LETTERS AND VISITS TO PRISONERS

## VISITING HOURS:

Mon.-Fri.: 9.30 a.m.-12 noon and 2 p.m.-4 p.m.  
 Saturday: 9 a.m.-12 noon and 1.30 p.m.-4 p.m.  
 No Visits: Sunday, Christmas Day and  
 Good Friday.

PLEASE VISIT MID-WEEK IF POSSIBLE

In replying to this letter, please address the envelope as follows:

SPT141

Number..... Name.....

Prison

Dear Staff,

I'm writing this letter to you all because I want to thank you's for all that you have done for me while I stayed in St Pat's. Well I'm sorry that I'm not still with you's but don't worry as soon as I'm out I will be up to see you all. The first thing I'll do is beat SPT52 in a game of table tennis and I hope there will be no "Excuses" this time. Then I'll give me [redacted] forty up in the snooker because the last five games I played him he was defeated and I hope he can take the truth. I wonder who's got Mr Cortina. I hope he never took it with him. If he comes up tell him I was asking about him. I want to thank ST PAT'S barrister for the wonderful job he done at my trial and I also want to thank [redacted] and big [redacted] for the visit on Thursday. I heard that [redacted] is on a bomb charge up in the croom. I want [redacted] and [redacted] to come down some day to see me. If any one is coming you can write and let me know what day they're coming down.

well theres that many of you I would like to thank, I couldnt manage it all in this letter. so please just tell them all. Tell mr [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] was asking for all of them in the painting department even [REDACTED] HIA100 This place isnt to bad but when you compare it to ST pat's there's some difference. Tell mr [REDACTED] HE can put them letters away and I'll get them when I get out. yours can let me here about [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] trial and I hope they get back to ST pats. This bit is for brother [REDACTED] BR91 "if [REDACTED] wins the snooker title this year you can let me have him as game for it". Dont forget to smash the rossies lemonade of the table for the opening of the contest. Tell the boys every night when there going up to bed to have a good look at the banastair rail and they can say "remember free he done that" if they don't think that was good tell them to have a look at [REDACTED]'s house, I just got it finished in time. well folks I'll always remember you all and it wont be that long before I'll be up to see yours. Im just about to finish now so once again thanks very much for every thing and give my regards to [REDACTED] BR26, brother [REDACTED] BR91 and the [REDACTED] man brother [REDACTED] BR 94

yours faithfully [REDACTED] SPT141

PS. EXCUSE THE BAD WRITTING AND THE SPELLING.

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Saturday: 9 a.m.-12 noon and 1.30 p.m.-4 p.m.

No Visits: Sunday, Christmas Day and  
Good Friday.

PLEASE VISIT MID-WEEK IF POSSIBLE

In replying to this letter, please address the envelope as follows:

SPT141

Number 760 Name

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter because I am most grateful for you and Brother **BR94** coming up to visit me and most of all, for the wonderful job you and all the members of St. Patrick's staff are doing for the boys. Brother **BR26** when I first went to Saint Pats I didn't realize what you's were trying to do for all of us, but now I know that if it wasn't for all you' good and kind people most of your inmates up here would be in Borstals or even in prison. Brother would you please tell all of the staff that I was asking for them and also the boys. I heard on the news about **BR26** getting back to the school. Well I was very pleased to here about that and also about **BR94** and **BR26** getting off I must admit that I was jealous. My Mum and Dad told me that I should try and make the best of my stay here and that's what I'm just trying to do. Brother I sent a

few letters, one was to the paint shop,  
 and the other to [REDACTED] So Brother  
 would you please ask them if they got  
 them? also tell [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
 Thanks for the visit. Have the winter  
 sports started yet? I'm sure they should be  
 very good. I hope Brother [REDACTED] BR91 is enjoying  
 his holiday I'm sure he needs a bit of a  
 break now and again, because he does a  
 great deal of work in the school along  
 with the rest of the Brothers. How our  
 [REDACTED] BR95 and [REDACTED] doing? I hope  
 they have recovered. [REDACTED] BR26 would there  
 be any change of getting [REDACTED]  
 new address? because I would like to  
 send her a letter. [REDACTED] SPT52 done a  
 very good job at my trial even though  
 I never got back. To tell you the truth  
 he done a better job than my Baraster.  
 well that's about all for now. Sir, I  
 hope to here from you's soon. all the best

"yours [REDACTED] SPT141"

PS. PLEASE EXCUSE THE BAD WRITING AND SPELLING  
 BECAUSE, I ONLY WENT TO MR [REDACTED] CLASS  
 ONE A WEEK.