

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 418

Witness Name HIA 418

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 418

HIA 418, will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born [REDACTED] and lived with my family in [REDACTED]. I am the second youngest in the family. I have three older brothers and one younger sister.

Lisnevin Remand Centre [REDACTED]

2. I was [REDACTED] years old when I was first sent to Lisnevin on remand for three months. I returned home for approximately one month before being placed back in Lisnevin on a thirty one day residential programme. This programme consisted of offending behaviour workshops, social skills, education, group work and outdoor pursuits. When I was [REDACTED] years old I was sent back to Lisnevin for a further period of remand of eleven days. Finally I was remanded to Lisnevin for six months when I was [REDACTED] years old. I left Lisnevin when I was [REDACTED] years old.
3. During the entire time I spent in Lisnevin I received sectarian abuse from the other residents and staff due to my name, which would have easily identified me as Catholic.

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4. I was often intimidated and bullied by other residents and staff never took any action when they witnessed this. There was a hierarchy among the residents in Lisnevin. When arguments broke out this gave staff the opportunity to restrain us and remove certain residents to 'The Block'.
5. I was also regularly intimidated and bullied by staff. If I tried to stand up for myself, the staff would restrain me. I was restrained by two members of staff who would push both my arms up behind my back. This would have been excruciatingly painful. I would scream and plead for them to stop but they never did. I was then dragged like an animal to 'The Block' in the Scrabo unit. 'The Block' was an empty room with the exception of a blue mattress. This room had a broken window. Staff would leave me there for up to two days at a time. I was given very little to eat and drink when I was in 'The Block'. I believe 'The Block' was not a fit or safe place for animals let alone children.
6. During my time in Lisnevin I was put in 'The Block' between ten and fifteen times. When I was there I was in total despair and suicidal. I would have taken my life but there was nothing in this room that would have allowed me to do so.
7. I do not recall the names of the individual staff members responsible for this abuse, although LN 25 was [REDACTED] and I believe he would have been fully aware of what was going on. I would recognise the other staff involved from photographs. LN 25 never assaulted me however I do remember seeing him restraining other residents.
8. I recall on one occasion a member of staff told a joke. He kicked me on the lower back with full force as he believed I was laughing at him rather than at his joke. I do not recall his name however he was a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] man who was approximately [REDACTED] years old.
9. On another occasion a member of staff who played rugby tackled me for no reason when I was attending an outdoor activity. I was thrown to the ground and was winded from the ordeal. I do not remember his name. However he was well built.

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10. I recall a member of staff called LN 26. He came to work wearing [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I believe all the staff in Lisnevin were protestant.
11. There was one member of staff called LN 27 who was a good man who treated all the residents in Lisnevin the same regardless of our religion.
12. I recall when I was playing snooker with other residents LN 25 would tell us not to play shots known as crosses. I believe he was referring to our catholic identity.
13. During my time in Lisnevin I observed other residents suffer the same brutality as I suffered. I recall the sound of the panic alarms followed by the screams of other residents being restrained and dragged to 'The Block'.

Life After Care

14. When I left Lisnevin I worked for my father. However I always had an interest in horse racing. I completed a course [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. This course enabled me to gain employment at a [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].
15. I returned home to Northern Ireland and met my partner. I have [REDACTED] daughters.
16. I am trying to move on with my life as best I can, however, the memories of the abuse I suffered in Lisnevin are always with me and continue to badly affect me. I do not believe I will ever forget the abuse and suffering which I was subjected to during my time spent in Lisnevin.
17. I have very distressing and upsetting memories from the time I spend in Lisnevin Remand Centre.

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18. I still suffer from pain in my right arm which I believe stems from being restrained during my time in Lisnevin. I also suffer from depression.

19. I believe that an apology for what I suffered during my time spent in Lisnevin would help me. Additionally recognition from the staff members involved that their behaviour was unacceptable.

Statement of Truth

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

Sig

A black rectangular box redacting the signature, with the text "HIA 418" printed in white inside the box.

HIA 418

Dated

18.5.2015

ADMISSION HISTORY

(Taken from Pupil File)

HIA 418

[REDACTED] - [REDACTED] Remanded to Lisnevin on
Burglary charges

[REDACTED] - [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]
Portcamman Project at Runkerry

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Remanded to Lisnevin on
G.B.H. charges

[REDACTED] - [REDACTED] Remanded to Lisnevin on
G.B.H. charges

DAILY SHEETDATE 18th January [REDACTED]NAME HIA 418DAY 1

DAILY DUTY

GROUP WORK

OUTDOOR ED. Night line All ready & keen to participate. Enjoyed it a lot although got very cold & tired quite quickly.

LEISURE TIME Played connect 4 again & again & again with the staff mostly because he can't reach the pool table and the magazines are too mature for him. Commented that he enjoyed gambling money with card games, so we had an opportunity to point out that bricks & games were O.K.

GENERAL Mentioned he was worried that the group might hit him & seemed to stick mainly to staff. The group however appear to accept him for the 'pigeon' he is!

CASE REVIEW SHEET:

NAME: [REDACTED] HIA 418 DATE: [REDACTED]

PRESENT: [REDACTED] HIA 418

ISSUED DISCUSSED:

- Reviewed past twelve days - attitude / level of participation / position in the group
- Probation Officer role and confidentiality remains an issue.
- [REDACTED] HIA 418's pattern of offending, his motivation to stop, and how he intends to!
- Concerns would be the lack of discipline/control at home, and [REDACTED] HIA 418's role within his peer group.
- The need for constructive use of free-time also discussed.

FUTURE: 10 Days at home

- To attend school Monday to Friday.
- In by 9.00 pm in the evening.
- Probation visit on Wednesday 3.30 pm.
- Portcamman visit to be confirmed on Wednesday.
- [REDACTED] HIA 418 stating that he will not be getting into trouble again. However he doesn't seem to fully understand, or be aware of the risks + influences in the community.

COURT DATES:

GENERAL:

During 19 days - Main focus of work:

- Review how he coped at home.
- Victim awareness work will need to be a main focus.
- Effect on offending on family.
- Link between Portcamman and [REDACTED] HIA 418, has difficulty in understanding this. He seems to believe that Portcamman exists in isolation from "home". Spent time discussing this, but the link between Portcamman and the community will need to be an ongoing issue with [REDACTED] HIA 418.

[REDACTED] HIA 418

[REDACTED]

(22)

[REDACTED] LEAVE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Wednesday [REDACTED]
for remaining
smoke and act

HIA 418

asked to see "me this morning"
when I brought him in to my office he starting crying, he
wanted moved class because Jim [REDACTED] was bulling him
I would ask staff to keep an eye on this situation [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]