

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 389

Witness Name: HIA 389

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 389

I, HIA 389, will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] and lived with my family in [REDACTED]. I have twelve siblings and I am the fifth youngest child.
2. [REDACTED] is my eldest sibling, next [REDACTED], then [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], HIA 386, HIA 503, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] the youngest.

Carnview Children's Home, Carnmoney (1991)

3. I was placed in Carnview Children's Home when I was thirteen with my younger sister, HIA 386, because of abuse in the parental home. The youngest three of my siblings were sent to a care home in [REDACTED]. I did not like being taken away from my school, [REDACTED], where I had a lot of friends.
4. I had a social worker whilst in Carnview. I spent six months at Carnview and I have no complaints regarding the staff at Carnview.

Ballee Adolescent Unit, Ballymena (1992)

5. I was sent to Ballee Adolescent Unit and separated from my sister, HIA 386. I was the youngest resident in the unit. I was bullied by older residents. I would

PRIVATE

hide under tables because I was so frightened of their behaviour towards me. I felt scared and insecure during my time in Ballee.

6. On one occasion I was attacked by another resident's sister, who came to visit her. Her name was HIA 236. My eye was badly injured. This matter was reported to the Police. I believe staff at Ballee neither cared nor had the time to care about me.
7. I hated my time in Ballee. I could not understand why I was separated from my sister HIA 386. We had always supported each other and I sorely missed this.
8. Whilst resident in Ballee I attended ██████████ High School. I was picked on and bullied there. This caused me to play truant from school. I recall hiding in a field in the wet grass behind the unit to avoid going to school. I received a training school order to Rathgael because of truancy. I spent six months in Ballee.

Rathgael (1993)

9. I was initially sent to Rathgael on a training school order. In total I spent six months in juvenile justice in Rathgael before being moved to the care unit in Rathgael and placed in House 3.
10. My bedroom was very bleak. I had a blue gymnastic mat for a mattress with a sheet for warmth. The window in my room could only be opened a small amount which meant I could not get much fresh air.
11. If I misbehaved in Rathgael I would have been restrained by staff. For example if I disobeyed staff or was cheeky I would have been restrained. This involved being thrown to the ground, usually having my arm twisted behind my back and sat on. I was not able to breathe and was left bruised from these ordeals. Often depending on what I was wearing when I was being restrained, staff did not care if my private parts were exposed. I would have been restrained at least once every fortnight.

PRIVATE

12. One form of punishment in Rathgael was to be sent to the D room. The room was empty with the exception of a gymnasium mat on the floor. It was like a prison cell. The room had no windows and the door had a spy hole. I would be locked in the D room for a few days at a time. When I had to use the bathroom I would have had to press a buzzer to gain a member of staffs attention, although staff often never responded. At meal times staff would throw in food to the room as if they were feeding animals. Staff would check on me by looking through the spy hole. On one occasion a staff member called **RG 2** threatened me whilst looking at me through the spy hole by saying "I am going to get you". I would have had been sent to the D room at least once a month.
13. My younger sister, **HIA 386**, was also a resident in Rathgael. A glass panelled door separated us. On one occasion I saw her being restrained on the floor by staff members **RG 4** and **RG 20**. She was face down on the floor and could not breathe. This angered me so much that I kicked the glass panel, breaking it, in order to try to save her. Her chest was left bruised as a result of this.
14. I observed staff members restrain other residents. A pregnant resident, **RG 21** **RG 21** was dragged by her hair to the D room. A staff member called **RG 4** who was an ex-prison officer, had her by the arms and another male staff member had her by the legs. She was wearing a maternity dress which was pulled up to expose her private parts. She begged for them to cover her up but they did not.
15. The member of staff called **RG 4** was harsh to all the residents. On one occasion he was very harsh to another female resident, **RG 22**. This resulted in her self-harming. She sliced her arm open with a razor blade in front of me and received treatment in hospital for her injury. I found this experience very disturbing.
16. On one occasion I had a nightmare and I could not sleep. I was slapped across the face and kicked on the leg by a member of staff because I would not go to back to bed.
17. It was normal for staff to allow peer bullying. I was bullied by a resident called **HIA 236** from the youth justice side of Rathgael. She often attacked me

PRIVATE

and would pull my hair. I felt I could not approach staff when I was bullied by other residents. The pressure of being constantly bullied by both staff and residents drove me to overdose on tablets and self harm on several occasions. I attended hospital on these occasions to receive treatment. During my time in Rathgael there was no one to protect me.

18. In Rathgael there were about ten children in each unit. If one child misbehaved all the residents were punished. This resulted in us being locked in. There was no alone time in Rathgael. If I wanted to go to my room I would have to be accompanied by a member of staff. If I was taking a shower or bath, a member of staff had to stand at the door of the bathroom. As most of the staff members in Rathgael were male, I believe this was most inappropriate.
19. I attended school whilst in Rathgael although I did not receive an education. We were provided with a uniform. There were two teachers for the entire centre. The most I was asked to do was to draw pictures and I was never given homework.
20. A member of staff, **RG 5** used to bully me. On one occasion **RG 5** **RG 5** took a group of the residents swimming. I wanted to spend longer in the pool. **RG 5** dragged me out of the pool using a long handled net before she grabbed me and twisted my arm up my back. I screamed in pain. Other residents tried to release her grip on me. I had to be taken to hospital following this incident as my arm was left badly bruised.
21. In Rathgael **RG 5** constantly physically and mentally abused me. Her constant abuse left me feeling so low that I felt I could not cope any longer and overdosed on tablets. I still find it difficult to understand that my abuser was allowed to take me to the hospital. Although at the time I felt I had no choice. If I had not gone with her I have no doubt that she would have physically dragged me.
22. **RG 5** **RG 2** also worked in Rathgael. I was petrified of him. He would often beat me and spit in my face. He would threaten me if I misbehaved when his **RG 5** was working by saying that he would give me a 'good

PRIVATE

hammering' or that he would 'get me'. [REDACTED] RG 2 treated most of the residents in this manner.

23. Another member of staff, [REDACTED] RG 20 would often pretend to tickle me. In reality he was fondling my breasts. This happened throughout my time in House 3 at Rathgael. There was another resident called [REDACTED] RG 23 She had large breasts. [REDACTED] RG 20 would often fondle her.
24. When I was sixteen years old I was moved to the care unit at Rathgael. This was a very depressing time for me. I was still being bullied by other residents and staff. I continued to engage in self harm and began to sniff glue.
25. The food in Rathgael was poor. I turned vegetarian whilst in Rathgael because the meat was always under-cooked. I recall being forced to eat under cooked chicken by a member of staff, [REDACTED] RG 24 [REDACTED] RG 24 is the manager of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] RG 24 laughed at me and spat in my food and in my face and yelled at me. After this I received a vegetarian dish for lunch. I received the same vegetable pastry dish every day. Staff would laugh at me eating the same food every day. At supper time I received toast. I was hungry a lot during my time in Rathgael.
26. In Rathgael I attended classes in life skills in preparation for leaving Rathgael. The staff there did not teach me any life skills.
27. I did not have a social worker when I was in Rathgael. I had a key worker called [REDACTED] RG 25, although she would not have been there often, I have no complaint about her.
28. I did not received any visitors during my time in Rathgael.

Life After Care

29. I was sixteen and a half years old when I left Rathgael. I went to the Simon Community in [REDACTED] A man called [REDACTED] RG 26 from Rathgael was in charge of my after care. He gave me a box of food and told me as I was not seventeen yet he

PRIVATE

couldn't help me. I was not equipped for life outside of care. I did not know how to cook.

30. While I was in the Simon Community I attended a training programme. I received £29.50 per week. I had to pay for my accommodation and food and clothing from this.
31. I was very frightened whilst staying there as a lot of the residents were convicted criminals. There were paedophiles, alcoholics and drug addicts in the hostel. I was so scared I would urinate in the sink in my bedroom rather than leave my room.
32. I was abused my entire life until I left Rathgael. I want the people who made me suffer to know what they have done to me. My experiences have left me feeling insecure and vulnerable. I do not know what normal behaviour is.
33. I suffer from depression which I take medication for. I have attended a psychiatrist but I find it very difficult to talk about what I have experienced.
34. I have one son who is thirteen years old. I cared for him for a few years but he is now in the care of social services. I am currently in a relationship. I speak to my siblings and I remain very close to my sister, HIA 386 however I am not in contact with my mother.
35. I am currently unemployed.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed **HIA 389** _____

Dated 01/05/15 _____

HIA 389

PRIVATE

6

THE RATHGAEL CENTRE
FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

CLOSE SUPERVISION UNIT
(SHAMROCK HOUSE)

Very personal in her attacks

25/12/93

Very difficult all day involved in fight with 12yr old Male resident kicked doors & broke panels upstairs (See incident Reps) involved in barricading incident with 3 other residents (overnight) left room 11:30am.

26/12 - 28/12 involved in a number of disruptive/potentially very serious incidents kicking staff threatening staff with broken bottles slabs from bed
* See all incident reports

29/12/93

continued pattern of difficult aggressive behaviour

30/12/93

Placed in Shamrock after incident where she assaulted **RG 226**
See incident Report

31/12/93

Taken to swimming pool involved in incident where staff were threatened with broken bottles. (See incident Report) had to be restrained from injuring **RG 5** during which **HIA 389** error

was hurt activating a previous injury
* taken to A&E Casually as a precaution - soft tissue injury.

A dreadful Christmas/New Year for **HIA 389** her behaviour was totally unexcusable. All staff made every effort to

THE RATHGAEL CENTRE
for
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

ABSCONDING / INCIDENT
REPORT FORM

NAME ... **HIA 389** HOUSE UNIT ... 9A
DATE 30/12/93 TIME ... 1140 HRS
REPORTED BY ... **RG 226** STAFF INVOLVED **RG 226** **RG 234** **[REDACTED]**

ABSCONDED FROM
LEAD UP TO INCIDENT I HAD CONFRONTED **HIA 389** ABOUT WEARING HER NIGHT CLOTHES IN THE COMMON ROOM

ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT I ESCORTED **HIA 389** DOWN THE CORRIDOR SHE BECAME PHYSICALLY & VERBALLY ABUSIVE & RAN OFF TO THE LAUNDRY ROOM, SHE CAME UP TO ME FROM BEHIND & PLACED A PLASTIC BAG OVER MY HEAD. I REMOVED THE BAG & WARNED **HIA 389** OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE INCIDENT. **HIA 389** AGAIN BECAME PHYSICALLY ABUSIVE TOWARDS ME LASHING OUT AT ME IN A VERY UNCONTROLLABLE MANNER. **HIA 389** WAS THEN PHYSICALLY RESTRAINED BY MYSELF & **HIA 234** SHARROCK CONTACTED & SHE WAS REMOVED.

IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN AS ABOVE

ON ABSCONDING	TIME
POLICE NOTIFIED BY	
NAME OF RUC OFFICER	
PARENTS	
SOCIAL WORKER	
SEN STAFF	
OTHERS	

WHITE HOUSE

WEEKLY RECORD SHEET

Date: 1/1/94 - 9/1/94 Status: TSO

Name: **HIA 389**

1/1/94	Quiet and subdued during the morning reverting to loud and abusive as the evening progressed.
2/1/94	HIA 386 declined to visit. HIA 389 upset then quite disruptive behavior improved later.
3/1/94	*Punched RG 227 on the back Baricaded in bathroom with 2 others removed to Shamrock overnight (See incident reports)
4/1/94	Very unsettled at bedtime running in and out of her room verbally abusive to Night Staff.
6/1/94	Delighted to receive tape recorder/ gifts from Ballou staff.
9/1/94	Very distressed at bedtime *superficial cuts to left wrist RG 229 spent 1/2 hr with HIA 389 again, family problems uppermost on her mind. observed by [REDACTED]

MALONE HOUSEWEEKLY RECORD SHEET

DATE: 8.2.94

D.O.B. [REDACTED]

NAME: [REDACTED]

HIA 389

D.O.C.

9.8.93.

TRANSFERRED TO MALONE: 31.1.94

STATUS: T.S.O.

INTELLECTUAL

Since **HIA 389** came to Malone she has not settled at School, she continues to disappear from class. For hours, would arrive in unit for lunch. **HIA 389** has been told that there will be no privileges for her until she makes up her mind to attend School for the proper hours.

18.2.94 Continues to leave School without permission

7.3.94/10th March Has been a bad week for **HIA 389** Between leaving class + coming to spending time out in Shamrock. Have told **HIA 389** to think of her weekend at home when she decides to make a decision in class

11.3.94 **HIA 389** spent full day in class

16.3.94 Another bad day in class - Placed in Shamrock for a couple of hours.

23.3.94 **HIA 389** absented herself from class at 2pm. On return to the unit stated she was being bullied by girls from H4. **RG 39** advised of incident.

27.3.94 **HIA 389** asked about overnights at Easter. Father is agreeable to this

30.5.94/3rd June - **HIA 389** at Runkerry.

30th June - **HIA 389** has finished compulsory education to Arel's Foundation Training Centre for Interview To start work 6th July

6.7.94 **HIA 389** refused to go to work

27.7.94 **HIA 389** to N.D.C.W for interview

22.8.94 **HIA 389** commenced N.D.C.W this morning

See Anti Social.

THE RATHGAEL CENTRE
for
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

ABSCONDING / INCIDENT
REPORT FORM

Child's file

NAME **HIA 389** HOUSE UNIT 9a
DATE 31/1/94 TIME 8-8:30
REPORTED BY **RG 80** STAFF INVOLVED **[REDACTED]**
ABSCONDED FROM

LEAD UP TO INCIDENT **HIA 389** very agitated and unsettled over being kept waiting to be transferred to Home 3. **HIA 389** making demands & continually pushing the limits

ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT **HIA 389** became abusive when refused use of the phone - kicked glass door & shattered glass
② whilst **HIA 389** sister **[REDACTED]** was being restrained by T/SME for abusive & aggressive behavior **HIA 389** became very angry and kicked glass door & shattered glass. **HIA 389** was prevented from going to see her sister. **HIA 389** became very aggressive (throwing punches & trying to kick - had to be restrained by T/SME. **HIA 389** held until calm.

IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN Reported to senior staff.

ON ABSCONDING	TIME
POLICE NOTIFIED BY	
NAME OF RUC OFFICER	
PARENTS	
SOCIAL WORKER	
SEN STAFF	
OTHERS	

(defiance, verbal / physical aggression, refusal to wear proper uniform) in the class in the classroom setting. While this has been managed and HIA 389 has had periods of reasonably settled behaviour, it is felt she will continue to present challenging behaviour in class.

SELF-INJURIOUS BEHAVIOUR

Prior to her admission, HIA 389 was involved in solvent abuse and it was felt she may have experimented with drugs (see Physical Section).

During this placement HIA 389 has overdosed on paracetamol type tablets, (see Physical Section) having stolen this medication from her teacher's First Aid Kit. It is felt that HIA 389 could present this type of behaviour again and would steal tablets if the opportunity arose.

HIA 389 has also inflicted superficial cuts to her arms using sharp objects. This type of self-injurious behaviour tends to occur when HIA 389 mood is low and in particular when she has been disappointed or feels let down when her unrealistic expectations are not met.

HIA 389 has recently started to self-tattoo, this has been since her father's release from prison and her tattoos appear to indicate her distress at her parents' separation.

HIA 389 promotes the impression that she is impervious to physical violence, especially that inflicted by her family. She tends not to think through the consequences of her behaviour and it is felt she could harm someone by lashing out without thinking. There is a violent element to HIA 389 personality which stems from her socialisation and family background. While HIA 389 can usually control this aspect of her behaviour, there are occasions when she can not, and the risk to herself / others is considerable.

HIA 389 is physically very strong and is capable of extreme physical violence. She is quick tempered and prone to lashing out with her fists and feet when involved in arguments with peers. HIA 389 can also be physically and verbally aggressive with staff and has made a number of threats to harm staff when her emotions are running high. While these threats are not felt to contain serious intention and issued during the 'heat of the moment' staff can find them extremely offensive and at times upsetting.

Prior to her admission HIA 389 had been involved in a number of offences in the Co Antrim area, she received a 6 month Deferment (5.10.93) on charges of theft and criminal damage, at Ballymena Juvenile Court. There are also outstanding charges relating to the theft of a video recorder from Larne Primary School, which are due to come to Court on 23 February, 1994.

It has been noted that HIA 389 behaviour has deteriorated since HIA 503 admission and staff are experiencing similar management problems to those which HIA 389 and

WHITE HOUSE

WEEKLY RECORD SHEET

Date:- 8/11/93 - 14/11/93 Status:- TSO

Name:- **HIA 389**

I am pleased to be able to report that this has been a very good week for **HIA 389** she has been most pleasant and co-operative and has not got involved in any disruptive behaviour.

14/11/93

Visit to **HIA 503** Hse 5 this did not go very well as **HIA 389** was threatened by another resident (reported by staff)

visited by [redacted] + baby [redacted] this went fairly well. although [redacted] had to be spoken to by **RG 229** for foul language.

RG 229

THE RATHGAEL CENTRE
for
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

ABSCONDING / INCIDENT
REPORT FORM

NAME **HIA 389** HOUSE UNIT 31

DATE 22 / 03 / 96 TIME 2.05 p.m.

REPORTED BY **RG 39** STAFF INVOLVED —

ABSCONDED FROM School

LEAD UP TO INCIDENT Mr **RG 20** brought **HIA 389** to school -

He was frightened because of threat from Fx lodge gich

ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT **HIA 389** refused to go to class this morning and

was on low marks - detention

..... **RG 39** & **RG 20** and assurances

made regarding her safety if she stayed in class **HIA 389** joined

..... the rest of popob

..... At the end of parade **HIA 389** absconded from

school

IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN Chairt contacted - work given for completion at

night

ON ABSCONDING	TIME
POLICE NOTIFIED BY	
NAME OF RUC OFFICER	
PARENTS	
SOCIAL WORKER	
SEN STAFF	
OTHERS	

she needs to be continually reminded
that her place is here.

RG 229

18/9/93

7.15pm staff became aware **HIA 389** had taken
a quantity ⁽¹¹⁾ of 'Migraleve' tablets (see incident Rep)
these had been taken from **LN 101**
First aid kit 17/9/93

HIA 389 taken to Arab Casualty given vomit-
inducing medication.

HIA 389 refused to remain in hospital
overnight and was ambivalent with regard
to the possible consequences of her actions.

RG 229

WHITE HOUSE

WEEKLY RECORD SHEET

Date:- 13/8/93 - 15/8/93

Status:- TSO

Name:- **HIA 389**

14.8.93 'introductory Primary Worker Session
(see file)
behaviour generally acceptable throughout
the day.

15.8.93 **HIA 389** difficult, defiant and very aggressive
Assaulted **RG 20** (see incident report)
injuring **RG 20** left breast
removed to Shanrock House 'Time out'

5.30pm **RG 229** spoke to **HIA 389** whos attitude
remained belligerent/aggressive **HIA 389** was
given further time to reflect on her behaviour/attitude
and after further discussion with **RG 229** returned
to the unit at 7.30pm without ~~the~~ incident

RG 229 tried to arrange access visit from
HIA 389 sisters for her birthday

HIA 389 requested that **HIA 503** + **[REDACTED]** visit
seperately as "they cause a scene" together.

A difficult start for **HIA 389** she is still
very confused and not yet trusting us.

The problem has been exacerbated by the
'mixed messages' she appears to have gotten
from certain Balke Staff

RG 229

Very personal in her attacks

25/12/93 Very difficult all day
involved in fight with 12yr old
Male resident kicked doors & broke
panels upstairs (See incident Reps)
involved in barricading incident
with 3 other residents (overnight)
left room 11:30am.

26/12 - 28/12 involved in a number
of disruptive/potentially very serious
incidents kicking staff threatening
staff with broken bottles slabs from bed
* See all incident reports

29/12/93 continued pattern of difficult
aggressive behaviour

30/12/93 Placed in Shamrock after incident
where she assaulted **RG 226**
See incident Report

31/12/93 Taken to swimming pool involved
in incident where staff were threatened
with broken bottles. (See incident Report)
had to be restrained from injuring
RG 5 during which **HIA 389** eye
was hurt activating a previous injury
* taken to A&E Casually as a
precaution - soft tissue injury.

A dreadful Christmas/New Year for
HIA 389 her behaviour was totally
unexcusable. All staff made every effort to
maintain the Christmas atmosphere.

Name: **HIA 389**
Address: **5 Rathgael Centre Bangor.**

Employer: **J**
Previous Attendance: **311708**
Type of Accident:
RTA Industrial Home

Ing @ arm.
311708
Cross
Unit Number

D.O.B. **[REDACTED]**
Date: **31 '12 '93.** Time: **7.40 pm.**

G.P. **DR. Cleveks. McCarthy**

History and Examinations:

INJURY @ ELBOW TODAY
1/2 @ ELBOW IS SWOLN AND PAINFULL

Signature:

Time:

X-Rays:

@ ELBOW NO FRACTURES

Photographs:

Investigations:

Comment:

Provisional Diagnosis:

Tetanus Toxoid

Course

0.5 ml

Booster

Treatment:

- PARACETAMOL
- COLLAR + CUFF -

Admitted to A.H., Ward

[REDACTED] E. in **[REDACTED]** days.

Discharge to Supervision of General Practitioner.

To attend **[REDACTED]** Extern

Consultant **[REDACTED]** at **[REDACTED]** on **[REDACTED]**

Secretary to make appointment

Signature: **[Signature]**

Time: **20 20**

22/1/4

ARDS HOSPITAL
ACCIDENT and EMERGENCY SERVICE

PNP 93B134 WPG1159

I have never engaged in behaviours detrimental to any young person in order to give anyone an easy shift. I have no knowledge of any threats being issued towards any young person in order to make them behave when I was on duty. I would have found any such behaviour unacceptable and would have reported the same, regardless of my relationship with the individual making any such threats.

2. Re: Allegations made by [HIA 389] At paragraph 20 allegations are made against myself. Again, I confirm I never bullied any young person and did not bully [HIA 389] in any shape or form. I did not take any group swimming without the presence of at least one other member of staff to ensure safe practice. I have no recollection of the particular trip to the swimming pool nor of this young person wanting to spend longer in the pool. I did not drag this young person out of the pool using safety equipment and do not believe that I would have been physically capable of so doing. I am not aware of any incident which commenced in the swimming pool and resulted in injury and/or a Hospital visit.

I only have recollection of having to restrain [HIA 389] on one occasion. This was an occasion upon which I was escorting her from one building to another within the confines of Rathgael. On this occasion [HIA 389] lifted a milk bottle which was sitting outside one of the buildings, smashed it and threatened me with it. As a result of this I had to over power her and restrain her. Despite my shouts for help at that time no individual came to my assistance. I do recollect having to walk [HIA 389] with her arm up her back to obtain help and avoid further injury to [HIA 389] or myself. In the aftermath of this the details were fully reported, documented and any medical treatment, had it been required, would have been provided. Notes and Records of this incident will be within the relevant paperwork in Rathgael. I believe there is a possibility [HIA 389] may have mistaken this incident as having taken place in a swimming pool.

Re: Allegation made at paragraph 21. I can confirm that I never physically or mentally abused [HIA 389] in any form. I do not recall any issues/concerns re my interactions with this young person which could have been construed as abusive. If I had been requested to take [HIA 389] to Hospital I would have assisted in another member of staff taking her both for [HIA 389] purposes and for my own

HIA REF:

NAME:

DATE:

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF **RG 24****RG 24**, will say as follows:-

1. In 1986 I obtained a Diploma in Youth and Community Work. I then graduated from Jordanstown University in 1993 with a C.Q.S.W. I worked in Rathgael from in and around June 1993 to April 1994 in my capacity as a residential social worker based in the short term care and assessment unit. After leaving Rathgael in 1994 I have continued working in social care and I currently work as a senior social worker.
2. On the 11th September 2015 I received a letter from the solicitor to the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry advising me to contact the Inquiry due an issue concerning me. I was then informed that allegations had been made against me by **HIA 389**. This was the first time I had been made aware that there were ever any allegations made against me relating to my time working in Rathgael.
3. These allegations are set out in paragraph 25 of **HIA 389** statement to the Inquiry.
4. I deny these allegations she has made against me. They are completely untrue and without any foundation whatsoever.
5. I have no memory of having any dealings with anyone called **HIA 389** during my short period working in Rathgael. I do not know who this person is.

MALONE HOUSE

WEEKLY RECORD SHEET

DATE: 8-2-94

D.O.B. [REDACTED]

NAME: **HIA 389**

D.O.C. 9-8-93

TRANSFERRED TO MALONE: 31-1-94

STATUS: C.P. or C. (T.S.O)

SOCIAL SKILLS

HIA 389 doesnt have a lot of social skills however there is time for her to learn.

18-2-94

HIA 389 is one of the few gals who's bedroom is always quite tidy, Unfortunately she has very smelly feet.

March.

HIA 389 is improving slowly

April

still improving

May

" "

June

" "

August.

HIA 389 S.S. have improved greatly

21-9-94

HIA 389 moved into Massonette this evening to help prepare for her living independantly

29-9-94

HIA 389 not coping too well, have helped her prepare a menu & shopping list & had several sessions regarding independant living. We feel **HIA 389** is lonely & misses the group - will decide who can move in to keep her company

5-10-94

HIA 389 has improved slightly

14-11-94

HIA 389 S.S. are slightly improved, but regarding cooking she is just so lazy she has no interest when staff show her how to cook she is prepared to let them continue while she watches & when asked how to do the same meal again she just laughs & says she doesnt know.

~ 2 ~

My understanding is that the parents are now divorced or in the latter stages of divorce. Most of the older children have left home. HIA 389 is presently in a Hostel for homeless adults and her four younger brothers and sisters remain in long-term residential care.

The offence for which she appears today occurred in August, 1995. Since December, 1995 she has enjoyed the most settled / positive period in her life since leaving Rathgael Centre.

Her Training School Order expired in August, 1995. However, Rathgael's Community Care Department still remain involved in providing HIA 389 with social work help and advice as deemed appropriate.

I have discussed HIA 389 situation and today's offence with Larne Probation. If the Court thought it appropriate they would be glad to prepare a Social Enquiry Report. HIA 389 background has been extremely unfortunate and the progress for the future is poor.

prognosis

It is my opinion that she will continue to need social work help and supervision establishing herself independently in the community.

RG 18

Social Worker ~ Community Care Department

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

**RESPONSE BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO
WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] HIA 389 (HIA 389)**

I, Karen Pearson, have been authorised to make this statement on behalf of the Department of Justice. I am Deputy Director for Criminal Justice Policy, a senior civil servant in the Department. The information contained in this statement is based on a review of files undertaken by staff under my supervision.

The Department of Justice will say as follows:

1. Records show that [REDACTED] HIA 389, DOB [REDACTED] HIA 389, was committed to Rathgael School on 9 August 1993 on a Training School Order (see Exhibit 1). A list of previous offences can be found at Exhibit 2. HIA 389 moved to a Simon Hostel in Larne on 14 December 1994 (see Exhibit 3) and was licensed on 2 March 1995 (see Exhibit 1). HIA 389's record of absconding is attached (see Exhibit 4). Said history can be found at Exhibit 5. For personal information in relation to HIA 389 (see Exhibit 6).
2. The Department, to the best of its knowledge, has supplied all relevant information that it could find in its possession in relation to HIA 389. If additional information is discovered by the Department, it will be drawn to the attention of the Inquiry immediately.
3. The Department has not received a civil claim in respect of HIA 389.
4. The Department has not received a request for disclosure of personal data (Form 81) from PSNI.
5. The Department notes the allegations of physical abuse at paragraphs 11, 12 and 20, bullying at paragraph 17, psychological abuse at paragraphs 18, 21, 22 and 25 and

sexual abuse at paragraph 23 of the statement made by HIA 389. To the best of the Department's knowledge and belief, the Department had no knowledge or record of such complaints prior to the receipt of HIA 389's statement to the Inquiry. The Department also notes that HIA 389 alleges she witnessed physical abuse at paragraphs 13 – 15.

6. The Department condemns without reservation any act of abuse which may have been perpetrated against any individual at Rathgael Training School. Those who were placed in that facility had every right to expect that they would be cared for with dignity and respect, treated compassionately and protected from abuse.

Those who operated the Rathgael facility on a day-to-day basis, or who were responsible for its management, ought to have been fully aware of the high standards expected for them when caring for young people. They should have known that acts of physical, sexual or emotional abuse were unacceptable. They ought to have known that allegations of abuse, where they were raised, should have been reported to the appropriate authorities.

The Department accepts that the evidence available to the Inquiry suggests that these standards were not always complied with in every case. The Department regrets any abuse which did occur and condemns the perpetrators of any such abuse as well as those who may have ignored the abuse or tolerated its occurrence.

Statement of Truth

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

Kamen

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

**SUPPLEMENTARY RESPONSE BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO
WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] HIA 389 (HIA 389)**

I, Karen Pearson, have been authorised to make this statement on behalf of the Department of Justice. I am the Deputy Director for Criminal Justice Policy, a senior civil servant in the Department. The information contained in this statement is based on a review of files undertaken by staff under my supervision.

The Department of Justice will say as follows:

1. The Department has submitted a separate statement relating to HIA 389's allegations about her time in Rathgael Training School (see RGL-929 – RGL-950).
2. The Department notes HIA 389's comments at paragraph 12 of her statement to the Inquiry. Records show that HIA 389 was placed in Shamrock on 30 December 1993 and 3 January 1994 (see RGL-44820 and RGL-44821).
3. The Department notes HIA 389's comments at paragraph 15 of her statement to the Inquiry. Records show a reference to a [REDACTED] (see RGL-45078 and RGL-45079) in relation to incidents at Rathgael.
4. The Department notes HIA 389's comments at paragraph 17 of her statement to the Inquiry. HIA 389's Clinical Record can be found at RGL-45006. Records show that she was admitted to Ards Hospital on 18 September 1993 in relation to an overdose (see RGL-45009). HIA 389 was also admitted to Ards Hospital on 31 December 1993 with an injury to her elbow (see RGL-45010). Records show that HIA 389 was self-harming (see RGL-45020, RGL-45039 and RGL-45056).

5. The Department notes HIA 389's comments at paragraphs 20 and 21 of her statement to the Inquiry. Records show that on 31 December 1993, HIA 389 was taken to the swimming pool. There was an incident and she had to be restrained from attacking a **RG 5** She was taken to Ards Hospital in relation to the reoccurrence of an old injury (see RGL-44820 and RGL-45010).
6. The Department notes HIA 389's comments at paragraph 28 of her statement to the Inquiry, in which she states that she did not receive any visitors during her time at Rathgael. Records show that at an allocation meeting on 3 January 1994 that her family would visit. Records show numerous family visits (see RGL-44797, RGL-44804, RGL-44805, RGL-44806, RGL-44810, RGL-44811, RGL-44813, RGL-44816, RGL-44819, RGL-44823 and RGL-44826).
7. The Department, to the best of its knowledge, has supplied all relevant information that it could find in its possession in relation to HIA 389. If additional information is discovered by the Department, it will be drawn to the attention of the Inquiry immediately.

Statement of Truth

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

Kamen

Date: 13 October 2015

HIA REF: [389]

NAME: **HIA 389**

Response by HSCB

DATE: [25 August 2015.]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of the Health and Social Care Board

Marian Hall, Children's Services Project Manager, assisted in the drafting of this statement.

The Health and Social Care Board will say as follows: -

1. **HIA 389**, born **HIA 389**, was admitted to Rathgael Training School at some point in 1993, see paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Applicant's statement at RGL 088. The Applicant was discharged to the Simon Community at some point during late 1994/early 1995, see **Exhibit 1**.
2. In paragraph 3 of her statement, the Applicant details the circumstances surrounding her admission to care. Exhibit 2 contains a Child Protection Report of 13 June 1991 which details that the Applicant's father was imprisoned and that Social Services had concerns regarding the state of the family home but were never permitted access. An Education Welfare Officer's report of December 1990 details that the Applicant reported that she was left to look after her younger siblings in the evenings whilst her mother went to the pub, see **Exhibit 3**. **Exhibit 2** records that the Applicant and HIA 386 went to school on 7 June 1991 and expressed a desire to be admitted to care as they were being neglected and abused at home. The report details that the previous evening the Applicant's elder brother had locked her out of the family home. Her mother was in the pub and refused to take her home and she was therefore forced to stay at a friend's house. The Applicant was subsequently voluntarily admitted to Carnview Children's Home on 7 June 1991 with HIA

386. The Board notes that the Applicant has no complaints to make regarding her time in Carnview.
3. On 12 March 1992, the Applicant was removed from Carnview to Ballee Children's Home, see **Exhibit 4**. The Board notes paragraph 7 of the Applicant's statement where she says she does not understand why she was separated from her sister, HIA 386. Records in the possession of the Board detail that it was the opinion of Social Service staff that the Applicant and HIA 386 needed to be separated in order to meet their needs, see **Exhibit 5**. Exhibit 5 details that Social Services considered the prospect of fostering and of also returning the Applicant to the care of her mother, but were aware that, at that point, she would not wish to return home. It was felt that of the two siblings, the Applicant would handle the separation to Ballee the best and would further welcome adolescent company given her age.
 4. **Exhibit 5** further details that the Applicant had made steady progress since admission to Ballee but initially had difficulty forming relationships with her peer group. It also records that staff were aware of the importance of access between the Applicant and her siblings and were focussed on ways to make the quality of contact better. The review report of 15 June 1991, see **Exhibit 6**, details that the Applicant stated that she was not happy in Ballee and wished to return to Carnview. She also suggested a placement in Rathgael as an alternative option. Social Services planned to establish a regular pattern of access with the Applicant's siblings and further to carry out individual work with her.
 5. In paragraph 8 of her statement, the Applicant recalls playing truant from school as she was being bullied there. **Exhibit 7** details that the Applicant had been placed under the supervision of the North Eastern Education and Library Board for non-school attendance. The case discussion records the Applicant's decision to not attend school was clearly a protest at her removal from Carnview. It further notes that whilst the decision to separate siblings was extremely rare, it had been taken in conjunction with the Child and Adolescent

Unit in Antrim and was necessary, owing to the very complex family dynamics in this case.

6. In paragraph 5 of her statement, the Applicant says she was bullied by older residents whilst in Ballee. **Exhibit 8** contains the minutes of a review of 10 December 1992 which records that the Applicant reported that she was being bullied by a 17 year old female resident.
7. There are no notes and records in the possession of the Board detailing the Applicant's removal to Rathgael. The Board is therefore unable to provide any further comment regarding the circumstances which led to her removal. The Board notes paragraph 8 of the Applicant's statement where she says she was removed to Rathgael under a Training School Order owing to truancy. Once a Training School Order was granted in respect of the Applicant, responsibility for her would have been transferred to the Northern Ireland Office. **Exhibit 8** above details that whilst school was very low on the Applicant's list of priorities, Social Services felt that an alleged rape by a pupil from Rathmore Guidance Centre was having an impact on the Applicant's school attendance and that if a court appearance was imminent, an overall view of the Applicant's life should be given. The Board notes from **Exhibit 8** that police were investigating the incident.
8. The files in the possession of the Board relating to the Applicant's sibling, HIA 386, would suggest that the Applicant remained in Rathgael until late 1994 or early 1995 when she was transferred to the Simon Community, see **Exhibit 1** above.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed



Dated 25 August 2015