

HIA REF: [RG5]

NAME: [RG 5]

DATE: []

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of [RG 5]

I, [RG 5] will say as follows: -

1. Re: Allegations made against me by [HIA 386]. I have only a very vague recollection of this young person. I have no recollection of restraining this young person in the manner as described at paragraph 15 of her Statement. At no time in my career have I ever bullied any young person in my care. I totally deny ever having kicked a young person in the shins, spat on them nor assaulted them in any fashion. My ex-husband, [RG 2] was employed in the same institution as myself but we worked in different areas and on different teams. It would have been highly unusual for both of us to have worked together for numerous reasons.

I am not aware of any criminal investigations nor internal investigations at Rathgael in relation to any such behaviour as outlined within the allegations of [HIA 386].

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

protection. I am not comfortable and take issue with being referred to as an “abuser” and with the assertions contained within this evidence.

At paragraph 22 allegations are made about [REDACTED] RG 2. I am not in a position to comment on these matters and these matters should be addressed directly with [REDACTED] RG 2.

3. Re: Allegations made by [REDACTED] HIA 503. At paragraph 23 of the Statement to the Inquiry allegation is made that I was present when an alleged assault/restraint took place and did nothing to help. I have no recollection of any such event as set out within the allegation. If any such matter had occurred it would have been documented and reported by me in the established and required manner. I have no such knowledge of making any Report similar to this matter.

At paragraph 25 an allegation is made cigarettes were cut shorter as a form of control. I was aware, when commencing my employment in Rathgael of a system being in place for the young people where bad behaviour would have resulting proportionate consequences. Young people were permitted to have up to seven cigarettes per day. If however any young people misbehaved or broke established rules one possible consequence would have been the reduction of amount of cigarettes they would have been permitted per day. This would have resulted in bad feeling between the young person and the member of staff having to make the decision therein. As a half way measure I was aware of a practice whereby cigarettes would still be given to the young person however they would be cut somewhat shorter than normal to ensure that that young person still got their cigarette however they were aware of the relevant behaviour which had occurred prior to this and which would have normally resulted in the loss of a cigarette or a number of cigarettes.

4. My own set of values and my belief and understanding of the members of staff with whom I worked and from whom I learned were discussed regularly. In these discussions the value base was sound and the referenced nothing but concern for the welfare and protection of the young people in our care.

The staff spoke empathetically about the young people, reference the experiences which had impacted on their safety, both emotional and physical and which had brought them to their placement. In my experience the values discussed were demonstrated in daily ongoing practice. As a mother [REDACTED] I dealt with the young people as if they were my own children and did not distinguish between the young people and did not believe in distinguishing between any individuals.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed [REDACTED] RG 5

Dated 29 October 2015 ,

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 386

Witness Name: HIA 386

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 386

I, HIA 386 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] and I lived at home with my mum and brothers and sisters. There were sixteen of us altogether. My dad was in prison and we had a very bad time at home getting beaten by my older brothers and sisters. Even my mum was beaten by them. My sister HIA 389 and I decided that we didn't want to live there anymore and ran away. I was twelve at the time and my sister was a year older than me.
2. We attended [REDACTED] Secondary School and I think the school knew what was happening because they saw our bruises but never said anything. During my time in school I didn't talk but just nodded and shook my head. The teacher [REDACTED] used to bring us in shampoo, shower gel and clean pants and told us to go and get washed instead of doing PE. She singled us out and recoiled if I tried to hold her hand as if I was dirty.
3. We went into school and told them we weren't going back home and they placed us in Carnview Children's Home. Soon after my younger sister and

HIA 386

PRIVATE

1

PRIVATE

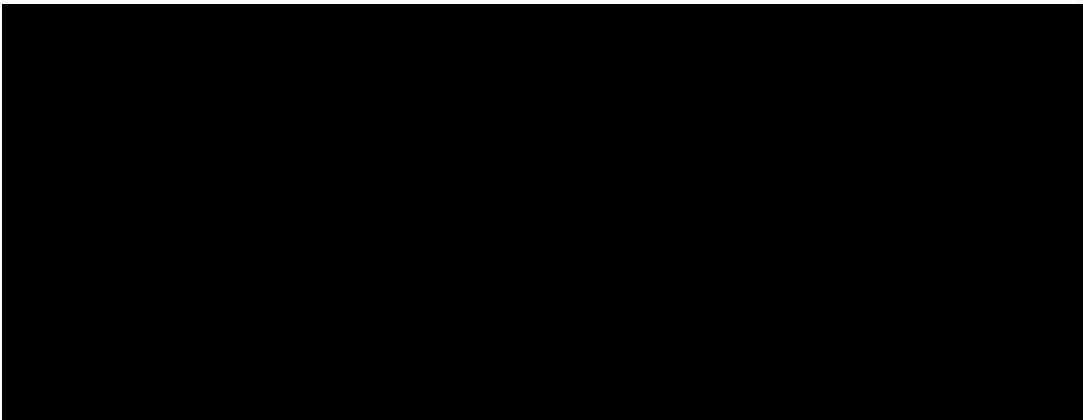
13. **RG 11** used to trail me up to the Shamrock room with another member of staff, usually another man and I would only have been wearing a night dress. One man had me by the feet and the other by the arms. My dignity wasn't protected at all and I used to squeal for them to let me down. All of my private parts were out and there were maybe two or three people on top of me, with my arms forced behind my back and my face squashed into the floor. If I was wearing jogging bottoms at any stage and they came down, then my underwear was on show. They didn't let me get covered up and I was often put in there wearing my nightdress for seventy two hours.
14. I did a lot of self harming in the Shamrock room and cut my face and body in circles. When I got out I was in a lot of pain but they wouldn't take me to hospital. I had literally pulled the skin off my face and it was red raw. They said it was my own fault and I didn't get any treatment. There was a matron on duty between 9 am and 4pm every day but all she ever gave me was a Strepsil.
15. I was also restrained at times on the hard stairs. A husband and wife team, **RG 2** and **RG 5** worked there and they bullied me. When they were on duty they used to kick me in the shins, spit on me and do anything to give each other an easy shift. **RG 2** used to threaten me to behave on **RG 5** shift or he would get me. My sister and I were in different houses. We weren't allowed to see each other but we used to phone each other. I wasn't allowed to interact with any of the other kids in the place. When I was in House 2 I used to have to eat dinner alone and I was scared to sleep at night in case any of the staff came in.
16. I remember one night in Rathgael when one of the night staff hit me, and tried to trail me out by the hair. I was holding onto the radiator trying to resist her and it was all because I didn't want to go to sleep. I don't remember her name but she was skinny with long dark hair. Another member of staff called **RG 10** had to prise her off me. **RG 10** was my keyworker.

HIA 386

PRIVATE

5

PRIVATE



Statement of Truth

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

Signed **HIA 386** _____

Dated 1st May 2015.

HIA 386

PRIVATE

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.

[REDACTED]

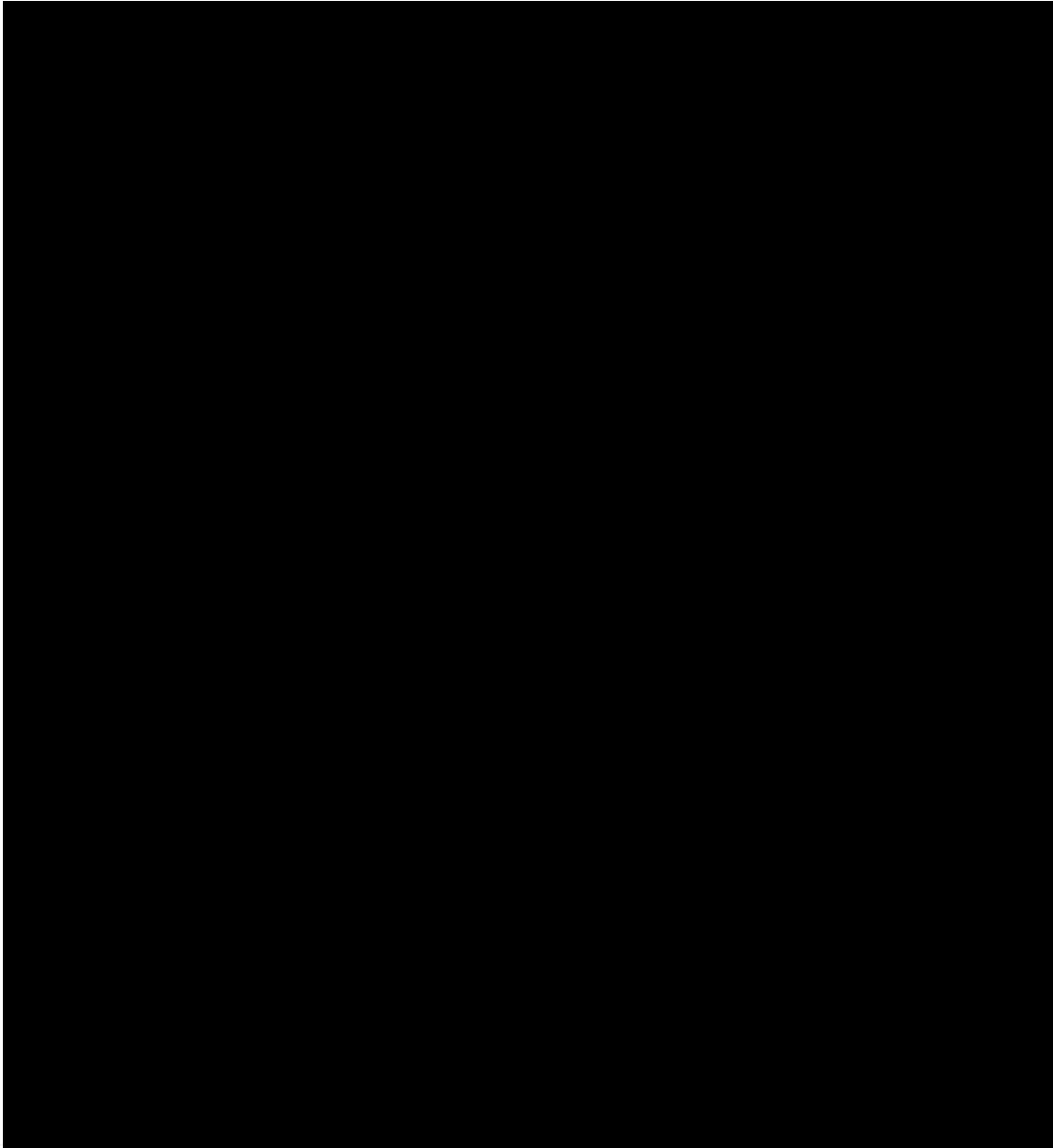
[REDACTED]

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** husband **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 wife was working by saying that he would give me a 'good

PRIVATE



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

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 503

Witness Name: HIA 503

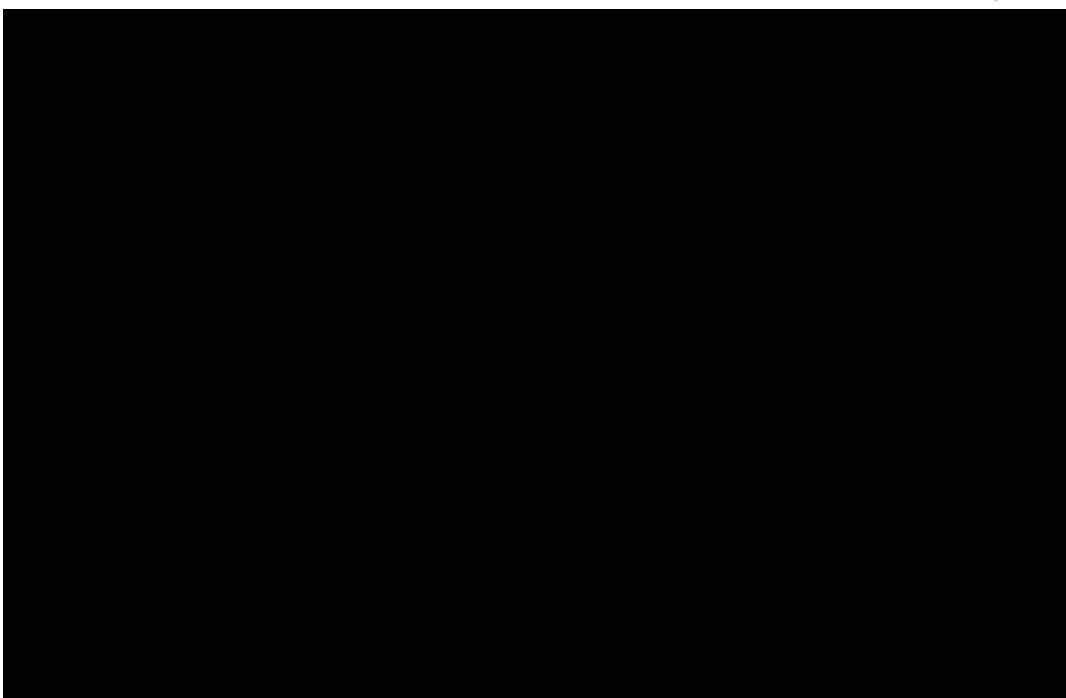
THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 503

I, HIA 503, will say as follows:-

Personal Details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] and lived with my family in [REDACTED]. I have 14 siblings. I have 6 brothers and 8 sisters. I am the youngest daughter but the third youngest in the family.



PRIVATE

21. **RG 2**, a member of staff was very heavy handed. He was verbally abusive to me, he would shout and swear at me, calling me names like 'bitch' and would threaten me by saying 'I am your worst nightmare'.
22. On one occasion I was restrained by a member of staff called **RG 3**, who was ex-military. He put my arm right up my back and pressed on a pressure point on my thumb which paralysed me with pain.
23. On another occasion I did not get out of the swimming pool with other residents. I had just been in the pool a short time when a staff member, that I believe was called **RG 232** took me out of the pool using a large hook and sat on me. I would estimate him to be 18 stone weight. My face was pushed against the tiles I screamed for help but no one assisted me nor did he stop. Another staff member called **RG 5** was also present and did nothing to help me.
24. A punishment at Rathgael was to be sent to the Shamrock room. The room was approximately four foot square. This room was empty and had a very rough carpet. Punishment was to be locked in there for 72 hours in solitary confinement. When I was put in the Shamrock room I would pull at my hair through boredom.
25. **RG 5** was responsible for giving us cigarettes. If I was in any trouble, **RG 5** would cut the cigarettes to make them shorter. At times the cigarettes would have been shortened to an inch long. This was another method staff used to control us, in reality this led to tensions between the residents.
26. During the evenings we were not allowed to select a particular television programme to view. We had to watch the staff's choice of programme.
27. There was a pool room at Rathgael. We were not allowed to use this facility unless accompanied by a member of staff. In practice this happened quite infrequently.

PRIVATE



Statement of Truth

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

Signed **HIA 503** _____

Dated 22.4.2015

WHITE HOUSE

WEEKLY RECORD SHEET

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

Status:- TSO

Name:- [Redacted] HIA389

14.8.93 'introductory Primary Worker Session (see file)

behaviour generally acceptable throughout the day.

15.8.93 [Redacted] HIA389 difficult, defiant and very aggressive

Assaulted [Redacted] RG5

injuring [Redacted] RG5

removed to Shanrock House 'Time out'

[Redacted] RG229 spoke to [Redacted] HIA389

remained belligerent/aggressive [Redacted] HIA389 given further time to reflect on her behaviour/attitude and after further discussion with [Redacted] returned to the unit at 7:30pm without incident

[Redacted] RG229 tried to arrange access visit from

[Redacted] HIA389 Sisters for her birthday

[Redacted] HIA389 requested that [Redacted] HIA503 HIA 386 visit separately as "they cause a scene" together.

A difficult start for [Redacted] HIA389 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

[Redacted] RG229

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 [REDACTED] RG226
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 [REDACTED] RG5 during which [REDACTED] HIA389

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

A dreadful Christmas/New Year for [REDACTED] HIA389 her behaviour was totally unexcusable. All staff made every effort to

THE RATHGAEL CENTRE
for
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

ABSCONDING / INCIDENT
REPORT FORM

NEWID RECEIVED

3

NAME HIA389 HOUSE UNIT 9
DATE 31 / 12 / 9 TIME 7:21 approx
REPORTED BY WJ STAFF INVOLVED AH WS
ABSCONDED FROM _____
LEAD UP TO INCIDENT As before

ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT [redacted] and [redacted] with milk bottles threatened
them incident - both grabbed empty milk bottles, washed
them and Leanne stood threatening staff with the broken neck of
bottle shouting for us to come on - WS advised both to get
the milk down. I held Denise's arm by the wrist I prevented her
breaking away again. I then escorted both girls to the door
Leanne and Karen blocked doorway physically - then started
On entering Leanne Karen grabbed Denise and stood giving
the appearance to throw some. As Denise was led thru GA kitchen
downway both girls physically obstructed path and exit of staff.
IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN Leanne was physical removed from exit.

ON ABSCONDING

TIME

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

THE RATHGAEL CENTRE

for

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

ABSCONDING / INCIDENT

REPORT FORM

NEED Intercept. x 2

File [redacted]

NAME [redacted] HOUSE UNIT 9
 DATE 31/12/95 TIME 7-20 AM
 REPORTED BY [redacted] STAFF INVOLVED [redacted]
 ABSCONDED FROM [redacted]
 LEAD UP TO INCIDENT as before

ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT attempting to trip me up - did block my path. All arrived and again asked girls to leave pool. Picking up all [redacted] and [redacted] had overheard my request for a shower (necessary). AH took [redacted] by the wrist and left pool. [redacted] + [redacted] refused to leave and turned out. As we walked to back of [redacted] [redacted] broke free of the group, ran off. All intercepted [redacted] at Picheon [redacted] [redacted] related a [redacted] bottle and attempted to hit out with this - ill planned [redacted] [redacted] behind her back [redacted]

IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

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

[Redacted]

Employer:

Ins @ arm.

Address:

8 Rathgael Centre
Bangor.

Previous Attendance:

311708

Type of Accident:

Crsg.

Unit Number

RTA

Industrial

Home

[Redacted]

Date

31 '12 '93.

Time

7.00 pm

History and Examinations:

INJURY @ ELBOW
TODAY

1/2 @ ELBOW IS SWELL
AND PAINFULL

Signature:

Time:

X-Rays:

@ ELBOW NO FRACTURE

Photographs:

Investigations:

Comment:

Provisional Diagnosis:

Tetanus Toxoid

Course

0.5 ml

Booster

Treatment:

- PARACETAMOL
- COLLAR + SUFF -

Admitted to A.H., Ward

Transferred to

Hospital

To report again at A. and E. in

days.

Discharge to Supervision of General Practitioner.

To attend

Extern

Consultant

at

on

Secretary to make appointment

Signature:

Time:

[Handwritten signature and time 20:20]

22/1/4

ARDS HOSPITAL
ACCIDENT and EMERGENCY SERVICE

PNP 93B134 WP31159

1 paralysed you with pain.

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. On another occasion you were getting out -- didn't get
4 out of the swimming pool and RG 232 took you
5 out of the pool using a large hook and sat on you.

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. Your face was pushed up against the tiles.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Was this to restrain you --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- after the -- why was he needing to restrain you?

12 **A. Because we wouldn't come out of the swimming pool.**

13 Q. Okay, but you have presumably come out of the swimming
14 pool. Why --

15 **A. No, he put a hook over me and trailed me out. It is
16 like a big metal bar with like a wide hook thing on it.
17 Put it over the top of my head and pulled me in.**

18 Q. Right. So -- but once he brings you out, why does he
19 need to -- can you remember that?

20 **A. Because I wanted to get back in the pool.**

21 Q. So he's preventing you from going back in?

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. Is he telling you, "You are not going back in"?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. And are you determined you are going back in?

1 Q. -- and the process of either taking cigarettes off you
2 --

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. -- or cutting cigarettes down so there was less of them
5 as part of the punishment system, the rewards and
6 privileges system, to try and get behaviour. You were
7 saying to me earlier -- do you want to just explain to
8 the Panel that that was --

9 **A. That wasn't part of rewards. That was her way of doing**
10 **it. I mean, these -- well, me and other residents in**
11 **there had an addiction of nicotine and to get your**
12 **cigarette maybe cut down to there (gesturing), it was**
13 **only going to cause tensions in the unit.**

14 Q. So she was the only person who did this?

15 **A. Yes. She was the only person that cut them down.**

16 Q. Right. Did other people take them off you completely?

17 **A. Other members of staff would have confiscated them, but**
18 **you would have been able to earn them back that way, but**
19 **she actually cut them. There was no coming back.**

20 Q. It is that, the doing -- the cutting of the cigarettes,
21 that you regarded as --

22 **A. Yes. It would have caused tensions, because if you were**
23 **going in to have a smoke, you maybe had that left in**
24 **your cigarette (gesturing).**

25 Q. In paragraph 30 of your --

1 **A. Sorry. As it states there -- sorry -- you were only**
2 **allowed so many cigarettes a day. So with that**
3 **addiction, with it being cut right down, so you were**
4 **actually just running round, you know, wanting**
5 **a cigarette. So everybody was sort of worked up.**
6 **That's what she done to people.**

7 **Q. What would have been the reasons why she cut down the**
8 **cigarettes?**

9 **A. I don't know why she would cut them down.**

10 **Q. Would it have been behaviour that had been engaged in --**

11 **A. It could have been.**

12 **Q. -- or would she have done it just for badness to cut**
13 **them down?**

14 **A. Well, I have could have said something to another**
15 **resident in there and next thing all the cigarettes came**
16 **down. It might have been a joke. She never asked.**
17 **Just snip, snip. You know it's ...**

18 **Q. So there were no -- there was no good or compelling**
19 **reason for cutting the cigarettes down?**

20 **A. No, no.**

21 **Q. You talk in paragraph 30 in your statement at 131,**
22 **please, that during the entire -- now this is I think**
23 **meant to be the first or second occasion.**

24 **A. Yes.**

25 **Q. So when you are 13, you were bullied by three other**