

HIA REF: []

NAME: []

DATE: []

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of

I, _____, will say as follows: -

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed **RG 82** _____

Dated 18.10.15

PRIVATE

HIA REF:438

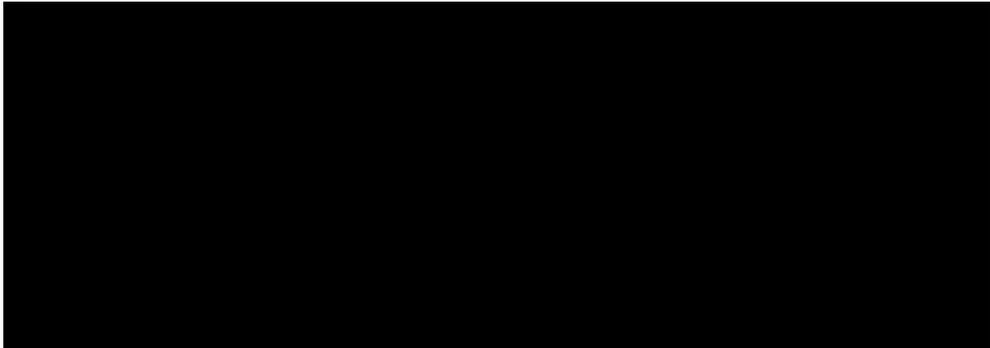
Witness Name: HIA 438

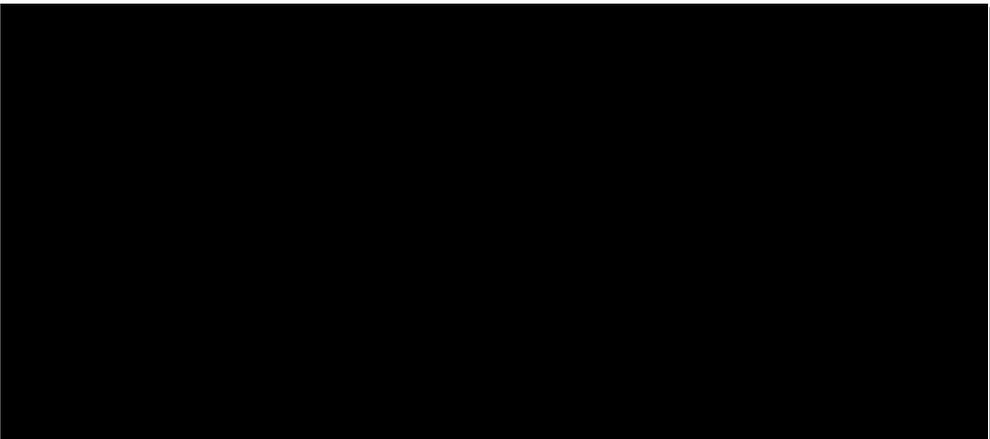
THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 438

I, HIA 438 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. 

2. 

PRIVATE



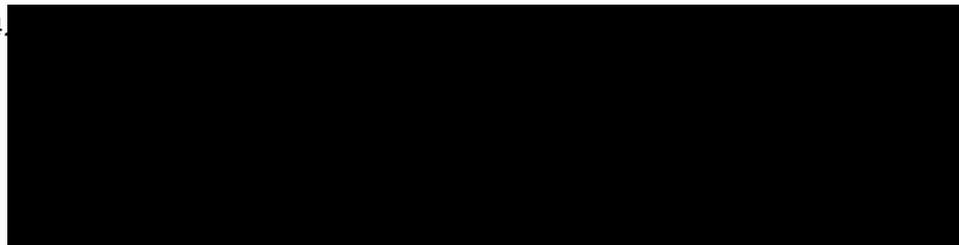
11. I slept in a dormitory with four or five other girls when I was not in the secure unit. The staff usually locked us inside our dorm rooms at night. The boys had separate dormitories and we were not allowed to mix with them at night. I remember there was a member of the night staff, **RG 82**, who used to let me come out of my dorm at night. He let me sit in the office with him and have a smoke. However, one night he touched my breast through my nightdress. It made me feel really scared because of my earlier experience of abuse. I knew it was wrong and I told him that I was going to report it and he said, "who's going to believe a silly wee girl like you who's a troublemaker you know".

12.

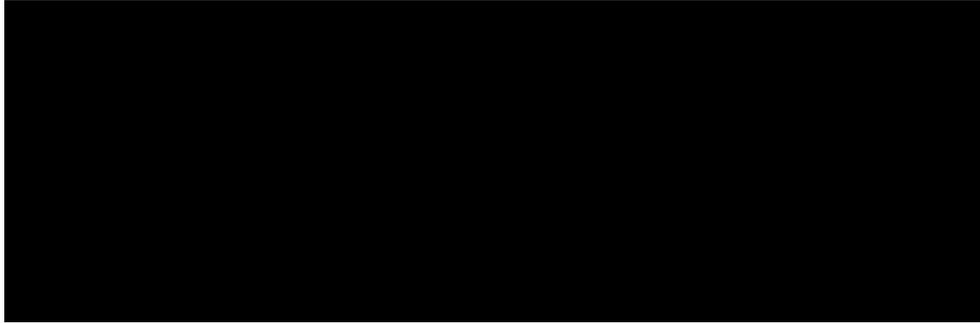


13. I didn't mention this abuse to any of the staff at Rathgael. The only person I told was **HIA 429** who was my boyfriend at that time. He was also in Rathgael as a resident and he was about the same age as me. I remember another occasion when **RG 82** tried to touch me inappropriately but **HIA 429** must have said something to him and it stopped after that.

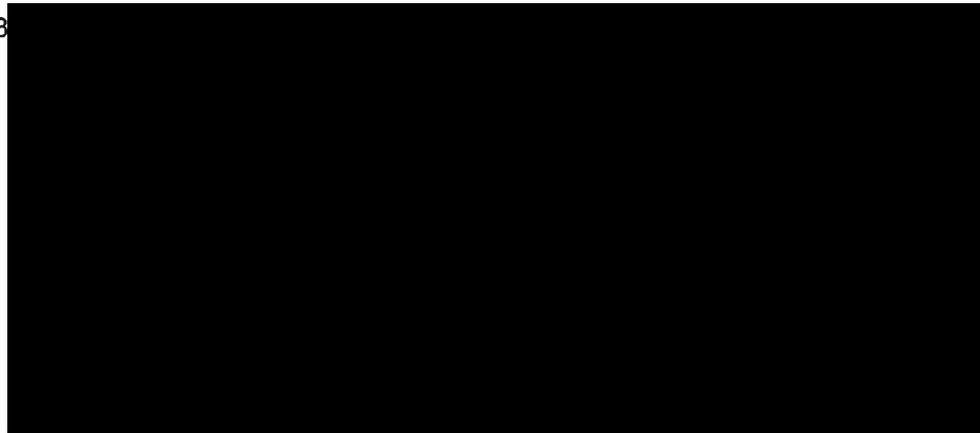
14.



PRIVATE



23



Statement of Truth

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

Signed HIA 438

Dated 23/5/15

①

RG82

I first met [REDACTED] HIA438 in House [REDACTED]. This was a [REDACTED] unit, but due to overcrowding in House 9. [REDACTED] HIA438 had been placed there. During the night I sat at a desk at the bottom of the stairs. I checked the boys during the night. [REDACTED] HIA438 was checked by the female night supervisors from H9. The doors were locked at this time. As a casual worker I was moved from unit to unit. After a short stint in H9A. I was moved to Youth Treatment, later to be come Juvenile Justice. I worked H4 (secure) H5 (reception, H6 and H8 both residential. I worked there for a long time mostly H8 and H4. perhaps a year or more. Eventually I had to do a stint in H3 which was a boys care unit. [REDACTED] HIA438 says she was in H2 girls care unit but this was stalled by female supervisors. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HIA438 and [REDACTED] I cannot remember [REDACTED] HIA438 being there at this time. She states I brought her into the office and gave her cigarettes. Young people were not allowed in the office and we were based outside. Office door was locked. On no occasion did I buy cigarettes for [REDACTED] HIA438 as this would have been a bookable offence. This could not have happened anyway as [REDACTED] HIA438 was not in my unit.

[REDACTED] HIA438 stated my surname was [REDACTED] in fact it is [REDACTED]

I was arrested by the police, fingerprinted and put on a computer identity parade.

(2)

Several weeks later the police rang me and stated that HIA438 had failed to pick me out on the computer identity parade.

Later I received a letter from the Department of public prosecuting informing me they were not proceeding with the case.

I later became a full time member of staff and was sent to [REDACTED] which was set up as a [REDACTED] unit run by [REDACTED] RG56 I worked there for several years. Later the split came and the care side of the school was taken over by a trust.

At this time [REDACTED] left and senior staff asked me to become senior night supervisor. I no longer worked on the justice side. This job involved going to police stations to pick up absconders. If the senior on duty was not available I had to go on my own.

At the time I did not think about it, but looking back it was very risky. The job also called for me to assist staff in the units if trouble broke out.

In the early days the only training we had was restraining courses. The first was taken by an instructor for the police, but this was deemed to be too rough. The second course was taken by a social worker from Derry using natural movement. We used this until our manager introduced Sanctuary which cut out the number of restraints due to talking to young people.

The staff consisted of social workers and care workers and I can say at no time I did I see anyone being abused. The staff were very dedicated and

(3)

had good relations with the young people. Most of the young people had been abused, so it was encouraged to try and get them to do normal things like sport and craftwork.

I have stated in my police report that on occasions I was asked by senior staff to give a young person who had become distressed, a cigarette.

An example of this was a boy in House 3. His father died during the early part of the night when the boy was told he started crying. Staff asked me to give him a cigarette as he had none left.

On occasions a cigarette, stopped self harm, absconding or even suicide.

Later I was asked to attend the police station regarding an allegation toward RG47 one of the seniors on the justice side.

I arrived at the office block at 10:15^{PM} to collect my keys, notes and pay slips. I turned on the light and went to the filing cabinet. As I lifted my keys I felt someone was in the room. When I looked round RG47 was hiding under a desk. I told him he had frightened the life out of me, and asked him what he was doing. He replied he was hiding from one of the girls who was outside looking for him. RG47 senior night supervisor was coming in his car to take him home. This is what happened. RG47 lived on site.

I later met the girl who asked me had I seen RG47. RG47 I told her he had gone off centre. She then headed towards her unit. At this time I did not know

(4)

the girls name.

Each morning at seven AM I used to meet [REDACTED] RG250 for a cup of tea in the office block, after we had filled in our night reports, I asked him about the night before and he replied [REDACTED] RG47 was being targeted by one of the girls in fact he was being stalked. [REDACTED] RG250, who is now [REDACTED] did not mention the girls name.

I have worked in Rathgael and Lakewood for almost twenty years. I can honestly say the people I worked with were some of the finest people you could wish to meet. As regards to the young people I tried to treat them with respect. Sometimes when in town with my wife I meet young people who had been in my units. They always wish me well, and it is nice to see them doing well.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] RG82

18-10-15

Personal, Professional, Protective Policing



MASTER TAPE T0075448A

Now this is the third attempt at starting the interview during to a technical problem and we've changed rooms as well just hopefully we'll get, we'll get the green light with this and it should work alright this time, for the third time, this interview is being audio recorded it's being conducted in an interview room at Bangor Police Station. I'm Detective Constable [REDACTED] and I'm accompanied by Detective Constable [REDACTED] we're both attached to Newtownards PPU. The date is the 16th of May 2013 and the time by the interview room clock is 1123 hours and today I'm interviewing if you could give me your name and date of birth.

RG82

[REDACTED] RG82 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

RG82

[REDACTED]
Thanks very much for that.

RG82

Yeah.

Em as we've, as we've talked about before you don't want a solicitor at that ...

RG82

No.

... at this stage you don't feel you need one, if you do need one during interview let me know and we can organise that for you.

RG82

Yeah.

You were arrested earlier today em and that was in relation to an allegation that had been made by a former ah in.,

RG82

Client.

Client.

RG82

(Laughs).

Ah [REDACTED] HIA438 who ah was in Rathgael in the late 80s early 90s okay.

RG82

Ah hm.

Em, when you were in., or when you were arrested you were cautioned and I'm going to caution you again. You do not have to say anything, but I must caution you that if you do not mention when cautioned, questioned sorry, something which you later rely on in court, it may harm your defence. If you do say anything it may be given in evidence and I'll explain, that means you don't have to answer any of my questions during interview.

Personal, Professional, Protective Policing



MASTER TAPE T0075448A

Ah hm, yeah, yeah.

RG82

Ah then they brought another chap in from Derry, [REDACTED]

Ah hm.

RG82

His method was to restrain using natural movement, basically instead of putting arms up back you would've sort of held them down by your side, this type of thing.

Ah hm.

RG82

It was very, very good but them em [REDACTED] the manager of Rathgael or Lakewood at the minute found this course in America and em it's all basically talking the child down, instead of doing restraints, I mean I have to be honest, I mean there was times people dived in when maybe you thought well you shouldn't have done that.

Ah hm.

RG82

You know I could've maybe talked to her or him and you know ...

Ah hm, ah hm.

RG82

... you talked them down you know.

And, so are, are you talking about the therapeutic intervention.

RG82

Yeah.

Okay.

RG82

Aye it's a far, far better course so it is.

Yeah.

RG82

Its working very well.

Would, what sort of, what sort of situations would have developed where you may have had to put hands on.

RG82

Usually if ah some of the kids could target you, you know if they took a dislike they could actually target you, they would go around and you know hit you with the shoulder or bump into you, you know.

Ah hm.

RG82

Well we had a couple of those in Ashgrove. Mostly it was to save a child from itself.

Ah hm.

Personal, Professional, Protective Policing



MASTER TAPE T0075448A

RG82

Em.

In, in Rathgael now sorry, 88 to 90.

RG82

In Rathgael. I remember just one boy in, in Shamrock.

Ah hm.

RG82

Ah he was, they were a family from Lisburn, oh I can't even remember their name, he actually, although it's a secure unit the door was basically something like that.

Ah hm.

RG82

You know it was mainly of hard wood you know.

Ah hm.

RG82

He started to bang the door and eventually it was starting to disintegrate and I had to call ah the senior in person, he was a, a senior social worker on duty at nights as well you know.

Ah hm.

RG82

It was RG11 at the time.

Okay.

RG82

And I called RG11, lucky enough he just lived across the road.

Ah hm.

RG82

And come over and we had to remove the boy down to another room because he had basically destroyed the door you know.

Ah hm, ah hm.

RG82

There was a few em there was another wee girl I had to restrain one night with the help of em another member of staff, she had been very badly abused.

Ah hm.

RG82

She'd absconded and she was actually badly abused by her father.

Ah hm.

RG82

And she absconded, went to the father's house and unfortunately he abused her again.

Ah hm.

Personal, Professional, Protective Policing



MASTER TAPE T0075448A

Yeah, em I'm just going to change the tapes here cause there's another wee bit to go through here.

RG82

Right okay. Ah ha.

Em so I'm going to call time on this at 1207 hours.

RG82

Right.

CHECKED AND CERTIFIED AN ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF PACE
TAPE NO T0075448A INTERVIEW OF **RG82** ON
16TH MAY 2013 BETWEEN 1123 HOURS AND 1207 HOURS

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Statement of Witness

Statement of: HIA438

Age of Witness: Over 21 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

I declare that this statement consisting of page/s, 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.

Signature of Witness: HIA438 Date: Service/Staff # if police/staff

Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)

Signature of Member: 20908 Date: 31-1-13 by whom statement was recorded or received Service/Staff # if police/staff

My name is HIA438, my date of birth is. When I was younger I lived in, I had been placed in Glenayre Children's Home for my own safety. I didn't like the home and just wanted back with my mum so I kept running away. Because I kept running away from the home I got moved to Rathgael Training School, Bangor. I think I was about 11 years old when I went to Rathgael. Again at Rathgael I just didn't settle and I used to abscond all the time. When I first went to Rathgael I went to Reception, I was there for about 4 months. I then was placed in Craigmore Children's Home at Donaghadee but I didn't settle there + kept mitching school so I was sent back to Rathgael. I was around 12 years old. Back at Rathgael I still kept running away, when I returned to Rathgael I was again in Reception. At age 12-13 I was still in Reception and I remember on one occasion I ran away. When I ran away I usually tried to get to to my mum and I know the Police discovered me at my mum's on more than one occasion. At Rathgael we had travel warrants + I remember one time taking one out of the office + writing it out myself, then getting the train from Bangor West. Sometimes I just thumbed a lift, I would have run away on my own mostly but a few times, now her name's, I can't remember her name then, came with me. I also ran away with a boy called HIA429 to his dad's house at. His dad phoned

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Signature of witness: HIA438
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: HIA438

Page 2 of 4

the Police on us. HIA438 + me were girlfriend boyfriend at Rathgael. I ran away because I didn't like Rathgael. On the time I'm talking about I had gone to my mum's + the Police took me back to Rathgael, I didn't care because I knew I'd have the last laugh because I'd run away again.

The Police escorted me to the door of Shamrock House + I was met by RG80 a staff member, he was my keyworker. Usually when I came back from running away I was locked in my bedroom but this time RG80 told me I was for the lock up room. I had been in it once before for a few hours for being cheeky. The secure room had a mattress on the floor, nothing else; the windows were like plastic with bars on them + the door had a spy hole so staff could watch you. I told RG80 I wasn't going in, I was calm at this stage. RG80 then grabbed me by the arm; he grabbed my wrist + put my arm behind my back. It was so sore I thought my wrist was broke. At that I kicked off, I was screaming, lashing out + it took 6 staff to get me into the secure room. I can't remember who all was there but I know RG11 had grabbed my legs as well as [REDACTED], the 3 of them wrestled me onto the ground. RG80 ended up lying across my chest + I remember I bit him on the back. RG11 slapped me on the leg + left a red mark. The 6 of them then lifted me + carried me down to the secure unit. I was wearing jeans at the time. This was round teatime + I was put into the room, I remember Police had picked me up about 1 pm + I was really hungry. I was bashing the door + the wall shouting looking for my tea. I also remember banging as well shouting to go to the toilet. Nobody came near me at all, nobody told me how long I was going to be there. I was there for 24 hours. [REDACTED], senior staff at Shamrock House, was the one who let me out. She was really nice + took me + got my dinner. I remember another name of one of the members of staff who manhandled me into the secure room was [REDACTED], he was senior staff + usually worked in the office. [REDACTED] helped the others put me into the secure room. I do know that I told

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Signature of witness:	HIA438
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: HIA438

Page 3 of 4

[REDACTED] what had happened when the other 6 staff placed me in the secure room. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] did write some notes but I don't know what she done with them. After I got out of the secure room + had the chat with [REDACTED] I ran away again, back to my mummy's house. I told her what happened + she made a complaint but it didn't go anywhere. When I was almost 14 years old I was in house + I remember there was a member of the night staff, RG82 He was in his [REDACTED]. RG82 was nice at the start + he used to let me out for a smoke into the staff room. There was no other staff there, senior night staff was doing his rounds + had to ring to get back into house + so when he rang RG82 put me back to my room. Eventually things changed in that RG82 used to brush against me all the time when there was plenty of room to get past me, he would rub across my breasts with his hand. I said what are you doing + he said I'm just getting past you. RG82 used to buy me cigarettes which staff weren't allowed to do. I remember one time RG82 did have his hand directly on my breast over my nightdress + I told him, "No", + moved his hand. I told him I'd tell but he just said sure who'd believe you. I did speak to RG52 who was my keyworker in House 2. I told her what RG82 was doing + I believe she told night staff to keep an eye but sure senior night staff had to ring the bell to get in so there wasn't much point. RG52 eventually married RG11 When I was 15 years old my uncle came to visit from London, he was staying with my granny, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] My mum had told him about Rathgael + he phone me + told me to leave + come up to [REDACTED]. I didn't want to but eventually I did leave. I took a wee fella called [REDACTED]'s travel warrant + got the train to [REDACTED] + the bus to [REDACTED]. I remember the Police called at my granny's + I hid in the hot press. The Police opened the door but didn't see me. I done the runner on the Friday + left on the Sunday with my uncle + lived in London for 4 years. [REDACTED] When I came back I

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Signature of witness:	HIA438
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: **HIA438**

Page 4 of 4

lived at my granny's because my mummy had died. I am open about what happened at Rathgael and haven't hidden this from anyone, friends + family do know but not in detail. My time at Rathgael was horrible, I wouldn't wish it on anyone. When I left Rathgael to go to London with my uncle I left Rathgael with nothing, I had kept a diary of my time at Rathgael but I left everything behind. I did make an attempt to have my property returned, I was particularly looking for my diary because I was going to hand it to Police but I didn't get it.

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Signature of witness:	HIA438
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	