

HIA REF: []

NAME: **SPT 2**DATE: [SEPTEMBER 4TH 2015]**THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995**

Witness Statement of **SPT 2**

I, **SPT 2** will say as follows:

1. I have read the witness statement of **HIA 272** I remember this boy and did not have any difficulties with him. I remember him in particular as one of the among the boys and he participated in hurling, swimming, indoor football and the mini gym. In respect of the alleged incident at page 6 of his witness statement, I do not remember any of this nature having occurred. If there had been an allegation of a sexual nature, I would have recorded it.
2. I have read the witness statement of **HIA 94** **HIA 94** I remember this boy well. The allegation he makes at page 4 of his witness statement did not happen. I did not beat any boy at St Patrick's. In relation to the involvement of **SPT 1** I did not work the same shift as him at any point after I became a the staff in 1970. We could not therefore have been together as is alleged.

3. I have read the witness statement of **HIA 320** I remember this boy and thought that I had got on well with him. I remember him as a soccer player at St Patrick's. I was never involved in any physical violence towards him.
4. I have read the witness statement of **HIA 344**
HIA 344 I do not remember a boy of this name from my time at St Patrick's. I have read the incidents he describes at page 3 of his witness statement. I was never involved in any such incident. I do remember incidents like this occurring but they were between the boys themselves and did not involve members of staff.
5. I have read the witness statement of **HIA 384**
HIA 384 In respect of the allegation he makes at page 9 of this witness statement, I never intercepted the post of any boy at St Patrick's. The boys were required to open their post in front of us because it was a secure unit, but the post was never intercepted as he describes. I have no memory of the incident he describes at page 10 of his witness statement. I do know that **SPT 3** never worked the same shift as me. Also, four members of staff would not have been on duty at the one time as he describes.
6. I have also read the statement to police made by **SPT 134**
SPT 134 As a result I am aware that allegations against me of a sexual nature were made by this boy. None of the incidents described ever happened and I was never involved in any act of sexual misconduct during my time at St Patrick's.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed  SPT 2

Dated 4 . 9 . 2015.

1 saying to me, in fact,

2 .

3 **A. Yes, it was, yes.**

4 Q. So it was handy for you to be at home?

5 **A. I think that's what happened a lot of the times I was**
6 **blamed on absconding. I was actually over having food**
7 **at my mother's house.**

8 Q. In paragraph 20 and 21, if we go down, please, to 083
9 and 084, you explain how, having been transferred to
10 Millisle Borstal -- so we saw that. You were when
11 that happened in 1973, February 1973. So you were

12 You absconded from Millisle and went
13 back to St. Patrick's.

14 **A. I absconded and visited St. Pat's, yes.**

15 Q. And there you spoke to SPT2 and he was a man that you
16 had always got on with?

17 **A. I respect him as a person, yes.**

18 Q. You explain here how you said to him in paragraph 20 --
19 you told him about what had gone on and he wrote out the
20 statement in his office. Now I was asking you more
21 about that today. I will just explain what I understand
22 you to be saying and you can --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- clarify it for me --

25 **A. Okay.**

1 Q. -- if I have got it wrong. When you went to see him
2 initially, you had a conversation about the fact you had
3 absconded from Millisle.

4 **A. True.**

5 Q. And you and he then had a discussion about what life was
6 like in a borstal.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. And he wanted you to assist him to set out what life was
9 like in a borstal as a discouragement, as it were --

10 **A. Like a deterrent.**

11 Q. -- which would be a note he could put up for others to
12 see.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. And that during that conversation about life in the
15 borstal he asked you whether life was ever like that in
16 St. Patrick's?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Is that -- broadly speaking is that the correct way
19 round?

20 **A. Yes, more or less, yes.**

21 Q. And that it was then you told him about what life had
22 been like in St. Patrick's?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Now can you remember did you tell him the identity of
25 the Brother who was sexually abusing you or did you

- 1 mention sexual abuse or is it likely you just talked
2 about, you know, life being hard there or can you --
- 3 **A. No. I can remember basically what I told him was there**
4 **was a lot of sexual abuse in the Millisle borstal, a lot**
5 **of it, and he asked me was there any of it in St. Pat's**
6 **basically, and I said, "Yes, there was", and he says he**
7 **had his suspicions and he asked me could I tell him what**
8 **I knew from there. So basically I told him anything**
9 **that I did know. I mentioned names and whatever, but at**
10 **the time he did write it down. Now I am led to believe**
11 **that he can't remember that. I don't know, but he did**
12 **write it down, and I don't think I signed it. Now**
13 **I do -- I may have signed it. I cannot remember whether**
14 **I signed it or not --**
- 15 Q. Yes.
- 16 **A. -- but we had a frank conversation just about general**
17 **life in there and what was happening.**
- 18 Q. And you mentioned to me also that you saw him -- you met
19 him in adult life twice at the --
- 20 **A. I did, yes.**
- 21 Q. -- once in the bar and once on -- around the pitch.
- 22 **A. Just down at the pitches, yes.**
- 23 Q. And there was -- did you discuss what he had done with
24 the information you had given or --
- 25 **A. I did indeed. I think from what I can remember is we**

1 were standing at the bar and I asked him how he was
2 keeping, just a general conversation. I asked how did
3 things go with regarding the statement and stuff, and
4 I think from what I can basically remember he says that
5 it went no further or something, words to that, but the
6 way -- what I assumed is -- was it's been put under --
7 it's just been brushed to the side.

8 Q. As you know -- you alluded to it there as you were going
9 through -- the Inquiry has traced SPT2, and again his
10 name shouldn't be used beyond the chamber. He has
11 provided a statement to the Inquiry. It runs at 2207 to
12 2209. If we can just look at 2207, please, he says:

13 "I remember this boy. I did not have any
14 difficulties with him. I remember him in particular as
15 one of the better sportsmen among the boys and he
16 participated in hurling, swimming, indoor football and
17 the mini-gym."

18 Does that sound like you?

19 **A. That's me, yes.**

20 Q. In respect of the incident at page 6 in your witness
21 statement -- that is where you talk about telling him
22 about being abused or what occurred in St. Patrick's:

23 "I do not remember any -- anything of this nature
24 having occurred. If there had been an allegation of
25 a sexual nature, I would have recorded it."

1 So he is saying two things, HIA272. He himself does
2 not remember you telling him that and he also says as
3 an added check if he had been told, it is something he
4 would have written down in the diary.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. So he doesn't accept that that is what occurred, but
7 that's your recollection of sharing with him --

8 **A. That's correct. I did share it.**

9 Q. -- what took place?

10 **A. But also having said that, I right think that he would**
11 **have been into trouble for speaking to me, because I had**
12 **escaped from borstal. By law he should have reported me**
13 **probably --**

14 Q. Right.

15 **A. -- because I would have been an escapee.**

16 Q. HIA272, you will be very pleased to know I am only going
17 to ask you two more questions.

18 **A. Okay.**

19 Q. The first one is about recommendations. At the end of
20 the Panel's work it has to consider what recommendations
21 it might make to the Northern Ireland Executive in three
22 areas: some form of apology, some form of memorial or,
23 thirdly, some other means of redress. We ask each
24 witness whether there's anything they want to say to
25 help the Panel's thinking about what recommendations it

1 Q. But you do remember if we move on to the -- just the
2 passage above, you talk about the --

3 "I got beaten by two called SPT1 and
4 SPT2 and another staff member called SPT3 witnessed the
5 abuse but did not intervene."

6 Was that just one episode of getting hit by them or
7 are you saying, "No, they would have hit me a lot"?

8 **A. They hit me a lot.**

9 Q. Hit you a lot. Okay.

10 **A. Mostly in the cells --**

11 Q. Okay, and --

12 **A. -- when there was nobody there.**

13 Q. -- they have said to the Inquiry, and I'll just -- as
14 I was reading to you -- SPT1, for instance, if we look
15 at paragraphs 16 to 19 at 2211, please --

16 **A. I was also took to the hospital after it, as I got
17 stitches on my hand here right across, because there was
18 glass on the floor and I tried to break it and it went
19 right into my arm.**

20 Q. Okay.

21 **A. That's the same time that I was took to hospital.**

22 Q. As this?

23 **A. Yes, as this incident happened.**

24 Q. Okay. Well, what -- what SPT1 has said to the Inquiry
25 is -- he refutes the allegations. He does recall you

1 well, which mean the names can't be used outside this
2 room, HIA344.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You say they were called SPT1 and SPT2, and you describe
5 SPT1 as a

6 You go on to say that SPT2 was

7

8 Now I know you wanted that corrected, because that's
9 not how you remember him.

10 **A. Well, SPT2 never , so he didn't. SPT1**

11

12 Q. That's just mistake and an error in your statement?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. You go on to say that:

15 "They always told [you] and the other boys to hurry
16 up and they slapped us on the back of the head or hit us
17 with boots."

18 I was asking you what you meant hit you with boots?

19 **A. Well, they kicked you, you know.**

20 Q. This was their own boots that they were kicking you
21 with?

22 **A. Yes, yes, yes, or any football boots lying about, they
23 might have lifted them and threw them at you.**

24 Q. "On some occasions I was still naked because I was
25 drying off after a shower and those two had

SUMMARY OF TAPE RECORDED INTERVIEW

TAPE REF NO	PERSON INTERVIEWED: SPT 2		
BD V217/93 Master Tape Seal Number(s)	DOB: [REDACTED]	ADDRESS: [REDACTED]	
T63523A	PLACE OF INTERVIEW: [REDACTED] RUC STATION		
	DATE OF INTERVIEW 12.4.1994	TIME COMM 2.38 PM	TIME TERM 3.33 PM
	INTERVIEWING D/SGT McARDLE OFFICER(S) D/CON LUSTY	OTHER PAUL SHEVLIN PERSON(S) (SOLICITOR) PRESENT IN AT 3.14 PM	
Tape No & Tape Times	MADE BY: D/SERGEANT McARDLE		
	Introduction of persons present.		
00	It was pointed out to SPT 2 that prior to switching on the tape, Form PACE 10 was completed, when he was asked if he wanted a solicitor. He was asked what his answer to that was. He said that he asked to start the interview as his solicitor had not arrived. He was then asked if he wanted to continue in his absence or did he want to wait. He said that he wanted to continue.		
1.35	SPT 2 was then cautioned in the terms of Article 3 of the Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1988. He was asked if he understood the caution. He said that he did.		
2.15	SPT 2 was then informed that the allegations we wanted to talk to him about had been made by SPT 134 [REDACTED] who had been detained in St Patrick's Training School for a 2 year period in the early 1980s. He was asked if he recalled a young fellow of that name. He said that he did.		
2.40	SPT 2 was then shown a photograph of SPT 134 [REDACTED] which was taken when he was in St Patrick's. He was asked if that was the person he recalled as SPT 134 [REDACTED]. He said that it was.		
3.12	It was then explained to SPT 2 that SPT 134 had made a complaint to a policewoman in England at the end of 1992 and that a statement had been recorded from him which had been forwarded to us for investigation. He was told that during the investigation police had spoken to as many boys as possible that were in St Patrick's at the same time as SPT 134 [REDACTED].		
4.10	SPT 2 was told that we would read to him the statement made by SPT 134 [REDACTED] so that he would know exactly what the allegations were.		

Form PACE 22

TAPE NO &
TAPE TIME

He was then asked the same question in relation to [REDACTED]. He replied that there was a strap used in the school and a book kept in relation to its use.

43.19 At 3.20 pm the tape ended and a new tape was entered. The interview continued at 3.21 pm.

T63552A We continued to speak to **SPT 2** about corporal punishment and records that would have been kept reference it. **SPT 2** explained that any corporal punishment on the boys would have been recorded in the school diary or occurrence book which was kept on the desk. He added that anything out of the ordinary would have been recorded in that book.

2.00 We then discussed dental treatment in the school. **SPT 2** explained that there was a well equipped surgery in the school but that any extractions would not have been done in the school surgery, but at the dentist's surgery in Andersonstown.

3.00 We then discussed with **SPT 2** the allegation that **SPT 134** had his arm broken which was set in the school. He said that if **SPT 134** had his arm broken that he would have been taken to hospital to have it treated because there was only a nurse in the school.

3.29 We then discussed with **SPT 2** cells that were in the school. He said that there were cells in the school but would not have been used in **SPT 134**'s time there. He added that they had stopped using the cells when he started work there, which would have been in early 1970. He said that at that time there was only one cell which was in the senior wing. He was then asked about cells at the boiler house. He agreed that there were cells there but added that they were never used as cells in all his time at the school and that he himself had never been about those cells.

5.50 We then discussed the description of the alleged abuser who was struck with a fork in the canteen, thrown by **SPT 134**. **SPT 2** said that he did not recall the incident. In relation to the description he said that he could not think of any member of staff with [REDACTED].

7.00 **SPT 2** was then asked if that description would fit **SPT 66**. He said that it could do and asked for the description to be read to him again, which was done, but he was not able to comment any further.

8.05 **SPT 2** was asked if he had ever any occasion to administer punishment to **SPT 134**. He said that he could not remember if he did, but added that he could have. He was asked if he had authority to administer corporal punishment. He said that he did.

8.22 It was pointed out to **SPT 2** **SPT 134**'s allegation about the member of staff standing on a chair and jumping off it while using the strap to get more power behind it. He laughed at this suggestion and added that