

**SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE**  
**REPORT 1992 SHAMROCK HOUSE**  
**UNIT, RATHGAEL**

S O C I A L  
S E R V I C E S  
I N S P E C T O R A T E

1992

Inspection of Shamrock House Close Supervision Unit  
Rathgael Centre for Children and Young People  
Bangor, Co Down

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
1. Overview: Summary of Findings and Recommendations	1
2. Role and Function of Unit	6
3. Management	9
4. Staffing and Staff Training	12
5. Finance	15
6. Practice Issues	16
7. Physical and Health Care	19
8. Emotional, Social and Developmental Care	20
9. Education, Training and Employment	23
10. Control and Discipline	24
11. Complaints Procedure	28
12. Records	29
13. Description of Premises	31

REPORT OF AN INSPECTION OF SHAMROCK HOUSE CLOSE SUPERVISION UNIT, RATHGAEL  
CENTRE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

1 OVERVIEW

1.1 This inspection was carried out as part of the Social Services Inspectorate's Thematic Programme which on this occasion focused on secure accommodation/close supervision units within training schools. The decision to examine this area of residential social work stemmed from recent national concerns such as the report of the enquiry into the operation of children's homes in Staffordshire, known as the "Pindown Report" and some of the issues that emerged from Sir William Utting's enquiry into residential child care. The Northern Ireland Office requested SSI to undertake the inspection to ensure that:-

- i. no child, being cared for in a secure unit within the training school system, was being subjected to any practice that was punitive, degrading, placing unnecessary pressure on them to conform to rules and regulations, locking them up in isolation rooms for lengthy periods or depriving them from regular contact with care staff;
- ii. management of the units had in place practices and procedures, including internal monitoring which would speedily identify if such practices were taking place and take appropriate steps to remedy such action; and
- iii. all children had access to a complaints procedure system which would ensure their concerns, fears or any personal matters that they were unduly worried about were dealt with in a speedy and effective manner.



- 1.2 The inspection was carried out on 22-23 January 1992 by the following members of the Inspectorate:-

Project Manager - Mr H V McElfatrick  
Lead Inspector - Mr C W Donnell  
Inspector - Mr P Denley.

- 1.3 Prior to the commencement of the inspection the Director of Rathgael was asked to supply a range of information which included details of the children, staff, policy documents, menus, health and safety data including fire drills, complaints procedure, abscondings from the campus, details of any Independent Representation Scheme and reports by members of the Management Board carrying out routine visits to the unit.

- 1.4 The fieldwork was conducted by a series of meetings with senior and middle managers, the staff teams, individual staff, informal discussions with the children, examination of the unit records and case files and observations by the Inspectors during the course of their visit. Visits were also paid to the unit during the evening and discussions also took place with the night supervisory staff.

#### Summary of Findings

- 1.5 The concept of a close supervision unit was first introduced in Rathgael in 1986. The central thrust of the unit concentrates on the importance of intensive staff/child interaction within an environment which provides minimal security. The leadership of the unit and the approach to treatment has changed on several occasions since its beginnings. Several approaches have been adopted and currently the policy is to keep young people in the unit for as short a time as possible. The experience of the operation of this policy seems to point towards a maximum stay of 15 weeks if the problems of the

individual have been dealt with satisfactorily and they can be returned safely to open conditions.

- 1.6 The present staff impress as a well integrated and confident group. However the potential strength of the team is weakened because of the need to resort to employing casual staff to fill gaps in the roster. A further weakness is that one of the 2 day shifts operates without formal leadership since the total staff team includes only one senior residential social worker.
- 1.7 Management was not able to provide the Inspectors with a clear written policy statement in relation to handling complaints made by residents or their families. They have however made a verbal commitment to rectifying this.
- 1.8 Whilst the Inspectors have no criticism of the way "time out" and removal from the group is practised, some discrepancy between policy and practice was discovered. There was no systematic recording of "time out" and no recorded evidence of monitoring by senior managers.
- 1.9 Whilst the Inspectors found that the Admissions Panel operated to clear criteria and is organised in a businesslike manner 2 administrative weaknesses emerged. Firstly, minutes vary in quality and clarity because no one person is allocated the responsibility for minute taking. Secondly, no central record of Admissions Panel decisions is retained by management. As a result of this it was, for example, not possible to locate the decision to admit 2 young persons to the close supervision unit. The Inspectors were impressed by notes of guidance to treatment and immediate steps to be taken which flowed directly from panel decisions.
- 1.10 Management have said they are committed to introducing an Independent Representative Scheme and preliminary discussions have taken place with NIACRO.

1.11 Individual case files were well ordered and up to date. The night diary however was felt, by Inspectors, to be of inadequate design. Inspectors also take the view that the day diary could be put to better use. The recently introduced marks system appeared to be applied unevenly by different members of staff.

1.12 Much of the bedroom equipment, including lights, dimmers and call buttons was found to be deficient or in a poor state of repair.

#### Summary of Recommendations

It is recommended that:-

- 1.13 a second senior residential social worker be appointed (para 4.5).
- 1.14 a separate file of the minutes of the meetings of the Admission Panel be kept by the Deputy Director (Head of Care) (para 6.2).
- 1.15 the present method of censorship used in the close supervision unit should be reviewed (para 8.3).
- 1.16 guidance should be provided by management on the use of "time out" and sets out clearly the arrangements for its application (para 10.6)
- 1.17 immediate steps should be taken to introduce a complaints procedure for children and their parents (para 11.1).
- 1.18 steps should be taken to progress the introduction of an Independent Representative Scheme (para 11.2).
- 1.19 the design and use of day and night diaries should be reviewed (para 12.3).
- 1.20 management should evaluate the purpose and usefulness of the marks system. If a decision to continue it is taken efforts should be made

to help staff understand its purpose and to ensure equity of application. (Para 12.5)

- 1.21 a system of regular checks on bedroom equipment, lights, dimmers, call buttons should be introduced (para 13.5).

## 2. ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE UNIT.

2.1 The unit is defined as a close supervision unit. It was first opened in 1986. Its purpose is to provide a secure environment for the treatment of young people who have been placed in Rathgael Centre on "care" grounds and whose problems are such that they cannot, for the time being, be dealt with in an open setting. Shamrock House stands within the grounds of Rathgael Centre but is independent of the other units. In December 1989 the close supervision operation moved to Fox Lodge, a secure justice facility, to enable substantial modifications to be carried out to Shamrock House, also known as House 10. It is anticipated that the refurbished Shamrock House will become operational again in March 1992. The comments that follow in this report on the close supervision unit will therefore refer to Fox Lodge and not to the new unit which is to open soon.

### Aims and Objectives

- 2.2 There are no specific aims and objectives stated for the close supervision unit. It operates under a number of general principles and these are contained in the staff handbook:-
- a. The use of this accommodation is not intended as a punitive measure. The function of this unit is to provide a controlled and safe environment in which the care and treatment of those children who satisfy the admission criteria is undertaken.
  - b. The close supervision unit is seen as part of the continuum of the totality of residential child care provision.
  - c. While security is important, it does not override the requirements of good child care practice.

- d. The use of the close supervision unit for children in care is seen as a very exceptional measure and only those children who genuinely need such accommodation are placed and kept there.
- e. Where it proves necessary to use this accommodation the length of time during which any child stays in it is kept to a minimum.

#### Staff Guidance on Policies, Procedure and Practice

- 2.3 Management has produced guidance for staff who work in the unit. It covers such areas as philosophy, criteria for admission, admission/reception procedures, review procedures, policy on the use of time-out, assessment/treatment procedures and health and safety guidelines. The guidelines are comprehensive and act as a good framework for dealing with young people who are placed in a secure environment. It was apparent to the Inspectors that staff have a good working knowledge of the procedures.

#### Residents

- 2.4 The 6 January 1992 was agreed as the census date for determining the number of young people in the unit. There were 6 young people in residence on that date, 3 boys and 3 girls. Their ages ranged from 12 years and 2 months to 16 years and 7 months. The 3 boys and one girl were the subject of Training School Orders and the other 2 girls in the unit were the subject of Place of Safety Orders. Length of stay in the unit varied between one week and 6 months, although most of the young people appear to have been there for approximately 2 months. All placements in the unit for more than 72 hours had been decided by the Admissions Panel and satisfied the admission criteria. Admission procedures and the operation of the panel will be referred to later in the report. During the calendar year of 1991 there were

86 admissions to and 82 discharges from the unit. Six of the admissions took place prior to January 1991.

- 2.5 During 1991 48 of the admissions were of very short duration. Twenty-one of the children had been there for one day and the remainder between 2 and 7 days, which suggests the unit is also used as a fall-back position for dealing with children from the open units whose behaviour has been found to be unacceptable. Any admission lasting more than 72 hours has to be brought to the attention of the Admissions Panel.
- 2.6 The use of the close supervision unit for short stays is a result of an "open door" policy in the other care units. When a child in one of the 'open' care units becomes very difficult to manage and has to be removed from the group in order to allow a cooling off period to take place, the close supervision unit is the only secure facility on the campus where the child can be placed. Upon removal to the close supervision unit the child's keyworker maintains contact with him/her throughout the placement.



### 3. MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 The Deputy Director (Head of Care) together with his Deputy (Deputy Head of Care) and his Assistant (Head of Care) are accountable to the Director for the overall provision of services to children who have been admitted to Rathgael on care grounds. This management function includes the oversight of the close supervision unit. The day-to-day management of the unit rests with the senior care team. However, in practice it appears that there is regular visiting to the unit by all members of the senior care management team. The team in the close supervision unit is led by a senior residential social worker.
- 3.2 Senior care team meetings are held on a weekly basis. These are structured formal business meetings. In practice the senior care team tend to meet at the end of each day to review the events of the preceding 24 hours. The senior care team mostly work a 9-5 day but a senior member of staff remains on duty until 10.30 pm each evening. Senior staff cover is provided by the Assistant Head of Care who is also available at weekends. The senior residential social worker in the close supervision unit also takes her turn providing cover for all the care units on campus after normal office hours. The duty is shared in turn with all other team leaders (SRSWs) and usually falls to the team leader on one week in three. Weekend duty has to be performed on 3 weekends out of 12.
- 3.3 All team leaders including the SRSW from the close supervision unit meet weekly.

#### Professional Supervision

- 3.4 The Director provides professional supervision for his 2 deputies on a regular basis. The Deputy Director (Head of Care) supervises the Deputy Head who in turn supervises the Assistant Head. The Assistant



Head supervises the 6 team leaders in Care. The thrust of the supervision sessions is to identify team leaders' needs, concentrate on professional development and ensure that they in turn are providing regular supervision for all of their staff. The supervision of team leaders takes place monthly and all sessions are recorded. The present management and supervision files are modelled on those currently in use in Health and Social Services Boards.

- 3.5 Senior management are in the planning stage of introducing a system of performance appraisal and this is seen as supplementing professional supervision. The system of supervision as described to the Inspectors is comprehensive, well organised and regularly applied. This policy is commendable and should do much to enhance the quality of the residential care provided within the close supervision unit.

#### Visit by Board Members

- 3.6 Details of a recent monthly visit to the unit by a Board member on 17 January 1992 was presented for scrutiny. The visit which lasted for 3 hours examined the following areas:

- a. Inspection of Records
- b. Quality of Care
- c. Conversation with Young People
- d. Discussions with Staff
- e. Comments on Children's Problems
- f. The Physical Environment

g. Recommendations.

The report was a clear indication that Board members are exercising their responsibility in a comprehensive manner and that important issues are being addressed. The report concluded with 4 recommendations viz:

- i. Regular cleaning services be organised.
- ii. Domestic kitchen help be employed.
- iii. More equipment, especially for education be acquired.
- iv. Special attention to be given to the very difficult problem of suitable day-time activities for the post-compulsory school-age young people.

#### 4. STAFFING AND STAFF TRAINING

- 4.1 The staff team in the close supervision unit consists of one senior residential social worker and 6 residential social workers. The team is made up of 4 men and 3 women whose ages range from 26-62 years. The team represents a wide range of experience and qualifications. Although most of the team have been in the close supervision unit for a relatively short period, 5 under one year and 2 just on 18 months, prior to the establishment of the team a number of the staff have worked in residential care for many years. The age and length of service brings an in-depth approach to the task, staff exhibiting a mature and confident approach to caring for young people. Two staff hold CRCCYP and 2, including the team leader, hold the CQSW. The remaining 3 staff are unqualified.
- 4.2 The team is augmented from time to time by the use of casual staff. Four such staff are employed and most have backgrounds in teaching or youth work. Management seeks to maintain a ratio of one staff member to two young people. Two teachers provide on-site education. Efforts are made by social work and education staff to integrate their contributions to the care of children in the unit. The staff team has gone through considerable changes in recent months. The reconstituted team is still in the process of settling in whilst the team leader seeks to establish new directions in management style and procedures. A cautionary note should be sounded that senior management should be mindful of the fact that this team is dealing with the most difficult and disturbed children in the school and therefore there is a need to employ fully qualified and experienced staff whenever possible.
- 4.3 Hand over from the day staff to senior night supervisor takes place at 10.00 pm, with 2 senior members of day staff remaining on duty until the young people have settled down. This duty finishes at

10.30 pm. The unit night supervisor commences duty at 10.20 pm. A senior night supervisor covers all of the units in Rathgael contacting individual night supervisors by telephone and in addition he routinely makes a round of visits to all of the units. He also makes occasional random visits to the units but such visits are not recorded. Through the use of a mobile telephone he can be contacted in an emergency and can respond quickly if assistance is required.

- 4.4 The regular night supervisor in the close supervision unit has worked that shift for 7 years. She adopts a warm common sense approach to the task and displays an intuitive understanding of how to handle problematic young people and difficult situations as they arise. She rarely feels threatened and is secure in the knowledge that in the event of a problem arising backup is quickly available. An Inspector spent 2½ hours with the night supervisor during which time she responded to a number of calls from the children. The Inspector noted that the supervisor was particularly alert which is important as the call system in the close supervision unit is not functioning. This will be referred to later in the report. It is anticipated that when the operation moves to the refurbished close supervision unit, 2 night supervisors, a man and a woman will be employed in that setting.

- 4.5 During the course of the inspection management raised the question of a deputy for the team leader who cannot always be on duty. She has 42 days leave per year plus time off in lieu. She is required to carry additional roles in relation to the total campus. In her absence the senior care team seeks to provide essential cover albeit at a distance. The Inspectors have considered the suggestion and have taken into consideration the level of team leader cover in both St Patrick's and Lisnevin. Having regard to the nature of the task of working with young people in security, many of whom exhibit very disturbed behaviour, the need for senior support for staff engaged in

this task and the precedents that exist elsewhere in the secure unit system, the Inspectors are convinced of the need and recommend the appointment of an additional senior residential social worker in the close supervision unit. The duty roster should be so arranged as to ensure that a senior residential social worker is always available during day duty.

#### Training

- 4.6 All staff are encouraged to take part in in-service training and short courses. Training needs and courses are discussed during supervision and identified needs are recorded. The Board has a policy which requires all newly appointed unqualified staff to become trained within a period of 5 years from the date of their appointment. This requirement is a condition of continued employment. If a person is unsuccessful in gaining access to a course management may dispense with his/her services. Details of courses are sent to the Deputy Director (Head of Care) and he in turn informs team leaders who identify particular members of staff relative to their training needs.

## 5. FINANCE

- 5.1 It was not possible to obtain the unit costs for the close supervision unit because of the present financial system that is in operation in the Centre. The Director is very aware of the need to develop a system which will enable unit costs to be determined. This will be particularly important in the future when contracts have to be drawn up with Health and Social Services Boards. In the new situation, charges for the close supervision unit will have to be calculated separately as the cost of care in security is likely to be much higher than in the open units.

## 6. PRACTICE ISSUES

### Admission Procedures including the role of the Admissions Panel

- 6.1 All admissions to the close supervision unit are scrutinised by the Admissions Panel if the placement exceeds 72 hours. The Panel is chaired by a member of the Management Board who also chairs the Review Committee. Social work, psychology and education are represented on the Panel, often the social services departments' field staff attend.

### Criteria for Admission

No child admitted to the Centre for "care" reasons can be placed or retained in the close supervision unit unless

- a. he or she has a history of absconding and is likely to abscond from any other description of accommodation, thereby placing himself or herself at physical, mental or moral risk; or
- b. he or she if kept in any other description of accommodation, is likely to cause self-injury or injury to other persons.

- 6.2 The pre-panel process is carried out by the intake social worker and is done in a businesslike manner. Decisions by the panel, based on information available in most cases indicate the criteria under which the decisions to admit have been made and minutes include notes on treatment to be provided and immediate steps to be taken. Minutes are recorded by the primary worker in attendance. However the minutes examined by the Inspector were of variable quality and in some cases it was difficult to find the panel decision. Management should ensure that minutes of panel meetings are properly documented with clearly stated outcomes. The Inspector found 2 personal records



which did not contain any reference to the panel decision to admit. Efforts should be made to ensure that the senior residential social worker receives a copy of the panel minute. If this is not forthcoming the senior residential social Worker should report the matter to her line manager. The Inspectors recommend that a separate file be kept by the Deputy Director (Care) into which should be placed the minutes of all decisions taken by the panel. This file should be held in addition to any copy placed on the individual case file in the unit.

#### Assessment/Treatment Procedures

- 6.3 The staff handbook sets out the framework for assessment and treatment in the close supervision unit.

#### Assessment

- i. Assessment within the unit, is based on Masud Houghghi's Problem Profile as detailed in "Assessing Problem Children". This assessment focuses on identifying the individual needs of the children by utilising the skills of an inter-disciplinary team comprising of residential social workers, teachers, psychologists and other relevant agencies. The needs of each young person are considered under the following headings:-
  - a. physical, b. educational, c. home and family, d. social skills, e. anti-social behaviour, f. personal.

#### Treatment

- ii. Treatment is carried out by means of task centred casework. Tasks are outlined at the case conference and set out in the form of an action plan for the primary worker. The outcome from the action is subsequently reviewed at the next meeting. If necessary modifications are made or a new plan of



action/treatment can be drawn up. Initially the work identified may be undertaken jointly by the primary worker in the parent unit and the primary worker identified within the close supervision unit. Such decisions are also taken at case reviews. All 6 case files inspected revealed that reviews took place and were recorded at 5 weekly intervals.

#### Reviews

- iii. All children are reviewed every 5 weeks at an internal unit review. Since the length of stay of individuals in the close supervision unit is usually of short duration the main Review Committee is not usually involved until the young person has returned to the 'parent' unit.

## 7. PHYSICAL AND HEALTH CARE

- 7.1 Regular medical and dental checks are carried out in the unit. Emergency dental treatment is available on site. If necessary a young person can be taken to the orthodontist or hospital for treatment. If a child is ill, he is kept in the unit, where he is visited regularly by a Centre nurse. The dispensing of medicines is controlled by the nursing staff.
- 7.2 A programme of health education is provided in school and residential staff also provide counselling and education on topics of sex, solvent abuse, personal hygiene and smoking as and when the need arises. The young people may shower or take a bath any evening and clothing is changed daily. School uniform is worn during the day and casual clothing is worn after school hours.
- 7.3 Main meals are provided from the central kitchen and conveyed to the unit by heated trolleys. The menu is made out weekly. Three main meals are provided each day. The menu showed a good variety of fish, meat, chicken, burgers and vegetables. Breakfast and supper are flexible according to each unit's needs. If young persons wish to bake such things as cakes, buns or apple tarts in the unit the ingredients are obtained from the kitchen on request.

## 8. EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL CARE

- 8.1 It was apparent to the Inspectors that management and staff are aware of the need and the importance of involving young people as much as possible in matters affecting their lives. The extent to which young people are involved in the unit life varies greatly and much depends upon factors such as age, behaviour and attitude. Nevertheless, there appears to be effective communication between staff and young people through individual counselling sessions and group meetings. Participation by the young people at their reviews is actively encouraged. Many of the young people in the close supervision unit are very disturbed and this makes for difficulties in bringing about real change in their lives.
- 8.2 There is a friendly atmosphere in the unit. Residential social workers and children appear to share an open and constructive relationship. Staff have to exercise close supervision and keep a careful watch for situations which could give rise to aggressive behaviour. They appear to have found a balance between care and control which is not always easy to achieve. Also they have managed to create a caring attitude towards the young people in the unit.
- 8.3 Contact with families is encouraged and staff make every attempt to ensure that children have the opportunity to see their families and communicate with them as often as possible. Contact is encouraged by way of visits, telephone calls and letters. Visiting time for the close supervision unit is between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm on Sundays, although no visit will be refused if requested providing that prior arrangements are made for children to be seen outside of school hours. The young people are normally permitted to have 2 free telephone calls to family or friends each week but the number of calls can be increased in certain circumstances. All letters coming into the unit are opened to ensure that illicit enclosures are

finding their way to the young people. The Inspectors recommend that management review the present method of screening and determine if another means of examining letters can be found.

- 8.4 Every effort is made to promote the spiritual well-being of all the young people. The chaplains attached to the school attend every Tuesday and the young people in the unit have access to them if they wish.

#### Recreation and Leisure

- 8.5 The evenings and weekends provide the main period for recreation and leisure. There is a secure enclosed area to the rear of the unit and this facility is used regularly by the young people for recreational activity. In addition they may also make use of the gymnasium and swimming pool. During an evening visit to the unit the Inspector observed a group at "leisure". On that particular evening the group were very disruptive, volatile and unsettled. This behaviour may have been related to an incident where a bunch of staff keys had been stolen earlier in the day. The keys were subsequently recovered within a few hours.
- 8.6 The main activities on that particular evening consisted of watching TV and playing pool, a new table having just arrived the day before the inspection took place. The management of larger groups where the ages, interests, attitudes and behaviour of the young people are more diverse, is at times difficult. Sometimes more constructive recreation and work with children is carried out in a smaller group setting. A major impediment to the small group activities in the close supervision unit is the lack of space. Doubtless this will be remedied when the group moves to the new premises in mid-March. The problem of space and the scarcity of physical recreational equipment was specifically mentioned in the report of the last official visit to the unit by a member of the Management Board. Little can be done

to improve the situation immediately but it is expected the problems may be resolved with the move to the refurbished premises.

9. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

- 9.1 There are 2 classrooms in the unit with 2 permanent teachers supplying the on-site education programme. Sessional teachers are occasionally employed to assist with the teaching programme. The educational component is a matter for HMI who recently conducted an inspection of the school and the unit was included as part of that exercise. The Inspectors sought to establish the nature of the educational provision and the relationship between teachers and care staff. The Deputy Director (Youth Treatment) has overall responsibility for the educational component in the school. Much of the day-to-day operation of the school curriculum rests with the Principal Teacher. Both teachers and residential social workers in the close supervision unit appear to work closely together to provide a team approach to the children. Teachers are also included in the weekly team meetings. A programme of general subjects is provided for children of school age, with much of the teaching being of a remedial nature. However, there are practical difficulties in dealing with the residential group, because of turnover and the range of ages and abilities.
- 9.2 There are difficulties associated with providing appropriate training for those young people beyond compulsory school age. This is due to the small numbers of the 16+ group and the problems of providing appropriate vocational activities. Management are not unmindful of this. During his recent formal visit to the unit the Management Board representative Mr Ginn, identified the problem and made some suggestions on possible ways of covering this gap in provision. SSI accept that efforts will continue to be made to improve the situation.

## 10. CONTROL AND DISCIPLINE

- 10.1 The staff handbook gives guidance on issues of control and discipline and concentrates on the use of "time-out" or removal from the group. Any comments on discipline and control in the unit must be made in the context of the difficulties inherent in the layout and size of the present building. A determined effort will be needed to reassess control and discipline approaches in readiness for a move to more spacious and suitable accommodation. It would be in the interest of all concerned for management to provide staff with advice, guidance and training in the positive use of sanctions. A small group approach to control is possible within the staffing ratio and could have positive results. A creative use of time and arranging activities with groups from outside the unit could add to the quality of care.

### TIME-OUT/REMOVAL

- 10.2 Time-out is defined as "any time spent excluded from the group either in the designated quiet room or locked in a bedroom". It excludes normal bedtimes. The policy document outlines the details required when recording the removal and monitoring arrangements. It also emphasises that a young person should not spend more than an aggregate of 72 hours in separation from the group in any 28-day period. The policy paper states that "all periods shall be recorded" and that any time-out period in excess of 15 minutes must receive senior staff approval.
- 10.3 The recording of "time-out" ie when a young person is removed from the group, needs to be examined by management. The Inspectors have no concerns about the quality of care provided and the methods of separation used but there does seem to be a variation in the methods of recording. There are a number of situations in which a young



person can be removed. If a young person's behaviour is such that they need to "cool down" or there is likely to be a confrontation with another child they may be sent to their bedroom for a few minutes. If the bedroom door is not locked, a member of staff will remain in close proximity to the room and the event will be recorded in the daily occurrence sheets. No senior staff approval is necessary. If for a variety of circumstances the door of the bedroom has to be locked or if the young person is placed in the designated separation room downstairs, whether the door is locked or not, senior staff approval must be sought and the child must be supervised at all times.

10.4 The "time-out" record book revealed a count of 78 occurrences of separation in the 3 months preceding the last entry. Cross referencing a random reading of individual occurrence sheets with the record book revealed that there was use of separation from the group which was not included in the official record. There were instances of young people being sent to their bedrooms for varying periods to calm down or being kept in their rooms longer in the morning because of "bad behaviour" the previous night. Additionally there was another breach of management policy in the case of one young man who had to be removed from the group on 3 occasions during the same shift. Senior management approval was not sought until the third removal which again is contrary to policy requirements. Part of the confusion appears to be one of interpretation. Management say that time out does not have to be recorded in the official separation record if the young person is not locked in his/her bedroom.

10.5 Entries made in the record by some staff are less than adequate. Essential detail is missing from some entries such as the time of separation, the frequency of checks made during isolation and whether or not a member of staff was in attendance, where it seemed in the circumstances, it might be required. Too much is left to individual style and initiative. This is unsatisfactory. The Inspectors



propose the introduction of a standard record book for use in all secure units throughout the training schools so as to ensure a uniform approach to recording separation, monitoring and senior staff approvals.

- 10.6 Apart from approval by senior staff of all instances of isolation exceeding 15 minutes and of situations where a young person is removed on two or more occasions during the same shift, there is no evidence, in the record, that management monitor the use of "time out" and the way it is supervised. It is in the interests of management accountability to have a clear policy statement on what is expected from staff, a system for ensuring appropriate and up to date recording of incidents of "time out" and a monitoring mechanism which ensures that all staff adhere to policy requirements. It is recommended that these matters be examined as a matter of urgency by management with a view to the introduction of a clear statement and guidance for staff on the procedures to be followed as well as the content of records relating to the use of time out. Management should also ensure that those records are monitored regularly.

#### Other Sanctions

- 10.7 Other sanctions in use in the unit to control behaviour include, being restricted completely to the unit, early bedtimes, losing leave, being withdrawn from trust programmes or token fines. Drugs are not used to control behaviour in the unit.

#### Abscondings

- 10.8 During 1991 there were 51 recorded abscondings associated with the close supervision unit. Thirty-four of the abscondings occurred when the young people were outside the unit. These situations included abscondings whilst on outings, visits to the gym, on trust programmes, or from police custody. Some are also accounted for by

failure of young people to return from home leave. The abscondings from the unit appear to have involved escaping through broken panels in the kitchen door, broken bedroom windows or going over the wall of the exercise yard. In November 1991 at the request of NIO Damien Curran, APRU produced an analysis of absconding behaviour in Rathgael Centre. The document contains a useful commentary on patterns of absconding and the Inspectors are aware that the issue of absconding is being addressed in a wider context. It is, however, a matter of concern that so many abscondings have occurred from the close supervision unit.

- 10.9 A simple example emerged during the course of the inspection which highlights the need for vigilance by all staff working in a secure environment. On the first day of the inspection a bunch of staff keys was taken and hidden away by two of the young people. The previous night, the night supervisor had recorded that she had overheard a conversation between residents which might present a threat to the safety of staff keys. It was not picked up by the day staff. Whilst not wishing to take the episode out of context it does nevertheless highlight the need for vigilance, effective communication and when "cues" are around staff should make appropriate responses.

## 11. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- 11.1 There is a complaints procedure which deals with specific complaints of a sexual nature involving staff or children. The Director indicated that it was the Board's intention to introduce, in the near future a comprehensive complaints document modelled on those currently in use by Health and Social Services Boards. The Inspectors noted that staff and young people are aware of the arrangements for making complaints and in recent times complaints against staff have been dealt with speedily and effectively by management. Nevertheless, there is a need to introduce a system for complaints procedure for children and their parents. The Health and Social Services Board model would provide a good example to follow and the Inspectors commend this document to management. It is recommended that management take immediate steps to introduce such a complaints procedure in the Rathgael Centre.

### Independent Representation (IR)

- 11.2 Management have had preliminary discussions about the introduction of an Independent Representation Scheme in the close supervision unit but as yet there have been no further developments. Whilst the Inspectors consider that the present arrangements for monitoring the care of the young people are satisfactory, the establishment of an Independent Representation Scheme would introduce an additional mechanism for ensuring the well-being of the young people. An IR scheme would afford the young people an opportunity to relate to persons who are not associated with management in any way. It could also act as a safeguard for management. It is recommended that steps be taken to progress the introduction of an Independent Representation Scheme.

## 12. RECORDS

### Diary and Statutory Records

12.1 Rule 19(2) Training School Rules (SRO 132) 1952 requires the Manager of the school to keep a Register of Admissions and Discharges in which shall be recorded all admissions, licences, revocation of licences, recalls and discharges; a Log Book in which shall be entered every event of importance connected with the school, a Daily Register of the presence or absence of each boy or girl and a Punishment Book. At present the records kept in the close supervision unit are not required by legislation. However a range of records is maintained in the unit.

12.2 The main record is the day diary. It is essentially a record of messages, appointments and sometimes reminders to staff about various issues. It provides no summary of the life of the unit during the shift. Inspectors consider that a summary in the diary would be a useful addition to communication between shifts.

12.3 The night diary is of a very inadequate design. There is no evidence of any monitoring of the activities of the person on duty. Visits by the senior night supervisor and checks should be recorded. It is recommended that the design and uses of the day and night diaries be reviewed in the light of the comments made by the Inspectors.

12.4 When a young person is transferred to the close supervision unit their case file is sent by the "parent" unit. The case files of the children are quite well ordered and the information is relatively easy to locate. All the files contained 5-week review reports and these are the main documents showing planned work following assessment. The occurrence sheets provide a catalogue of cryptic comment about daily happenings in the life of the individual.

Untoward events are recorded on a specifically designed incident report sheet.

- 12.5 It is apparent that all staff do not understand the purpose of the marks system which has been introduced. Many of the sheets examined were incomplete even for recent periods. For example the night supervisors either allocate no points or a standard 3 points. This may be due to a lack of opportunity for contact between the night supervisors and the day staff. It is **recommended** that management review the purpose, organisation and usefulness of the marks system. If a decision to continue is reached then efforts should be made to help staff understand its purpose. The Inspectors take the view that the purpose of a marks system should be to actively motivate and encourage the residents progress. Since marks are related directly to monetary reward it is even more important that equity of application is achieved.

### 13. DESCRIPTION OF THE PREMISES

13.1 The building currently housing the close supervision unit is located on the "justice" side of the campus. The reasons for the present decanting operation have already been explained. The present unit is a 2-storey building and is similar in external appearance to the other house units on the campus. The accommodation on the ground floor consists of a lounge, dining-room, servery/kitchen, staff office, male showers and WC, a "time-out" room and a quiet room. The decor is beginning to show signs of wear and tear and possibly reflects the degree of difficulty of the young people who are admitted to the unit. The lounge is a reasonable size, carpeted and has adequate storage space. It contains comfortable occasional chairs, and a TV set. A number of broken windows (a continuous problem) have been replaced in recent weeks.

13.2 The dining-room contains 3 tables and chairs, which are beginning to show signs of wear. Tablecloths are used but the room looked somewhat spartan. There is for example only one picture in the dining-room. The servery contains a fridge/freezer, small cooker, kettle, washing machine and tumble-dryer.

13.3 There are 7 bedrooms on the first floor together with a night toilet, staff toilet, staff storage, 2 classrooms and a night supervisor's room. Some of the bedrooms have been personalised, especially those occupied by the girls. All bedrooms are carpeted but sparsely. Most rooms had only a bed and chest of drawers but no chairs. Bedrooms 2, 6 and 7 had broken windows which had been boarded up. Of the 7 bedrooms only one had an alarm buzzer which worked and few of the night lights were working. Most of the internal alarm buttons had been damaged. In any event the main call/alarm system has not been working "for some time". Because of this the night supervisor spends

most of her time upstairs so she can respond quickly to the calls from the children.

13.4 In general terms the maintenance of the bedrooms is unsatisfactory. There are possibly a number of reasons for this. For example the high level of damage caused by a volatile group of young people in the unit, the lack of a coordinated response from management to issues of maintenance, poor design characteristics in terms of layout and the poor quality of materials available when this unit was refurbished. The fact that it was known the operation would be moving to a new location soon may have led management to give low priority to maintenance of the unit.

13.5 When the present unit is vacated and the building is "returned" to Youth Treatment, no young person should be accommodated there until a complete programme of refurbishment has been carried out. When Fox Lodge becomes operational again and the new Shamrock House is occupied it is recommended that a system of regular, not less than weekly, checks on bedrooms and safety equipment be carried out. These checks should include the testing of lights, dimmers, alarms and push-call buttons. Such inspections and any deficiencies found should be recorded. The repair of damaged equipment should be carried out promptly.

#### Premises Management

13.6 The Management Board has provided a policy statement in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 with the directive that all staff must conform to the Board's policy and accept and carry out their responsibilities in this respect. The Director is responsible for the effective arrangements for health and safety within the centre. A Health and Safety Committee under the chairmanship of the Director has been established to review and update its policy.



### Fire Drills

- 13.7 The record of fire drills for the unit was inspected and it was noted that fire drills, together with evacuation of the unit, took place at 7.45 pm on 20 December 1991 and at 7.25 pm on 8 January 1992. Drills were recorded as satisfactory. The record is countersigned by the visiting Management Board member. Fire drills are carried out on a monthly basis and the recording of drills is satisfactory.



**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
AND  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
JOINT STATEMENT TO THE HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE  
INQUIRY**

**MODULE 7**

**TRAINING SCHOOLS AND YOUTH JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS**

**21 August 2015**

**Department of Justice Declaration**

I, Karen Pearson, will say as follows:

This statement, has been provided on behalf of the Department of Justice (DOJ) in response to the Rule 9 request of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry (HIAI) dated 22 July 2015. It has been prepared jointly with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) on the basis of information contained in files currently held by both Departments and such evidence received from the HIAI as it has been possible to review within the required timeframe. As further information becomes available, it may be necessary to provide to the HIAI, revised or supplementary statements.

Mr Nick Perry's Statement dated 17 May 2013, sets out the history and role of the DOJ and its predecessors, namely the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) from 1922 to 1972 and the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) from 1972 to 1995.

**Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Declaration**

I, Hilary R Harrison will say as follows:

This statement (in so far as it refers to inspections of Training Schools and related activities undertaken by Inspectors from the former Department of Health and Social Services and its predecessors) has been provided on behalf of the DHSSPS in response to the HIAI Rule 9 Request dated 22 July 2015. The information presented here supplements the DHSSPS statement dated 30 July 2015 already submitted to the HIAI in respect of Module 7.

The role of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) between the years 1972 and 1995 was, by arrangement with the NIO and through the auspices of the DHSS Social Work Advisory Group (SWAG) and subsequently, the Social Services Inspectorate (SSI), to:

- inspect and carry out other investigations related to Training Schools and juvenile justice institutions as requested by NIO; and
- provide policy and professional practice advice in relation to the functioning of the schools and juvenile justice system.

The DOJ and DHSSPS have reviewed a significant volume of archived documentation in the preparation of this statement. Given the gaps in our records and limited corporate memory of events which go back decades, it is not possible to confirm with absolute certainty the veracity, completeness and accuracy of the information provided. This statement represents the best efforts of both Departments, in collaboration, to bring together and explain the

most significant events and major developments relating to children and young people in the justice field during the period 1922 to 1995.

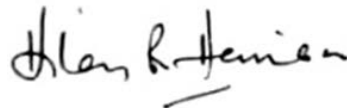
The statement contains annotations indicating which Department will act as lead witness in respect of the various matters addressed.



Signed:

Date: 21 August 2015

Karen Pearson



Signed:

Date 21 August 2015

Hilary Harrison

## PRIVATE

Rathgael were fine but there were a couple who treated me very badly. In particular, I remember [RG 13]. He was an older man who was in his sixties and he was [REDACTED]. He had two Alsatian dogs. He was the housemaster in House 8 where I lived initially. He was quite violent and always shouting at us. I remember a particular incident one evening at about 7pm when we were getting ready for bed, he made everyone in the house run around the outside recreation area in our pyjamas as a punishment. Even though it was the summer months, it was absolutely freezing. I think it was a way which he had of asserting his authority but I found it humiliating.

4. I remember another incident one night when [RG 13] slapped me hard on the head and face. We had been to Bangor for an outing earlier that day, and as a group, we told, [RG 14] the staff member supervising us, that we were allowed to have some time to ourselves for an hour. This was untrue. [RG 13] found out and blamed me for lying to [RG 14]. Another member of staff who was called [RG] witnessed what was happening and tried to intervene. She started to scream at him and shouted at him to leave me alone. [RG] was quite young, about sixteen years old. I remember her well because she was so friendly. He began shouting back at her and told her to mind her own business. She left Rathgael shortly afterwards and I suspected she was dismissed because he complained about her.
5. There was another member of staff called [RG 16]. He was a tall, loud man who was well built. He was also a bully and I felt afraid of him. I remember one incident in August 1974 when he took us to Stickland's Glen in Bangor for a day at the seaside. We drove there by minibus and when we got there he made us all jump into the sea. [RG 76] could swim but he was afraid of deep water. [RG 16] knew this but he just threw him in the water anyway. I felt very threatened by him.
6. I was discharged from Rathgael in December 1975. I went back to live with my father and I attended [REDACTED] High School. However, I continued to play truant from school and I was sent back to Rathgael as a day boy in May 1977. I hated school. I had a phobia about attending it. This was so bad that I

## PRIVATE

Rathgael were fine but there were a couple who treated me very badly. In particular, I remember [RG 13]. He was an older man who was in his sixties and he was [REDACTED]. He had two Alsatian dogs. He was the housemaster in House 8 where I lived initially. He was quite violent and always shouting at us. I remember a particular incident one evening at about 7pm when we were getting ready for bed, he made everyone in the house run around the outside recreation area in our pyjamas as a punishment. Even though it was the summer months, it was absolutely freezing. I think it was a way which he had of asserting his authority but I found it humiliating.

4. I remember another incident one night when [RG 13] slapped me hard on the head and face. We had been to Bangor for an outing earlier that day, and as a group, we told, [RG 14] the staff member supervising us, that we were allowed to have some time to ourselves for an hour. This was untrue. [RG 13] found out and blamed me for lying to [RG 14]. Another member of staff who was called [RG] witnessed what was happening and tried to intervene. She started to scream at him and shouted at him to leave me alone. [RG] was quite young, about sixteen years old. I remember her well because she was so friendly. He began shouting back at her and told her to mind her own business. She left Rathgael shortly afterwards and I suspected she was dismissed because he complained about her.
5. There was another member of staff called [RG 16]. He was a tall, loud man who was well built. He was also a bully and I felt afraid of him. I remember one incident in August 1974 when he took us to Stickland's Glen in Bangor for a day at the seaside. We drove there by minibus and when we got there he made us all jump into the sea. [RG 76] could swim but he was afraid of deep water. [RG 16] knew this but he just threw him in the water anyway. I felt very threatened by him.
6. I was discharged from Rathgael in December 1975. I went back to live with my father and I attended [REDACTED] High School. However, I continued to play truant from school and I was sent back to Rathgael as a day boy in May 1977. I hated school. I had a phobia about attending it. This was so bad that I

## PRIVATE

even started playing truant from Rathgael School. I was returned to Rathgael on a full time basis for a short time in December 1977.

7. I was sent to House 5 this time and my housemother was **RG 72** who was a lovely lady. However, I was absolutely distraught at the thought of being in Rathgael again. When she told me to put my uniform on again, I refused. I remember standing in a small cloakroom where the laundry and clean clothes were kept and not wanting to put these clothes on because I had such negative associations with them. **RG 16** came rushing in and he hit me on my face and head and told me to get my uniform on. I was so upset by this I absconded and went home that day. He collected me from my father's house but because he knew he had treated me badly, he apologised.
8. I remember a lot of peer bullying at Rathgael. It was both verbal and physical and there was very little you could do about it. For example, I remember one boy's mother passed away. His father was a butcher and the other boys teased him by saying that 'his father had chopped his mother up'. I felt especially vulnerable at night because you were locked in a room with 6-8 other boys. If one of them had it in for you, there was nothing you could do. I remember being punched by the other boys quite often. There was no-one I could complain to about it because no-one would listen to you. I feel I have an inferiority complex about myself as a man because of the bullying I experienced there. These feelings of inadequacy have stayed with me.
9. There was a member of staff called **RG 73**. He was of average build, with fair receding hair. He was very unpredictable in his behaviour. For example, I remember he caught me doing something wrong and he punched me in the stomach. I was so taken aback by the impact of the punch, that for a moment, I couldn't breathe. He thought I was exaggerating and he gave me another slap. He was a **██████████** and I looked to him for support when the other boys were bullying me. However, he always used to jump on the bandwagon and encourage the other boys to tease me.

## PRIVATE

10. Most of the other boys were from Belfast and I remember getting teased a lot because I had a [REDACTED] accent. On one occasion, I remember walking into a classroom where he was the teacher and he said, "Hello, Sexy [REDACTED] HIA 200 I am heterosexual, but this teasing had a homophobic element to it and the boys would then make comments about my sexuality which implied I was gay. All the other boys would laugh at this and this kind of teasing went on constantly. It was very hurtful and I felt humiliated by it.
11. There was another member of staff, [REDACTED] RG 17 who taught gymnastics. He was in his 40's, had dirty fair hair and was athletic. He had a military background and was very strict. He was also a bully and he physically punished us using a slipper which he called "Rufus". He would beat us for minor misdemeanours in front of the other boys. I remember being frightened of him and being beaten by him on occasion. Rathgael just tolerated this sort of behaviour and it was normalised to a degree.
12. I started smoking when I was 8. I was addicted to it from a very early age. When I was in Lisnevin, I was allowed 6 cigarettes a day, however this was absolutely forbidden at Rathgael. I desperately needed cigarettes, and I frequently got caught smoking. I was constantly going off to have a cigarette and then I had to lie about where I had been. The staff were always finding me out and punishing me because of this. My housemaster always mentioned this at house meetings in front of the other boys as an example of bad behaviour. They would call me names like "sleekit" "slimy" and "underhand". These names stuck with me and I am still sensitive about people perceiving me in this way.
13. The regime at Rathgael was quite strict. We got up at 7.30 or 8.00am, got washed and ready to go to school. We all had breakfast together and then went to the school. The school was separate from the building where we lived but we went back to our main houses for meals. Classes in Rathgael were streamed but the education provided was very basic and the standard was so low that I found it difficult to adjust when I went back to [REDACTED] High School

## PRIVATE

in 1976. For example, at [REDACTED] there were technical drawing classes which I found impossible to keep up with as we were never taught this in Rathgael.

14. School finished about 3.30pm and we could do whatever we wanted before bed time. There was a snooker table, some miniature tennis courts where we played "patter tennis", and a swimming pool. The site itself was quite open but we were all locked in at night. There were opportunities to abscond but I only absconded once, following the incident where I was returned to Rathgael because I was frightened about getting caught and punished.

15. If any boy did run away, the police usually caught them quite quickly. The staff would isolate you for a time after you were returned and you were made to wear shorts instead of jeans. The boys who ran away were closely supervised by a housemaster for a while after they were caught.

16. My father came to visit me every weekend when I was in Rathgael. My parents had separated at this stage and my mother had moved to [REDACTED]. She visited less frequently as it was difficult for her to travel. I don't remember any external visitors coming to Rathgael for example, social workers or health/education welfare visitors. I was able to talk to certain members of staff, for example, the staff who were my housemasters about the things which bothered me while I was there, [REDACTED] RG 18 or [REDACTED] RG 19. They were both good men, but there was a sense that if you complained about bullying, they were all in cahoots with each other and nothing would really be done to change behaviours.

17. I remember Rathgael as an almost entirely negative experience. When I went there first although I was getting into trouble, it was not serious trouble and looking back, I can see that I was quite innocent. I was exposed to a lot of negative influences there and my own behaviour started to escalate into more serious drinking and crime. Things happened to me in Rathgael which made me feel very insecure about myself and have adversely affected my whole life. For example, I was never taught to value myself and I never had the confidence to push myself career wise. Consequently, because I missed



PRIVATE

HIA REF: 200

Witness Name: HIA 200

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 200

I, HIA 200, will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in Belfast. I lived with my parents, RG 76 and older sister in [REDACTED]. I am the fifth child in the family. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a housewife. My home life was unsettled because of my father's alcoholism and my parents rowed frequently. In 1973 we moved to a housing estate in [REDACTED] just after I started secondary school. RG 76 and I began playing truant from school, breaking into shops and stealing. I was sent to Rathgael Training School on a Training School Order for playing truant from school for 1 to 3 years for the first time in July/August 1974 when I was 12.

Rathgael Training School (August 1974 to December 1975)

2. Initially, I was moved to Lisnevin assessment unit for 6 weeks. Lisnevin was fantastic and I have no complaints about my time there. However at the end of the assessment period, my prosecution for stealing had come up before the Courts and I was sent back again to Rathgael as the judge sentenced me to serve a sentence for theft which ran concurrently with the Training School Order for truancy. I remember my time in Rathgael as very frightening because it was a tough disciplined environment.
3. I experienced a lot of physical, emotional and verbal abuse at Rathgael both from the other boys and from staff members. Some members of staff at

HIA 200

1

## PRIVATE

in 1976. For example, at [REDACTED] there were technical drawing classes which I found impossible to keep up with as we were never taught this in Rathgael.

14. School finished about 3.30pm and we could do whatever we wanted before bed time. There was a snooker table, some miniature tennis courts where we played "patter tennis", and a swimming pool. The site itself was quite open but we were all locked in at night. There were opportunities to abscond but I only absconded once, following the incident where I was returned to Rathgael because I was frightened about getting caught and punished.

15. If any boy did run away, the police usually caught them quite quickly. The staff would isolate you for a time after you were returned and you were made to wear shorts instead of jeans. The boys who ran away were closely supervised by a housemaster for a while after they were caught.

16. My father came to visit me every weekend when I was in Rathgael. My parents had separated at this stage and my mother had moved to [REDACTED]. She visited less frequently as it was difficult for her to travel. I don't remember any external visitors coming to Rathgael for example, social workers or health/education welfare visitors. I was able to talk to certain members of staff, for example, the staff who were my housemasters about the things which bothered me while I was there, [REDACTED] RG 18 or [REDACTED] RG 19. They were both good men, but there was a sense that if you complained about bullying, they were all in cahoots with each other and nothing would really be done to change behaviours.

17. I remember Rathgael as an almost entirely negative experience. When I went there first although I was getting into trouble, it was not serious trouble and looking back, I can see that I was quite innocent. I was exposed to a lot of negative influences there and my own behaviour started to escalate into more serious drinking and crime. Things happened to me in Rathgael which made me feel very insecure about myself and have adversely affected my whole life. For example, I was never taught to value myself and I never had the confidence to push myself career wise. Consequently, because I missed

**PRIVATE****Rathgael Training School (1974 to 1979)**

4. When I first went to Rathgael, I stayed at a Reception House with about 12 other boys. I was there for approximately five weeks. The staff were good to me and I don't have any complaints about this period.
5. Life became more difficult for me when I was moved from reception to House 5. There were 15 other boys in House 5 and I was there for over a year. The housemaster was called **RG 30** and [REDACTED]. He was known [REDACTED] and he was very physically abusive. For example, he had a practice of hitting us on the head with his keys if we misbehaved. There was a very tense atmosphere when he was on duty. He also used to punch and kick us. We were made to stand in corners for hours as a punishment. Other punishments included sending us to bed early without our supper and not allowing us to watch T.V. There was no one I could complain to about his behaviour.
6. I felt afraid in that house because of the physical violence and I asked for a transfer to House 7. **RG 31** was in charge there and he was a very nice man. I was moved to House 8 when I was 15 or 16. The housemaster was a **RG 39** and he was a tall man with dark hair who wore glasses. It was a much tougher regime in House 8. He hit me on a number of occasions if I didn't do something right or I absconded. I witnessed a lot of violence there. For example, he punched and slapped any boys who absconded upon their return. The boys who absconded were put in the showers when they returned and the staff watched us. They also made us wear short trousers and their privileges were withdrawn for a week after they returned. I absconded on at least 5 or 6 occasions.
7. I frequently absconded and went to stay with my grandmother who lived [REDACTED]. She was deaf and dumb. I communicated with her using sign language. However she found it difficult to understand what was going on because she could not hear or speak.

**PRIVATE****Rathgael Training School (1974 to 1979)**

4. When I first went to Rathgael, I stayed at a Reception House with about 12 other boys. I was there for approximately five weeks. The staff were good to me and I don't have any complaints about this period.
5. Life became more difficult for me when I was moved from reception to House 5. There were 15 other boys in House 5 and I was there for over a year. The housemaster was called **RG 30** and [REDACTED]. He was known [REDACTED] and he was very physically abusive. For example, he had a practice of hitting us on the head with his keys if we misbehaved. There was a very tense atmosphere when he was on duty. He also used to punch and kick us. We were made to stand in corners for hours as a punishment. Other punishments included sending us to bed early without our supper and not allowing us to watch T.V. There was no one I could complain to about his behaviour.
6. I felt afraid in that house because of the physical violence and I asked for a transfer to House 7. **RG 31** was in charge there and he was a very nice man. I was moved to House 8 when I was 15 or 16. The housemaster was a **RG 39** and he was a tall man with dark hair who wore glasses. It was a much tougher regime in House 8. He hit me on a number of occasions if I didn't do something right or I absconded. I witnessed a lot of violence there. For example, he punched and slapped any boys who absconded upon their return. The boys who absconded were put in the showers when they returned and the staff watched us. They also made us wear short trousers and their privileges were withdrawn for a week after they returned. I absconded on at least 5 or 6 occasions.
7. I frequently absconded and went to stay with my grandmother who lived [REDACTED]. She was deaf and dumb. I communicated with her using sign language. However she found it difficult to understand what was going on because she could not hear or speak.

(4)

Date	Meat	G.
4-8-77		
5-8-77		
6-8-77	SMOKING INSIDE UNIT	
23-8-77		
2-9-77		
31-8-77		
6-9-77		
6-9-77		

as they were  
pressing to around - red wires, money!

ting with [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] refused to accept  
liability for what was going on. They were he + they were  
fighting. The incident was the result of THREATS + INTIMIDATION  
[redacted] they even presided over the fight (to back Hardaway  
up if necessary?) spoken to firmly - Jim Hunt not  
to be held responsible for their threats + intimidation  
[redacted] to early beds.

Housenings (C) In sick by with scabs at time of  
Housenings. Jim is taking time to settle in + is  
involved in far too many undesirable incidents. A boy to  
WATCH AT ALL TIMES + ONE WHO REALLY NEEDS SOMEONE  
TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN HIM. Social school based lean  
sumed for 11/12th Sept.

INTERVIEW with Jim regarding trial leave this w/e.  
I explained that it would not be possible to have leave with  
his grandmother + he accepted it well. He said he would like to  
go + visit Mrs. Langher while out this w/e + during our  
conversation intimated that he enjoyed living there + would like to  
return to their home. We talked about school based leave  
just clearly up that time to be back at school + had  
time to do. Jim seems content enough with this arrangement  
for the time being.

a.m. During group discussion today, Jim, while  
being reprimanded about his abuse of the television,  
threw a temper tantrum out of which he was  
most abruptly brought. The ensuing flow of  
tears seemed to clear the air, and I discovered that  
he thinks that his Granmy might die before he  
does her again. After a long discussion,  
I have decided to take Jim on a visit to  
the Granmy on Friday night. JI.



[illegible]Remarks

CONTINUATION SHEET.

- 18.10.77 Jim very disruptive this a.m. Was caught smoking in the school block at stand-easy.
- 3.10.77 Housewrecking? Involved in many undesirable incidents this month, eager to project his couldn't care less attitudes. 11
- 7.10.77 [redacted] tells that Jim stated today that he is going to try really hard, "I'm starting a new leaf", and requests the staff to offer support + encouragement.
- 13.10.77 After a very aggressive bit of behaviour between Jim and [redacted] with Jim having the premeditated word statement, "I'll kick his teeth in", both boys sent to bed. When checking boys later on, found Jim engaged in removing plaster from around an electrical socket.
- 23.10.77 Jim was confronted by staff regarding his "borrowing" of other boys clothes at the weekend, but as it transpired the boys were suddenly of the opinion that they had lent the clothes to Jim. Does the Skay + Hardridge [redacted] of weight to bring pressure on
- 4.11.77 Housewrecking H2 Jim still evidently displaying couldn't care less attitudes, seems to be more disruptive of late. Could this be due to the removal of staff support, or more importantly [redacted] marked attempt to keep away from Jim. 133
- 4.11.77 While on a hospital visit with [redacted] quite a lot of information was gained on Jim, the essence of which follows :-  
 ① Has talked recently of absconding  
 ② Run hot + cold towards the Bingham family  
 ③ Has given a lot of personal clothing away. He Scott informed of information, and a careful watch being kept on Jim.
- 28.11.77 After a particularly "down" weekend everyone badly, a climax came when he in the dining hall, and when taken to eventually he returned he was most sullen to school by unit, Jimmy was noticed was eventually found in bed. When Jim became abusive and was taken to him 3 of the case. he played clear
- On a subsequent discussion between Messrs [redacted] - we are both of the opinion that this [redacted] is a [redacted] of Jim's fear of his imminent discharge from the Shrewsbury an discipline of Rothgaal life. J1

PRIVATE

HIA REF:434

Witness Name: HIA 434

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

## WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 434

I, HIA 434 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] I am one of four children and I am the third child. I lived with my mother and father at [REDACTED] in Belfast. My father was a service engineer and my mother was a housewife. My parents separated early in 1986 and my mother moved to England. My father started a new relationship shortly afterwards. I began playing truant from school and in May 1986, I was placed in Rathgael for 2 ½ years on a Training School Order.

Rathgael Training School (16 May 1986 – Feb 1989)

2. I was taken to House 9A when I initially arrived at Rathgael. I was given a change of clothes, had a shower and a medical examination. The reception area had two classrooms, one for education and the other for woodwork. I was put in a single bedroom initially but I was moved to a bedroom dormitory after a week. The staff locked us in our dormitories overnight from about 10.00pm until 7.30am. A member of staff was on duty all night and they would let you out to use the toilet. The quality of the food was generally okay. I do not have any complaints about that aspect of the care.
3. I was moved again to House 2 after about five weeks in Reception. I recall witnessing an incident there when a member of staff, RG 20 assaulted another inmate, RG 77. RG 20 was in his early thirties, had dark brown hair, an athletic build and was about 5 feet 8/9 inches tall. RG 77 broke a glass pane and RG 20 restrained him and put him in a lock by twisting

HIA 434

1



## PRIVATE

his hands behind his back. I saw **RG 20** hitting **RG 77** by punching him repeatedly in the back. I remember seeing this assault and then two members of staff took **RG 77** upstairs.

4. I remember another incident when **RG 78** and I absconded in the summer of 1988. The police caught us and returned us to Rathgael. We were locked in separate rooms. All our normal clothing was taken from us and we were left with just our underwear, a plastic mattress and a sheet. We were held in this way for 10-14 days. I did not have a watch or a clock and it was difficult to gauge time. The staff brought me food three times a day on a tray. We were left isolated and a member of staff from the next house kept an eye on us from time to time. At times, you had to wait hours to use the bathroom because there was no one in the building.
5. The education system in Rathgael was broken down into a form-based system regardless of age. If you were very clever, you were put in Form 5. The children who were least able were put in Form 1. I was in Form 4 because I was weak at English. I was about 14 at the time but the age group of the class was mixed. There was no set curriculum but I remember that English, Maths and Geography were taught. The teaching staff overall were quite good to me. They never hit me although some lost their tempers more easily than others and this made me apprehensive around them.
6. I was given two Training School Orders for two charges of theft around Easter 1987. These were both appealed and I was given an absolute discharge. The police normally escorted you to and from Court. On this occasion, **RG 41** **RG 41**, a member of staff at Rathgael, took me there. After the hearing, a member of the police told **RG 41** that it was his responsibility to take me back to Rathgael. She disagreed but he insisted. The police put me in a room on my own in the court building where the appeal was heard and they forgot about me. This was at approximately 11am in the morning. The police did not come to collect me until after midnight that night. I was only fourteen at the time and I should not have been held in this way as I was given an absolute discharge. I

## PRIVATE

4. Life became particularly difficult for me at this point. **RG 64** a staff member who taught [REDACTED] was a sadist. I witnessed him deliver some vicious beatings to the boys he was teaching and I remember being terrified of him. I constantly felt afraid in his classes. I remember one incident when he knocked a boy called **RG 65** unconscious with a blow from a book. He was very unpredictable in his behaviour, for example, he had a party piece where he would do an impression of a woman called 'Aunt Nellie'. He would do this impression with us one minute and make us all laugh and then lose his temper the next. I always felt on edge around him because I never knew what to expect.
5. I remember one incident when we were playing patten tennis outside in the grounds when he walked by. I joked with him and I asked him to do his impression of 'Aunt Nellie'. He lost his temper with me and started to beat me. I ran off towards House 8 because I was afraid of him. He followed me and began beating me with such force I fell against a radiator and sustained a cut to my head which began to bleed.
6. I was so upset by this attack that I absconded very shortly afterwards. I went with 2 other boys to Scrabo Tower which is about 7 miles from Rathgael. It was the middle of winter and it was very cold that evening. We were only wearing our Sunday shirts which were quite light and eventually we realised that we would have to go back. The group split up and we handed ourselves into the police and were taken back to the school. I was with one other boy, **RG 67** when we returned. **RG 4** another member of staff, who was known as 'The Tank' gave us a beating. We bore the brunt of his anger because we were the first ones back. **RG 4** was very well known in [REDACTED] Belfast. [REDACTED] and was a pillar of the community. There was no way I could complain about the way he treated us. My parents would have just said "It was your fault" or "He didn't hit you for nothing" if I told them what was happening.

## PRIVATE

7. I remember another incident where [RG 4] had told the boys they were not allowed to hang on the monkey bars inside the school. I was away when he said this and I didn't know that he had forbidden us to hang on the bars. I was leaning against them when he walked back later that day and [RG 4] took me to his office. I refused to hold my hand out to be caned. He lost his temper and beat me with such force that his cane broke and he started thumping me with his fists. I was only thirteen at the time and I was terrified. I remember hearing about another incident where one of the teachers, [RG 66] who was a small man with glasses, hit a boy called [RG 68] on the lip. [RG 68] had to get four of five stitches. These sorts of violent incidents were the norm rather than the exception.
8. There was other incident with a boy who had come from Kincora. He was a big lad and he was very withdrawn. We called him [RG 69] He just wandered around with his hands in his pockets and never spoke to anyone or about anything. I remember we were told that he had taken his own life by throwing himself off one of the ferries going to Scotland.
9. In the summer of 1976 we were made to work chipping small mosaic tiles from a swimming pool which was on site as a form of punishment. We were given small hammers and told to chip away the tiles. We spent hours at this task and our hands were covered in blisters when we finished. The dust was overwhelming and we had no masks or protective clothing. It was a form of child labour and I felt degraded doing this work.
10. I remember being afraid constantly at Rathgael. For example, there was a night watchman, I think his name was [RG 13] He used to patrol the grounds at night. He had two big Alsations and he used to bring those dogs into the houses at night. He used to come up right up beside you with these two big, barking dogs. It was just an example of another thing that really scared me.
11. The general level of care was good at Rathgael. I have no complaints about the living conditions as such. For example, the food was good and the environment was clean. The laundry was done every week and your clothing

HIA Ref: (RG4)

NAME: (RG 4)

DATE: 19.10.15

**THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995**

**WITNESS STATEMENT of**

I, (RG 4) will say as follows:-

1. [REDACTED]
2. With reference to the Statement under reference HIA 503 (HIA 503) I dispute that I am the person referred to within that statement.
3. With reference to the Statement under reference HIA 267 of (HIA 267) it is correct that (RG 4) (RG 4) I was never dismissed by the referee in any match. I was still playing during the period that I [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Junior School.
4. The procedure if someone was to be disciplined using the cane was to be summarised as follows:-
  - The teacher and pupil would attend at my office; or
  - I would be sent for to attend with the teacher and their pupil at the classroom.
  - I would administer the cane that would be administered to the boy's hand
  - The punishment was then recorded in the book that was retained at Rathgael Training School.
5. Over and above the other duties that would be associated with the Deputy Head position and those outlined above, I was also required to attend court on occasions where the police had returned pupils who had absconded and had re-offended during that abscondion, I would be asked to advise the court whether or not in my opinion the pupil could remain at school or be placed in more secure accommodation. The more secure accommodation referred to could either be facilitated within the Rathgael Training School or depending on the boy's age he may have been required to be removed to a borstal.

6. In addition to the matters referred to above we also had a reward scheme in place that was used to build up a sense of trust between the pupils and the teachers. The award scheme was simple in its theory although more complex in reality but would allow for the teachers and myself to take the boys on a trip if they had behaved well and responded well in school.

[REDACTED]

say not all boys responded well to this reward scheme and some absconded during the outings that may have led to the teachers and other staff having to pursue them or asking for the assistance of the police.

7. Dealing with the specific allegations of [REDACTED] HIA 267 I do not recall the incident where he absconded and went to Scrabo Tower. Indeed the boys being returned by the police would not have been uncommon unfortunately. I deny that I gave a "beating", however in the circumstances as set out if I had been on duty and it was felt with the other member of staff that the boy in question should be caned, they would have been caned.
8. With reference to paragraph 7 of [REDACTED] HIA 267 statement I do not recall the incident in relation to handing on the monkey bars in the school. I would say however that I never lost my temper and beat any pupil with such force that the cane broke. I have never had a cane break during my tenure. I certainly did not start to thump any pupil with my fists. To suggest that these violent incidents were the norm rather than the exception is erroneous. I would ask the Tribunal to view the book which I have referred to above in relation to the administering of the cane during my tenure as the Deputy Head.
9. Regarding paragraph No. 16 of [REDACTED] HIA 267 statement I would take exception to this. There was a system in place that allowed any pupil to approach their housemaster to discuss any incidents with either myself [REDACTED] RG 112 or any other member of staff. I do not know which house [REDACTED] HIA 267 was placed in during his tenure in Rathgael so I therefore cannot comment as to whether or not any particular housemaster spoke to me about any incidents.

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

RG 4

Signed: .. [REDACTED] ..

Dated: ..... 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 .....

## PRIVATE

15. **RG 17** background was in the Royal Navy and he was quite strict but fair. He knew he didn't have to hit the boys to get their respect. He did have a slipper and he would use it to punish the boys occasionally. **[REDACTED]** made up from the boys at Rathgael. I really loved developing my skills in this area. He was a positive influence during my time there. There were some good teachers there, but for every good one, there were bad teachers like **RG 64** and **RG 4**.
16. I don't remember any welfare officers or social workers coming to visit me during my time there. There was no-one I could talk to either in my own family or in Rathgael. Some of the most violent staff, like **RG 4** were very well known, almost heroes, in my community. If I complained about my treatment, it would have come back at me, so I kept it all to myself.
17. I came to lose respect for all authority figures because of the experiences I had in Rathgael. I believe that, because I saw these violent encounters as a young man, I turned into a very, very violent man myself. It ruined me in the end. Even now, as an adult, I don't back down from a fight not even if paramilitaries are involved. Consequently, as an adult, I was stabbed twice and sustained other serious injuries including injuries where someone tried to cut my head off. I feel I have lost almost everything positive in my life because of my exposure to violence.

Life After Care

18. After I left Rathgael, I went home and lived with my mother and family for a while. The violence I was exposed to at Rathgael changed my personality. I ended up in prison on a couple of occasions for assaults against the police. I have a real problem with authority figures. This kind of conflict just triggers something negative in me. It reminds me of that fear I experienced when men who were supposed to be looking after me were actually beating and humiliating me. The fear I felt then and that sense of not being safe has stayed with me and it means I react aggressively in conflict situations.

## PRIVATE

and were collecting money and pretending it was for charity. The police and the authorities found out what was going on. They contacted my adoptive father and he said he did not want me around. He said if my brother was involved he would wreck every bone in my body, so I ended up taking the blame. I had no support from the social services whatsoever, all I remember is being physically abused at home and social services never did anything.

**Rathgaeil Training School, Bangor (23/10/1976 to 10/12/1976)**

6. When I was [REDACTED] I appeared before [REDACTED] juvenile court due to my truancy from school. I was placed in Rathgaeil under a place of safety order for one to three years. It was only at this point that I came to the attention of social services. I was told on the Friday that I would have to go to Rathgaeil Training School in Bangor. The police had arranged to pick me up on the Saturday morning. A male police officer and a plain clothed female officer picked me up in the car from my father's house and drove me to Rathgaeil. I remember arriving at reception and I was frightened.
7. I was told to have a shower and a member of staff, [REDACTED] RG 31 [REDACTED] came in when I was in the shower and he started touching me on my private parts with his hands. He remained dressed as he was doing this but I was naked in the shower and I was frightened and scared.
8. Bed time was usually 9.00pm but a few weeks after my arrival I was sent to bed early at 6.30pm as a punishment for smoking. I was left in the dormitory with the door locked. [REDACTED] RG 31 [REDACTED] came up and I was sitting on the edge of the bed and he started touching and rubbing me again and I felt ashamed but there was nothing I could do. He was masturbating himself whilst touching me and I felt dirty.
9. He was there every time I went to have a shower. He had keys and he had access to everywhere. I did not witness [REDACTED] RG 31 [REDACTED] abuse any of the other

PRIVATE

Rathgael Training School (15/06/1977 to 11/09/1978)

19. I ran away once too often and was taken back to court and re-admitted to Rathgael. I was placed in the Reception Unit. I was really frightened as [REDACTED] RG 31 and RG 74 were still there. I remember a RG 47 and RG 50 both housemasters, but it was RG 31 and RG 74 that caused me concern. RG 31 kept touching me and he was masturbating whilst doing this as he had done before. This happened about two or three times a fortnight until I was moved to House 8. In House 8 you were allowed around the grounds during the day so I had a bit more freedom. I was not locked up in the same way I was in the Reception Unit.

20. I never received any visits from a social worker throughout my time in either home.

21. My adoptive mother had returned at this stage and I was getting weekend leave to go and stay with her in [REDACTED]. I would be collected on a Sunday evening at York Road railway station in a minibus and driven back to Rathgael.

22. I was released on licence in September 1978 when I was sixteen years old. I went to live with my adoptive mother in a flat in [REDACTED].

Life after care

23. I got on with her and got a part time job working in a home bakery [REDACTED]. I worked with a guy whose uncle owned the shop and he started bullying me so I only stayed in the job for two weeks and then I signed on for unemployment benefit again. I then got another job with [REDACTED] as a driver's mate, delivering bread to the shops around [REDACTED].



## PRIVATE

boys in this way. I never reported [RG 31] as I did not feel I had anyone to report it to or that anyone would listen to me.

10. At night time you were locked in a dormitory upstairs and you were not allowed to go downstairs. You went to school on site. You were not allowed to smoke on the junior side but during a break one morning on the junior side one of the seniors gave me a cigarette. I was sitting on the toilet during break smoking and a member of staff, called [RG 74] came in and smelt the smoke. He said you've been smoking and hit me with a bat, like a baseball bat. I felt like hitting him, like lashing out. [RG 74] hit me three or four times on my backside with a bat. I never received any treatment or care following this incident.

11. [RG 74] and [RG 31] were about forty when I was thirteen. I believe they are now deceased.

12. I saw boys abscond but I was scared to run away. I once saw two or three boys get punished for throwing a fire extinguisher through a window and running away one evening. When they were caught by police and brought back they were made to wear corduroy shorts and baseball boots with no laces. This was a typical punishment as was being made to do extra cleaning duties or being sent to bed early. I wanted to run away but seeing what happened to them frightened me.

13. I was friendly with one boy at Rathgael, [RG 75] who went to the same school as me in [REDACTED]. He lives in [REDACTED] and looks after [REDACTED]. I have not been in contact with him since leaving Rathgael.

14. The food at Rathgael was horrible and watery and you had to drink from a plastic cup and eat off plastic plates.

## PRIVATE

10. Most of the other boys were from Belfast and I remember getting teased a lot because I had a [REDACTED] accent. On one occasion, I remember walking into a classroom where he was the teacher and he said, "Hello, Sexy [REDACTED] HIA 200 I am heterosexual, but this teasing had a homophobic element to it and the boys would then make comments about my sexuality which implied I was gay. All the other boys would laugh at this and this kind of teasing went on constantly. It was very hurtful and I felt humiliated by it.
11. There was another member of staff, [REDACTED] RG 17 who taught gymnastics. He was in his 40's, had dirty fair hair and was athletic. He had a military background and was very strict. He was also a bully and he physically punished us using a slipper which he called "Rufus". He would beat us for minor misdemeanours in front of the other boys. I remember being frightened of him and being beaten by him on occasion. Rathgael just tolerated this sort of behaviour and it was normalised to a degree.
12. I started smoking when I was 8. I was addicted to it from a very early age. When I was in Lisnevin, I was allowed 6 cigarettes a day, however this was absolutely forbidden at Rathgael. I desperately needed cigarettes, and I frequently got caught smoking. I was constantly going off to have a cigarette and then I had to lie about where I had been. The staff were always finding me out and punishing me because of this. My housemaster always mentioned this at house meetings in front of the other boys as an example of bad behaviour. They would call me names like "sleekit" "slimy" and "underhand". These names stuck with me and I am still sensitive about people perceiving me in this way.
13. The regime at Rathgael was quite strict. We got up at 7.30 or 8.00am, got washed and ready to go to school. We all had breakfast together and then went to the school. The school was separate from the building where we lived but we went back to our main houses for meals. Classes in Rathgael were streamed but the education provided was very basic and the standard was so low that I found it difficult to adjust when I went back to [REDACTED] High School

## PRIVATE

10. Most of the other boys were from Belfast and I remember getting teased a lot because I had a [REDACTED] accent. On one occasion, I remember walking into a classroom where he was the teacher and he said, "Hello, Sexy<sup>HIA 200</sup> I am heterosexual, but this teasing had a homophobic element to it and the boys would then make comments about my sexuality which implied I was gay. All the other boys would laugh at this and this kind of teasing went on constantly. It was very hurtful and I felt humiliated by it.
11. There was another member of staff, **RG 17** who taught gymnastics. He was in his 40's, had dirty fair hair and was athletic. He had a military background and was very strict. He was also a bully and he physically punished us using a slipper which he called "Rufus". He would beat us for minor misdemeanours in front of the other boys. I remember being frightened of him and being beaten by him on occasion. Rathgael just tolerated this sort of behaviour and it was normalised to a degree.
12. I started smoking when I was 8. I was addicted to it from a very early age. When I was in Lisnevin, I was allowed 6 cigarettes a day, however this was absolutely forbidden at Rathgael. I desperately needed cigarettes, and I frequently got caught smoking. I was constantly going off to have a cigarette and then I had to lie about where I had been. The staff were always finding me out and punishing me because of this. My housemaster always mentioned this at house meetings in front of the other boys as an example of bad behaviour. They would call me names like "sleekit" "slimy" and "underhand". These names stuck with me and I am still sensitive about people perceiving me in this way.
13. The regime at Rathgael was quite strict. We got up at 7.30 or 8.00am, got washed and ready to go to school. We all had breakfast together and then went to the school. The school was separate from the building where we lived but we went back to our main houses for meals. Classes in Rathgael were streamed but the education provided was very basic and the standard was so low that I found it difficult to adjust when I went back to [REDACTED] High School

PRIVATE

**Rathgaeil Training School, Bangor (05/10/1976 to September 1977)**

5. I had a terrible experience in Rathgaeil at the hands of the other boys. I was a small, skinny child who was vulnerable and weak so I would have been a target for bullies. I experienced lots of unnecessary violence. I was placed in the Assessment Unit and ran away within the first three days of being placed there. When I returned to Rathgaeil the abuse started again. I was then moved to house 3.
6. I was placed in an eight bed dormitory. There were a couple of bullies in that dorm. I witnessed some horrific things. I remember every night they would make a boy called **RG 70** strip naked and dance on a table. He would be crying and these other bullies would taunt him and throw shoes at him. They made him put his penis on table and they would hit his penis with shoes. I was terrified and sensed that my turn was coming. I knew I was vulnerable and unable to stand up for myself. The worst crime that you could commit in Rathgaeil was to tout on the other boys so it was too risky to tell any of the staff if you were bullied. I think Rathgaeil was badly managed and therefore there was no protection for the boys from other boys.
7. There were about twenty boys in the unit and there was a gang of about five or six who ruled the place and everyone was afraid of them. They were like vultures and they used every opportunity to inflict hurt and pain on the more vulnerable boys. They did a thing called "hooding" and there was no way to avoid this. There was a communal room where the boys watched television and when you were sitting on a chair one of them came up behind you and pulled their jumper over your head and held it tightly. The rest of the unit would fly over and punch you and kick you while the jumper was still being held over your head. There was not a day that passed when I didn't either receive or see someone else receive a "hooding", a beating or be spat on. I constantly had split lips and black eyes. There was a staff room off the communal room where the boys were and the staff tended to stay in there and chat so the boys were left on their own with no supervision. Initially the staff asked me what had happened

PRIVATE

**Rathgael Training School, Bangor (05/10/1976 to September 1977)**

5. I had a terrible experience in Rathgael at the hands of the other boys. I was a small, skinny child who was vulnerable and weak so I would have been a target for bullies. I experienced lots of unnecessary violence. I was placed in the Assessment Unit and ran away within the first three days of being placed there. When I returned to Rathgael the abuse started again. I was then moved to house 3.
6. I was placed in an eight bed dormitory. There were a couple of bullies in that dorm. I witnessed some horrific things. I remember every night they would make a boy called **RG 70** strip naked and dance on a table. He would be crying and these other bullies would taunt him and throw shoes at him. They made him put his penis on table and they would hit his penis with shoes. I was terrified and sensed that my turn was coming. I knew I was vulnerable and unable to stand up for myself. The worst crime that you could commit in Rathgael was to tout on the other boys so it was too risky to tell any of the staff if you were bullied. I think Rathgael was badly managed and therefore there was no protection for the boys from other boys.
7. There were about twenty boys in the unit and there was a gang of about five or six who ruled the place and everyone was afraid of them. They were like vultures and they used every opportunity to inflict hurt and pain on the more vulnerable boys. They did a thing called "hooding" and there was no way to avoid this. There was a communal room where the boys watched television and when you were sitting on a chair one of them came up behind you and pulled their jumper over your head and held it tightly. The rest of the unit would fly over and punch you and kick you while the jumper was still being held over your head. There was not a day that passed when I didn't either receive or see someone else receive a "hooding", a beating or be spat on. I constantly had split lips and black eyes. There was a staff room off the communal room where the boys were and the staff tended to stay in there and chat so the boys were left on their own with no supervision. Initially the staff asked me what had happened

PRIVATE

but I was too afraid to say because if I had been marked as a squealer my life would have been even more intolerant.

8. There was a bully called **RG 71** who used me as his slave. He would make me run errands for him, clean his shoes and dry his hair after he had washed it. It was humiliating but I would have been beaten if I did not do as he wished.
9. I spent the first couple of months being constantly beaten and covered in bruises. I was released on Christmas parole and I decided I was not going back because I could not face it. I lived on the streets in Bangor for a month or so. I lived in a lock up garage and I lived in a tree house in somebody's garden. I was freezing as it was winter and I was committing crime to survive. I was apprehended for burglary and taken back to Rathgael.
10. When I returned to Rathgael the second time the abuse eventually stopped. The boys who were inflicting the abuse on me were committing crimes and absconding themselves so they were eventually moved to Millisle. Once that core of bullies was moved I was able to establish myself as a stronger character. I had also grown a bit. As a result the last few months that I spent in Rathgael were relatively comfortable
11. As a consequence of my absconding I was not allowed out of the unit. I was not allowed home for visits and I was not allowed to go on an outdoor pursuit excursion to Runkerry with the other boys.
12. I was in the senior school and they tended to focus on employment skills rather than academic subjects. I completed a City and Guilds in motor engineering so every morning I went to the workshop. I would sometimes tell the workshop tutor that I was needed down at house 3. I would sneak out through the forest and go home and play with my friends for the afternoon and then I would sneak back to Rathgael. My house was close to Rathgael.
13. There were the usual recreational facilities that you would expect to find in such an institution such as a television, table tennis and board games. We also had

1 providing in that regard, not in terms of the physical  
2 care --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- of accommodation or food or anything like that. You  
5 say:

6 "They spent most of their time in the staff room  
7 rather than looking after us, and you lived in fear if  
8 there was a member of staff on duty who spent a lot of  
9 time in the staff room, as you knew that you had no  
10 protection from the bullies during that shift. There  
11 was not a lot of interaction between the staff and boys.  
12 There was a points system and points added up to  
13 privileges, such as weekend leave",

14 but you lost your points, because you ran away, and  
15 so you didn't get out.

16 You talk about when you absconded, how you committed  
17 crimes. At you were released from Rathgael, as you  
18 were beyond the age at which they would have kept boys  
19 in.

20 **A. I wasn't released. I was transferred to Crumlin Road**  
21 **Gaol, because I was currently on remand and I had now**  
22 **turned .**

23 Q. That was because of the crimes that you committed while  
24 you were absconding?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 put your thoughts down in writing and the Inquiry will  
2 look at them and probably attach them to your evidence  
3 in some way --

4 **A. Okay.**

5 Q. -- but I think what you were saying to me was that you  
6 were -- for you the major problem with children in  
7 institutions was not so much the staff, but the children  
8 themselves and the bullying that went on.

9 **A. Absolutely. I seen abuse coming from staff and I seen**  
10 **abuse coming from other young people, and I would say --**  
11 **I mean, I spent several years in these institutions over**  
12 **four or five different institutions and the pattern was**  
13 **the same. There was always abuse from the staff, but it**  
14 **would have counted for about somewhere -- if I had to**  
15 **guess, I would say about 5% of the total amount of abuse**  
16 **would come from staff. By far the greater problem was**  
17 **young people abusing each other and no mechanisms in**  
18 **place to prevent that: lack of supervision, lack of**  
19 **significant investigation into incidents, lack of staff**  
20 **having knowledge or understanding or even caring.**

21 I would like to see training in place. I would like  
22 to see young people having the opportunity not to be  
23 forced into multiple bed dorms or multiple bed cells,  
24 where there is only the supervision of a night officer,  
25 who will maybe look in through a door flap once every



PRIVATE

**Rathgael Training School, Bangor (05/10/1976 to September 1977)**

5. I had a terrible experience in Rathgael at the hands of the other boys. I was a small, skinny child who was vulnerable and weak so I would have been a target for bullies. I experienced lots of unnecessary violence. I was placed in the Assessment Unit and ran away within the first three days of being placed there. When I returned to Rathgael the abuse started again. I was then moved to house 3.
6. I was placed in an eight bed dormitory. There were a couple of bullies in that dorm. I witnessed some horrific things. I remember every night they would make a boy called **RG 70** strip naked and dance on a table. He would be crying and these other bullies would taunt him and throw shoes at him. They made him put his penis on table and they would hit his penis with shoes. I was terrified and sensed that my turn was coming. I knew I was vulnerable and unable to stand up for myself. The worst crime that you could commit in Rathgael was to tout on the other boys so it was too risky to tell any of the staff if you were bullied. I think Rathgael was badly managed and therefore there was no protection for the boys from other boys.
7. There were about twenty boys in the unit and there was a gang of about five or six who ruled the place and everyone was afraid of them. They were like vultures and they used every opportunity to inflict hurt and pain on the more vulnerable boys. They did a thing called "hooding" and there was no way to avoid this. There was a communal room where the boys watched television and when you were sitting on a chair one of them came up behind you and pulled their jumper over your head and held it tightly. The rest of the unit would fly over and punch you and kick you while the jumper was still being held over your head. There was not a day that passed when I didn't either receive or see someone else receive a "hooding", a beating or be spat on. I constantly had split lips and black eyes. There was a staff room off the communal room where the boys were and the staff tended to stay in there and chat so the boys were left on their own with no supervision. Initially the staff asked me what had happened

PRIVATE

quite a violent man and he would slam children into the ground, twist their arms up their backs, use swimming flippers to whack them across the legs and throw things at them.

42. There were children in Rathgael for failure to attend school. I remember being handed a children's book in science class and being told to read it while the teacher taught everyone else. He thought there was no point in teaching me as I couldn't read or write. If Rathgael was supposed to fulfil a child's educational needs I could never understand why I left Rathgael unable to read and write. I have taught myself everything that I know.

43. One day there was a boy on the roof who was drunk and spitting on people from the roof. He was being abusive and started having a go at me. I was allowed to go to my Aunt's house in [REDACTED] to get away from him. I had to be back at the unit for bed time and when I returned the boy seemed to have calmed down and I went to bed and thought nothing more of him. When I was sleeping he came in to my room wearing a pair of boots and kicked me in the face. My face swelled to twice its size and I do not remember being taken to hospital. A member of staff called [REDACTED] RG 20 took a photograph of my head but later confiscated it. I believe they did not want there to be any evidence of the attack as there was a risk of Rathgael looking bad. One day I saw that boy defending himself against [REDACTED] RG 49 with a poker yet the boy was sent to Lisnevin for attacking [REDACTED] RG 49

44. I started to become like the thugs in Rathgael. I remember a guy bullying me and I punched him and gave him a black eye. I was encouraged by the other boys in the house to hit him. I was not proud of what I had done but it seemed like the only way to deal with him.

45. I believe that a child needs someone to idolise and children idolise their parents. A child who is in care has nobody who plays a substantial enough role in their lives for them to idolise. Even if they have a social worker that they like and look up to the relationship ends when the child leaves care. They have no one to look up to anymore and no one to look out for them. After I left Rathgael the

PRIVATE

15. I fell out with another resident one day and a female member of staff asked me to go to my room. I refused and she grabbed me by the arm and led me in to the hall. I started to struggle. Three members of staff appeared from the office and **RG 20** appeared from one of the other units. He had a short fuse and he started to punch me. He pinned me down with his knee after punching me and then trailed me up the stairs. The pain was excruciating from whatever muscle or bone he hit. I still suffer from back pain as a result and I have to have MRI scans and spinal injections.
16. The only time I was taken to hospital was after I put my hand through a window. I was frustrated because of the bullying. I was taken to A&E and treated.
17. We were given seven cigarettes a day. Your name was written on them so that no-one could take someone else's cigarettes. I loved the food and regularly asked for second helpings.
18. I was too scared to report any abuse to the staff as I did not think they would help me. When you were in a Children's home there was always a fear of who the boss was and what they could do to you. There was a fear they could send you to the bad boys' home. I remember a boy misbehaving one night and he was away the next morning.
19. I was moved to another children's home for a short period of time but I went back to Rathgael. I felt more comfortable in Rathgael as I knew the other children.
20. I was completing a YTP in horticulture when I was in Rathgael. The damage to my back restricted what I could do so I concentrated on gardening and growing plants as I could not lift heavy things.
21. In preparation for leaving you were moved to the maisonette. One day I was in the maisonette and I was talking to **RG 49** about me leaving. We started to have an argument because I did not want to leave. He lunged at me and pushed me over the sofa. He landed on top of me and kept punching me. I reached for a poker to defend myself and swung it at him. He went to grab it, it hit him and he broke his little finger. I was left in a bedroom called the D room with the doors

NAME:

DATE:

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of [REDACTED] RG 20

[REDACTED] RG 20

County Down will say as follows:-

1. I have read and considered all of the Documents contained in the Index of Disclosed Material that have been served on me;
2. So far as the allegation made against me by [REDACTED] HIA 198 is concerned, I deny this emphatically. I never grabbed or touched her inappropriately;
3. So far as the allegations made against me by [REDACTED] HIA 267 are concerned, I would say that I have no recollection of this person. I did not start working in Rathgael until 1981 by which time this person would have left as his Training School Order would have expired;
4. So far as the allegation made against me by [REDACTED] HIA 389 that I inappropriately restrained her sister Kathleen, I deny this emphatically, and with regard to the allegation that I fondled [REDACTED] HIA 389 breasts and those of [REDACTED] RG 23 this is completely untrue. I never on any occasions touched any of the children in Rathgael inappropriately;
5. With regard to the allegations made against me by [REDACTED] HIA 429 I deny these emphatically, I was interviewed about this matter by the PSNI and as can be seen from the transcript of my interview also contained in the Index of Documents, I denied these allegations during Police interview;
6. So far as the allegation made against me by [REDACTED] RG 185 is concerned, I deny I ever locked [REDACTED] RG 185 in the Lock Up Room on any occasion unless I was instructed to do so by my Superiors and it would only have been done in accordance with regulations and to ensure her safety;
7. In so far as the allegation made against me by [REDACTED] RG 160 is concerned, I deny that I on any occasion touched or restrained her other than in accordance with accepted practice and within the regulations in force at the time;
8. In so far as the allegations made against me by [REDACTED] RG 203 are concerned, I deny these emphatically. I did not bang her or anyone else's heads together or against a wall, nor did I trail anyone upstairs by the hair. In all my dealings with [REDACTED] RG 203 I at all times acted in accordance with accepted practice and within the regulations in force at the time. These allegations were put to me during my interview with the Police and were denied as can be seen from the transcript of the interview contained in the Index of Documents;

# Rathgael Centre for Children and Young People

(Rathgael and Whiteabbey Schools Management Board)

Director - D. C. Whyte, B.A., M.S.Sc

Tel: Bangor (0247) 454276

169 Rathgael Road  
BANGOR  
Co. Down  
BT19 1TA

15th September, 1989

Mr. A. Ireland  
Training Schools Branch  
Royston House  
34 Upp. Queen Street  
Belfast BT1 6HV

Dear Alex

Ref.

HIA

Please find enclosed detailed report on the above young man. You will see that it culminates with an incident in which a member of my staff has had a bone in his hand broken. The matter has been reported to the police in terms of this assault. I seek your permission to bring him before a court of summary jurisdiction under Section 11 (1) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1968. This young man is currently being maintained in the Centre and it would be our intention to continue to do so, however, in the boy's own interest and indeed in the interests of other residents and in terms of offering support to staff it must be demonstrated clearly that violent actions will not be tolerated and that they result in a court appearance.

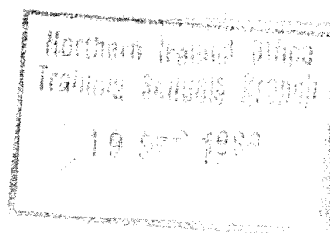
Yours sincerely,

*A.S.*

A. S. BUCHANAN

Deputy Director - Head of Care

Encl.



PRIVATE

15. I fell out with another resident one day and a female member of staff asked me to go to my room. I refused and she grabbed me by the arm and led me in to the hall. I started to struggle. Three members of staff appeared from the office and **RG 20** appeared from one of the other units. He had a short fuse and he started to punch me. He pinned me down with his knee after punching me and then trailed me up the stairs. The pain was excruciating from whatever muscle or bone he hit. I still suffer from back pain as a result and I have to have MRI scans and spinal injections.
16. The only time I was taken to hospital was after I put my hand through a window. I was frustrated because of the bullying. I was taken to A&E and treated.
17. We were given seven cigarettes a day. Your name was written on them so that no-one could take someone else's cigarettes. I loved the food and regularly asked for second helpings.
18. I was too scared to report any abuse to the staff as I did not think they would help me. When you were in a Children's home there was always a fear of who the boss was and what they could do to you. There was a fear they could send you to the bad boys' home. I remember a boy misbehaving one night and he was away the next morning.
19. I was moved to another children's home for a short period of time but I went back to Rathgael. I felt more comfortable in Rathgael as I knew the other children.
20. I was completing a YTP in horticulture when I was in Rathgael. The damage to my back restricted what I could do so I concentrated on gardening and growing plants as I could not lift heavy things.
21. In preparation for leaving you were moved to the maisonette. One day I was in the maisonette and I was talking to **RG 49** about me leaving. We started to have an argument because I did not want to leave. He lunged at me and pushed me over the sofa. He landed on top of me and kept punching me. I reached for a poker to defend myself and swung it at him. He went to grab it, it hit him and he broke his little finger. I was left in a bedroom called the D room with the doors

PRIVATE

locked. I broke the window to get out and I was going to run away. A senior member of staff came down and I was sent to YT.

22. I do not understand how social services could place me somewhere where I was not safe and where no-one followed up on my progress.

### Life After Care

23. When I left Rathgael I lived with my father. I do not understand why I was sent to live with him when he was a convicted sex offender. My father was an alcoholic and things became unsettled at home. I contacted Rathgael and asked them if I could return but they refused. I started to avoid going home.

24. I did a YTP course in arts and crafts at [REDACTED] Belfast.

25. A friend introduced me to a girl and we started dating each other. We had a child together and got married. We divorced and I started a relationship with another woman and we have [REDACTED] sons.

26. I have made a statement to the police regarding my time in care about two years ago.

### Statement of Truth

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

Signed [REDACTED] HIA 429

Dated 27, 4, 15

HIA 429

PRIVATE

5

PRIVATE

sofa. I broke my finger during this episode. I told all of this to the police at the time and HIA 429 was convicted of assault.

6. During my time at Rathgael Training School it may at times have been necessary to physically restrain boys when they fought with each other.
7. On the whole I believe Rathgael was a terrific place for boys. They were allowed to enjoy activities such as football, go on outings and had the freedom to walk around the school grounds. The Maisonette unit was also there to help prepare boys for leaving care.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed RG 49

Dated 23-10-2015



1 context of this right, what we are talking about  
2 involving RG50 was your time in House 5, the Youth  
3 Treatment --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- Reception Unit on the Justice Side, where you were  
6 between May of '86 and July of '86.

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. You were 13. The unit log entries, the type of  
9 handwritten records that you and I were discussing --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- the Panel have access to those. Those pertaining to  
12 you at House 5 can be found at 40264 to 40270. What you  
13 explain in paragraph 21 what you remember in particular  
14 about that time is RG50 and how he assaulted you. You  
15 describe I think in paragraph 22 how he told you to shut  
16 up and eat the breakfast that you weren't happy about.

17 **A. I wasn't happy because somebody had spat in it --**

18 Q. Yes.

19 **A. -- obviously spat in it.**

20 Q. You said no, you didn't -- you want a different bowl and  
21 he hit you across the face.

22 **A. Backhanded me like that there, because he was sitting --**  
23 **I was sitting here and he was sitting at a table here**  
24 **and he just lashed out at me (gesturing).**

25 Q. Is that the only occasion you recall him being violent

PRIVATE

and that I wanted a different bowl of cereal and he hit me across the face. No member of staff asked me what had happened to my face. The food in Rathgael was a joke and was not sufficient to sustain a growing teenager.

23. I should not have been placed in house 5 where I was surrounded by young offenders who had convictions for a variety of crimes including ABH, GBH, burglary and car theft. I was unable to relate to these children in any way and was badly beaten. There was a smoking room at the back of house 5 and I went there to try to fit in. I never smoked before I went to Rathgael.
24. I had belongings stolen and the staff had no interest in helping me locate them. My mother had given me a Walkman for my thirteenth birthday. I was not allowed to have it in my room overnight and was made to leave it outside my door every night. I got up one morning and it was gone. All of the children were locked in their rooms at night time so I believe that a member of staff took it.
25. I was moved to house 9b which was the boys reception unit on the care side. It had a cosier atmosphere than house 5.
26. I remember when I was in house 9b being locked in a room. I was placed there by a member of staff called **RG 4**. He twisted my arm so far up my back my shoulder was almost broken. When I was left in the room I had to bang on the door because I needed to go to the toilet. No one would let me out so I had to defecate on the floor.
27. A three year care order was made and I was moved to house 3. People on the care side were called Care Bears. When I was in house 3 I continued to attend school at the Jaffa Centre in Belfast. My key worker was called **RG 43**. The housefather was called **RG 49**.
28. I remember a day when I questioned why the staff table got butter and we got Flora. I could not tolerate hypocrisy and I questioned everything. I have a strong sense of equality. I think I attracted so much abuse because I spoke out.

PRIVATE

29. I was getting bullied by the other boys in house 3 and some of the staff were violent, for example **RG 49** **RG 54** and **RG 55**. I had a space shuttle toy stolen from my room and when I complained that the staff were always stealing things **RG 49** punched me in the stomach. I started self-harming as I felt under attack by both staff and my peers. I ran away and sniffed glue once. I felt that Rathgael dragged me down and I did things that I would never have done otherwise. I think I did these things to give myself something to do and relieve the monotony of life in Rathgael.
30. I told the staff that I wanted to make a telephone call. I telephoned Childline. **RG 49** sat in front of me the whole time I was on the phone with a big smile on his face mouthing "no-one cares". I ran out of the house and stood behind the house. That night I was marched over to house 4 with my arm up my back. House 4 was a secure unit and I believe I was moved there so that I could not run away and phone Childline again. My key worker was **RG 56**.
31. When I was in house 4 I ran away from Rathgael with another boy. We went to the house of a woman he knew in Monkstown. The police took the other boy away the next day but left me. The woman told me to leave before the police came back. I lived on the streets in Monkstown and slept in a coal bunker for a couple of nights but it was very cold. I returned to the woman's house but she told me to go away. On the second night I arrived at her door at two or three o'clock in the morning. She let me stay the night and took me to Holywood the following morning. I started to hitch-hike back to Bangor and a man picked me up. I believe that man knew the woman I had stayed with and she told him where he could find me. He drove me into the countryside and sexually assaulted me. He then left me back to Holywood. I walked along the seafront to Bangor. I built a small hut behind the Gospel Hall and managed to light a fire before the sun went down. **RG 48** and another member of staff called **RG 57** found me and took me back to Rathgael. They told me that the police had been looking for me and I had been on the news. I said I didn't care, which was not the response that **RG 48** wanted to hear from me, so he punched me in the head. I would rather have slept on the streets and starved to death in the gutter than go back to Rathgael.

PRIVATE

32. I sneaked up behind a member of staff called **RG 57** and blew a party blower. He jumped on top of me and started punching me. I was just joking around and he went absolutely ballistic. I went absolutely crazy and the staff had to drag me upstairs and into a room. I put my hand through the slot in the door and pulled the door apart. They moved me to another room and I pulled a smoke detector down and started eating some of the components. I knew that I would be sent to hospital and rescued from the situation I was in. I had previously swallowed drawing pins and drank bleach and been sent to Ards Hospital where I had a lovely couple of days. I self-harmed in the hope of getting out of the situation I was in and to try to get sympathy from the staff. Self-harming seemed to be the only way I could assert any control over my life as every aspect of my life seemed to be controlled by others. I swallowed the components of the smoke detector hoping to be sent to hospital again. **RG 48** who was the most violent member of staff was brought up to me. He had assaulted me before and the other staff thought that if he was on the scene it would scare me into calming down. I realised that none of them scared me. They had essentially broken me. I was taken to Casualty and an x-ray showed the components in my system. I was given laxatives to flush the components out and sent back to Rathgael that night. I was only thirteen.
33. I was told the next day that I was being transferred to a psychiatric unit at Downshire hospital. I was there for two months with alcoholics, paedophiles and adults with mental illnesses. I was groomed by one of the patients who was a paedophile. Disturbing as it was it was like a breath of fresh air compared to Rathgael. When I returned to Rathgael I was placed in house 10 which was a secure unit on the care side called Shamrock House. My key worker was called **RG 58**
34. There was a teacher in Shamrock House called **RG 60**. He was a really decent man who seemed to care about the children and I had a lot of respect for him. I found out after I left care that he was killed in a [REDACTED]. Another member of staff that I liked in Rathgael was **RG 16**. Towards the

PRIVATE

queued up for our food however the day the inspectors were there we sat at the tables and the staff served us.

39. During my time in house 10 I was sent to a therapeutic community in the [REDACTED] for a night to be assessed for admission there. I found out that I would not be sent to the [REDACTED] as I was too old. I was so distraught at this news that I tried to commit suicide by hanging myself from my bedroom window with my bed sheet. The night man had to cut me down. My bedroom was stripped of everything. I was also stripped of everything and locked in a room with nothing but a rubber mattress. My food was brought to me for about two weeks and no one would talk to me. I remember some members of staff laughing at me through the slot in the door. No one spoke to me and no one asked me why I tried to commit suicide.

40. I was sent from house 10 to a Therapeutic Community in [REDACTED] called [REDACTED]. I was there for a year and a half and have good memories of being there. The staff and the facilities were great. However, one of the residents started a fire which burnt down the building and I had to return to Rathgael. When I returned I was placed in house 3. There was a resident who I used to get on really well with. He was hyper like me and we used to sit under the stairs talking. He had changed into a different person. He was withdrawn and no longer hyper.

41. When I returned from [REDACTED] I attended school in Rathgael. One day [REDACTED] RG 33 put me in detention and told me to copy a book. I was put in a broom cupboard with a desk. At lunch time I could hear the other pupils going to lunch and I asked RG 33 if I could go too. He came in to the broom cupboard and punched and kicked me. He only stopped because he heard other people coming so I was able to get past him and run back to house 3. RG 33 was typical of the school teachers in Rathgael all of whom I thought were violent. There was a maths teacher called RG 62 who was crazy and would punch you in the back of the head for making mistakes in your maths work. There was a sports teacher called RG 17 who walloped me a few times. I remember seeing a boy running away from him with a bleeding nose. He was

PRIVATE

quite a violent man and he would slam children into the ground, twist their arms up their backs, use swimming flippers to whack them across the legs and throw things at them.

42. There were children in Rathgael for failure to attend school. I remember being handed a children's book in science class and being told to read it while the teacher taught everyone else. He thought there was no point in teaching me as I couldn't read or write. If Rathgael was supposed to fulfil a child's educational needs I could never understand why I left Rathgael unable to read and write. I have taught myself everything that I know.

43. One day there was a boy on the roof who was drunk and spitting on people from the roof. He was being abusive and started having a go at me. I was allowed to go to my Aunt's house in [REDACTED] to get away from him. I had to be back at the unit for bed time and when I returned the boy seemed to have calmed down and I went to bed and thought nothing more of him. When I was sleeping he came in to my room wearing a pair of boots and kicked me in the face. My face swelled to twice its size and I do not remember being taken to hospital. A member of staff called [REDACTED] RG 20 took a photograph of my head but later confiscated it. I believe they did not want there to be any evidence of the attack as there was a risk of Rathgael looking bad. One day I saw that boy defending himself against [REDACTED] RG 49 with a poker yet the boy was sent to Lisnevin for attacking [REDACTED] RG 49

44. I started to become like the thugs in Rathgael. I remember a guy bullying me and I punched him and gave him a black eye. I was encouraged by the other boys in the house to hit him. I was not proud of what I had done but it seemed like the only way to deal with him.

45. I believe that a child needs someone to idolise and children idolise their parents. A child who is in care has nobody who plays a substantial enough role in their lives for them to idolise. Even if they have a social worker that they like and look up to the relationship ends when the child leaves care. They have no one to look up to anymore and no one to look out for them. After I left Rathgael the

PRIVATE

4. We were punished in Rathgael for not complying with instructions, self-harming or generally messing around. There was a team leader called **RG 11** and he was a big man. He was seen as an enforcer and the other staff looked up to him. He would kick me and punch me. When he punished me he would tell the other staff to leave him to deal with me. He would lay into me, punching me and kicking me with his trainers while gripping me by my hair or my throat. I also witnessed him grabbing other residents by the throat and dragging them away. You could hear their screams getting louder and you knew what was happening to them. The other members of staff were aware of what he was doing but they were scared of him.
5. There was another member of staff who beat me for messing around in the television room. He pulled me up the corridor and threw me in to his room. I cannot remember his name but he was between 25 and 30 and walked with a skip to his step.
6. I started self-harming when I was in Rathgael. If you were self-harming at night **RG 11** had to be contacted. An ambulance was never phoned as the staff did not want to bring attention to the place. You could smell alcohol from some of the staff as they drank and smoked when they were on duty.
7. When I look back at my time in Rathgael I realise how wrongly we were treated but at the time we thought it was part and parcel of being in care. Despite the issues I have with Rathgael I enjoyed my time there in comparison to the political situation I was living in in Belfast. Undoubtedly it was a place of safety and the majority of the staff could not have done enough for you and were kind people. I believe that the problems with the care in Rathgael were the result of deficiencies in the recruitment, supervision and training of staff.

**Somerton Road Children's Home (17/10/1989 – 30/11/1989)**

8. I moved from Rathgael to Somerton Road. I was sexually abused by one of the older residents at night time. I have no complaints about the staff in Somerton Road and I enjoyed my time there as it had a more caring and homely environment.



They were always permitted to use the toilet. At no time did I authorise or contribute to a child being detained in the room for an inappropriate period of time. Further, I recall that the residents were not detained in the room for constant periods of time, but would rather be permitted to leave for various reasons during their period of detention in the room.

- (e) I have no knowledge of the room being misused by staff. The room was simply a safe environment in which to manage a volatile resident whilst they calmed down. All tiers of management were aware of the use of the room and deemed its use appropriate. Records were kept in respect to the use of the room. Rathgael Training School was regularly inspected by external agencies. Some inspections were unannounced. Each child regularly engaged with their designated social worker. Medically trained nurses worked in both sides of Rathgael Training School and every child was consulted regularly. The residents consulted with the nurses alone and independently of the staff.
- (f) Restraint was never used as a means of punishment. Placement of a resident in a room alone that may have been sparsely furnished was not used as a means of punishment. It did however provide an opportunity for positive engagement with a young person and an opportunity for them to reflect upon difficult behaviours that they were presenting.

**Response to Allegations Appearing in Witness Statement**

HIA 182

19. At paragraph 4 of his witness statement, HIA 182 suggests that he was punished by me. I am said to have kicked and punched him and grabbed his hair and throat. The allegations are generic in nature, and are denied.
20. At paragraph 4 of his witness statement, HIA 182 suggests that he witnessed me 'grabbing other residents by the throat and dragging them away'. It is implied that these persons were then further assaulted by me. Other staff members are said to have been aware of what I was doing, but did nothing about it because they were afraid of me. The allegations are generic in nature, and are denied.
21. I categorically deny that I assaulted HIA 182 at any time. I never punched or kicked him. I never grabbed his hair or throat. I never grabbed residents other than HIA 182 by the throat and trailed them. I categorically refute any suggestion that I was violent towards HIA 182 or any other resident in my charge. HIA 182 HIA 182 allegations of assault against me are false and entirely without foundation.
22. At paragraph 6 of his witness statement, HIA 182 claims that he began to harm himself when in Rathgael. He suggests that if a person harmed themselves at night time I would be contacted. He claims that 'the staff' never tasked an ambulance as they did not want to attract attention. He further suggests that he could smell alcohol from 'some of the staff' as they drank alcohol whilst on duty.



23. I do not recall [HIA 182] from his time as a resident at Rathgael Training School. I am thus unable to gainsay his contention that he harmed himself when he was resident. Insofar as it is suggested that I was responsible for neglecting to task emergency medical assistance by ambulance when it was appropriate to do so or that I neglected to secure appropriate medical treatment for any resident in my charge, I categorically deny that this ever occurred. If a resident did self harm at night and I was on call I would usually be called depending on the severity of the situation. I would have no hesitation in tasking an ambulance or taking a child to hospital if that was required. I have never been motivated by a desire to hide what occurred in Rathgael Training School from any appropriate person or body.
24. Insofar as it is suggested that I drank alcohol whilst on duty, I categorically deny this allegation. It is false and entirely without foundation.
25. I am familiar with [HIA 182] from my time as his superior at the Lakewood Centre. I consider that the allegations made by [HIA 182] are malicious and that they have been made in response to disciplinary issues that have arose with his employment and my scrutiny of his alleged misconduct. I believe that [HIA 182] has had contact with other past residents of Rathgael Training School and has discussed his allegations against me with them. I fear that he may have colluded with other complainants. The concerns that arose during [HIA 182] employment include:
- (a) He was considered to be over-familiar with other staff. For instance, he is said to have obtained another member of staff's mobile telephone without her permission and to have posted some comment on her Facebook social networking website. She was upset by this.
  - (b) There were occasions when he was considered to be absent from work without good reason and / or sufficient notice.
  - (c) He was required to undertake TCI (Therapeutic Crisis Intervention) training. He initially failed this and it was subsequently reported by the training Team Leader to me that he was avoiding the re-test. I had cause to speak with him about this matter and inform him that the training was mandatory.
  - (d) He was alleged to have made some threat to a night supervisor, during a period of industrial action.
  - (e) He was off work after he complained of sickness. He was referred to occupational health. He is said to have informed occupational health that he was injured during the restraint of a resident. No record existed of any such restraint. I received reports that there was no such restraint from other staff. I sought an incident report from [HIA 182] and the report that he provided was wholly inadequate in that it contained scant detail.

- (f) He was said to have been sleeping during a night shift when he was expected to be supervising children who presented as high risk. I believe that he was said to have been found sleeping by [RG 64]. A Team Leader was appointed to investigate this matter. I believe that approximately one week after this incident [HIA 182] made his complaint about me.

[HIA 182]

Statement of Evidence Provided to Police

26. I am aware that [HIA 182] provided police with a statement of evidence dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013 wherein he repeats his allegations that I assaulted him and others. I note that this statement of evidence pre-dates his witness statement to the Inquiry; however it contains much more specific allegations. In the statement of evidence [HIA 182] is unsure about the amount of times that he was assaulted by me, but estimates that it was 'probably about a dozen times'.
27. Specific reference is made to a time when [HIA 182] is said to have refused to go to bed. I am said to have been contacted at my home and to have attended Rathgael Training School in response to his refusal to go to bed. I am said to have squeezed [HIA 182] neck forcing him to the floor, to have kicked and punched him and to have lifted him to his bedroom. [HIA 182] makes the case that he resisted this attack by struggling and punching and kicking me.
28. Generic reference is made to occasions when I am said to have variously grabbed [HIA 182] by the throat or neck, to have pulled his hair, to have lifted him off his feet, squeezed his arm, to have kicked him and to have punched him. This is said to have been a feature of the way that I worked.
29. I categorically refute any suggestion that I was violent towards [HIA 182] or any other resident in my charge. [HIA 182] allegations of assault against me are false and entirely without foundation.
30. The conversation that [HIA 182] claims to have had with me wherein he suggests that he complained to me that he was mistreated by me whilst he was a resident in Rathgael Training School did not occur.

[HIA 438]

Response to Allegations Appearing in Witness Statement of

31. At paragraph 8 of her witness statement, [HIA 438] contends that she was reluctant to enter the 'Shamrock unit' and so attempted to run away. Six staff members are said to have caught her and 'pinned' her down. She names one of these persons as [RG 11]. It is implied that he was responsible for holding either her arms or legs, whilst [RG 80] is said to have sat on her stomach. She bit him. She is said to have been 'dragged ... to the lock up room'. She complains that excessive force was employed and that she feared that her arm was broken. At paragraph 10 of her witness statement, [HIA 438] again complains in a generic way about the use by unidentified members of staff of excessive force. Insofar as it is suggested that

## PRIVATE

**Rathgaeil Training School (1988 to 1990)**

3. I stayed in the Reception Unit for 2 to 3 months when I initially arrived at Rathgaeil. The staff at this unit treated me well for the most part. However, I missed my brother and sister. I didn't understand why I couldn't go home to live with them. I felt isolated and homesick.
4. I was hospitalised with suspected appendicitis during this time. I remember feeling really unwell and throwing up on the Friday before my admission to hospital. A locum doctor attended me at Rathgaeil and left a prescription for paracetamol. I was in agony all weekend and the staff did not take me to hospital or seek further medical advice. On Monday I was re-examined by Rathgaeil's own doctor who realised immediately something was seriously wrong. I was admitted to hospital from 5 September to 19 September 1988. I had to have emergency surgery.
5. I was moved to House 1 after two to three months in Reception. I remember things went downhill from then. I began to feel lonely and homesick. I did not feel I could talk to the staff there. I missed living at home and being with my brother and sister. After I had been in Rathgaeil for six months, I began menstruating for the first time. I was scared and I wanted to talk to my mother and I absconded from the Unit for the first time. I thumbed a lift to [REDACTED] and went straight to my mother's house. The police collected me the next day and took me back. I remember my mother had to explain to a male police officer the reason why I absconded and I felt embarrassed.
6. When I got back to Rathgaeil, the staff put me in isolation as a punishment for running away. I was kept in a single room in House 1 for between 24 or 48 hours. No-one talked to me about the changes which were happening to my body or asked me if anything was troubling me. I remember feeling scared and upset and this was a particularly unhappy time for me.
7. I began absconding more consistently from this point. I always went to my mother's house in [REDACTED] because I did not know where else to go. The police quickly located me and the staff put me in an isolation room for the first

## PRIVATE

few times I was returned to Rathgael. This was a single room which was similar to the main dormitories. I was left there for one or two days at a time. After I absconded five or six times the staff decided to put me in the more secure 'Shamrock' Unit.

8. I remember feeling very scared on the first occasion the police brought me back from [REDACTED] directly to the 'Shamrock' Unit. I did not want to go inside as I knew it was a locked unit and I made a run for it. Six staff members, one female and five male, caught me and pinned me down. I remember some of the names of the staff as **RG 58**, **RG 11**, **RG 79** and **RG 80**, who was my social worker. **RG 80** sat on my stomach. I remember crying and screaming for him to get off me and I bit him. The bite broke his skin and I later found out he had to have a tetanus shot. The other members of staff each held my legs and arms and dragged me to the lock up room. They were very forceful with me and I thought that one of them had broken my arm.
9. The lock up room in the 'Shamrock' Unit was a bare room with just a thin mattress and a single blanket inside. I remember the room was very cold. There was no toilet or anything else in there. The staff took my shoes off me but left me with my normal clothes. As far as I recall I was in the lock up room on my own for between 24 to 48 hours. I remember the staff gave me one meal per day but I was too angry and upset to eat it the first day. I threw it at the wall and the staff did not bring me another one. They did give me water and occasionally they looked in at me through the spy-hole in the door. I don't recall any interaction with them other than this.
10. After that occasion, I began absconding more frequently sometimes 2 or 3 times a week. I always went back to my mother in [REDACTED]. The police would collect me from there and take me back to Rathgael where I was always put in the secure Unit. The staff used excessive force when they restrained me. I was only thirteen at the time and had a very slight build. I had bruises on my arms and body because of the way they used to handle me. Usually, it was one or



## PRIVATE

few times I was returned to Rathgael. This was a single room which was similar to the main dormitories. I was left there for one or two days at a time. After I absconded five or six times the staff decided to put me in the more secure 'Shamrock' Unit.

8. I remember feeling very scared on the first occasion the police brought me back from [REDACTED] directly to the 'Shamrock' Unit. I did not want to go inside as I knew it was a locked unit and I made a run for it. Six staff members, one female and five male, caught me and pinned me down. I remember some of the names of the staff as [REDACTED] RG 58, [REDACTED] RG 11, [REDACTED] RG 79 and [REDACTED] RG 80, who was my social worker. [REDACTED] RG 80 sat on my stomach. I remember crying and screaming for him to get off me and I bit him. The bite broke his skin and I later found out he had to have a tetanus shot. The other members of staff each held my legs and arms and dragged me to the lock up room. They were very forceful with me and I thought that one of them had broken my arm.
9. The lock up room in the 'Shamrock' Unit was a bare room with just a thin mattress and a single blanket inside. I remember the room was very cold. There was no toilet or anything else in there. The staff took my shoes off me but left me with my normal clothes. As far as I recall I was in the lock up room on my own for between 24 to 48 hours. I remember the staff gave me one meal per day but I was too angry and upset to eat it the first day. I threw it at the wall and the staff did not bring me another one. They did give me water and occasionally they looked in at me through the spy-hole in the door. I don't recall any interaction with them other than this.
10. After that occasion, I began absconding more frequently sometimes 2 or 3 times a week. I always went back to my mother in [REDACTED]. The police would collect me from there and take me back to Rathgael where I was always put in the secure Unit. The staff used excessive force when they restrained me. I was only thirteen at the time and had a very slight build. I had bruises on my arms and body because of the way they used to handle me. Usually, it was one or

## PRIVATE

two members of staff but they would pin my arms behind my back or grab me and force me to the lock up room.

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. I was so upset and frightened by this that I opened one of the upstairs windows. They had 'L' brackets, which were similar to child locks and the windows could only be opened very slightly. I prised it open widely enough for me to jump through. I wanted to abscond and I dropped down onto the concrete below. It was a steep drop of about 10 feet and I know it was a dangerous thing to do. My legs hurt a little but I wasn't seriously injured. I thumbed a lift to **██████████** and went to my mother's house. The police collected me the next day and took me back.

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** must have said something to him and it stopped after that.

14. I absconded from Rathgael more than 30 times in the period 1987 to May 1990. I absconded mostly because I was homesick. I remember feeling isolated, vulnerable and being left on my own a lot in the lock-up unit. I began self harming during this time by cutting my arms. I made sure to always cover up the cuts on my arms and the staff never noticed. I saved up my pocket

## PRIVATE

money and when I was allowed out the shops, I bought boxes of paracetamol. I tried to take my own life on several occasions by taking overdoses. The staff at Rathgael would take me to hospital to have my stomach pumped and treated with activated charcoal. I remember having this done on several occasions. No-one ever asked me why I kept trying to run away. I was never given any counselling or pastoral care to help me deal with these negative feelings.

15. A typical day in Rathgael consisted of a mixture of schoolwork and then undertaking chores, for example, brushing and mopping the floor, cooking and doing the dishes in our respective houses. There was a classroom and the school day was from 9.00 until 3.00pm. We had lessons in English, Maths and Cookery but the standard wasn't very high. We never had any homework and I did not get any qualifications when I was there apart from a Pitmans certificate in Physical Education. I wasn't bullied at all by the other residents even though I was one of the youngest there.

16. There were some good members of staff there as well. I remember [REDACTED] RG 41 and [REDACTED] RG 52. [REDACTED] RG 52 was a single lady and she used to take me out to her house very regularly for tea. I know she wasn't supposed to do this, but she wanted to show me a normal home life. She was a real 'mummy figure' and I had a lot of respect for her. However, I did not feel I could talk [REDACTED] RG or [REDACTED] RG about what was happening to me because I thought they wouldn't believe me.

17. My mother came to visit me every two weeks when I was in Rathgael. However apart from those visits I don't remember anyone coming to see me, for example, there were no social workers or education welfare officers or anyone from outside Rathgael.

18. My grandmother knew I was very unhappy at Rathgael. She told my uncle who lived in England. The next time he visited Northern Ireland, he arranged for me to go back to England with him. I absconded from Rathgael by stealing some money from another boy, [REDACTED] and altering a travel pass which he had. I

## PRIVATE

placed there for six weeks. I saw him in Rathgael but the staff there knew what he'd done to me. I then went back to Carnview for about two and a half years before going back to Rathgael for a second time. I had to face RG 8 everyday in Rathgael for almost two years. The staff also knew he was in the Simon Community even though that's where they sent me to after my time in Rathgael. [REDACTED] never agreed with the way [REDACTED] spoke to me about RG 8 [REDACTED] asked me whether RG 8 penis was soft or hard when he assaulted me and he told me that I asked for it. [REDACTED] was eventually moved on to another children's home in Larne.

7. The food was fine in Carnview and the accommodation was warm and comfortable enough. There was no sex or hygiene education.

Rathgael Training School, Bangor (26/12/92-06/01/93, 23/2/95-10/4/95, 23/4/95-19/9/96)

8. I was placed in Rathgael until I was seventeen and a girl called RG 9 was in charge of our unit. I started off in the care unit and I was in there for the first six months. That was awful because you didn't get out for exercise or fresh air. It was a small room and there was a TV in the common room but there was no privacy. I felt totally trapped. If you went to the toilet staff waited outside the door and we weren't even allowed to sit in the hall. In my bedroom I slept on a thin blue mattress on the floor, like those used in gymnastics. It was like a cell and I remember the staff could look at me through a glass panel and they shouted at me from outside. There was one room we were allowed to smoke in and they gave us three cigarettes a day.
9. The food was served in the living room/ kitchen area. It was disgusting and if I didn't want to eat they forced me to finish it before I was allowed to leave the table. The staff were very hard. The chicken was never cooked properly and I

HIA 386

PRIVATE



**PRIVATE**

turned vegetarian in there. The vegetarian option was always the same meal every day. The kitchen was closed between 5pm and 9pm so we weren't allowed anything to eat or drink during that time. Supper was an apple or a drink and I was very hungry most of the time.

10. There were many times I tried to talk to the staff because I needed someone to talk to. They always just said they were busy and shut the door on me. Some of the staff I remember were **RG 10**, **RG 11** and **RG 12**, **RG 12**, and they didn't have any interest in me. They used to say to me 'Do you think we are here because we care about you? We are only here for the money'. They used to try to wind us up by telling us how much their own kids had at home.

11. In the mornings I got up, got washed, had breakfast and I was forced to go to Mass every morning in the Chapel, whether I believed or not. I went to school on the site, which was the same school as the offenders attended and they called us the 'care bears'. School was held in just one classroom with one teacher. They didn't teach us anything but gave us a 'Playstation' to play with or crosswords to keep us occupied. When I left I couldn't cope with reading, writing or arithmetic and I had no real education. I didn't even know how to deal with people.

12. They often restrained me and locked me in the 'D' room, also known as the 'Shamrock' room for seventy two hours at a time. I was put in there for slicing my arms and glue sniffing, or for swearing, being cheeky or aggressive to the staff. I was even put in there for refusing to go to sleep at night. In the long term units we were allowed to get out and walk about but we were never allowed to go beyond the perimeter fence. I had no time to myself as I had to be followed by staff twenty four hours a day.

HIA 386

**PRIVATE**

THE RUC

CHILDREN

## ABSCONDING / INCIDENT

## REPORT FORM

HIA 386

NAME ...

DATE

6 / 3 / 9

R

J. B.

H

STC.

TIME 3-10 pm, 3-20, 3-35 - 3-41

S

J. B.

A

FROM

LEAD UP TO INCIDENT

... did not want to work - they were determined to unsettle class & cause me much hassle

ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT

... 10 pm I'm not staying in the room with this

... 3-20 pm I'll fucken wreck you & this fucken room - you fucken bastard.

... 3-35 Don't you look at me you fucken cunt, you're a fucken wanker - Shut up you fucken shit - you're a fucken bastard - Swung computer at me hitting me on side - Tried to throw programmes through window, whilst calling me a fucken cunt & bastard.

IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

All removed by care staff.

## ON ABSCONDING

TIME

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

THE RATHGAEL CENTRE  
forABSCONDING / INCIDENT  
REPORT FORM

N/

9A

DATE 6/3/95

TIME 10 p.m.

REPORTED BY (MW)

STAFF INVOLVED AG BH MW

ABSCONDED FROM

LEAD UP TO INCIDENT Aparent from refusing to do extra work and to refrain from singing party tunes

ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT When going to bed at 10 p.m. Staff was opening all doors to bedrooms. 11 p.m. The fire involved ran into Room 13. The door handle was turned. All were asked after a period of 30 min. to come out. gave Staff a lot of verbal abuse and sang party tunes. Senior Staff informed. Staff had to remove handle from door to gain entry. They refused to settle and TWO removed to Shamrock at 11-15 p.m.

IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN Senior Staff informed and helped to remove Children from Room.

## ON ABSCONDING

TIME

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

**RATHGALL CENTRE**  
FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
CARE

**UNTOWARD INCIDENT REPORT FORMS**

NAME **HIA 386** HOUSE UNIT 9  
DATE 2-6-95 TIME 9.15  
REPORTED BY [redacted] STAFF INVOLVED MG

**LEAD UP TO INCIDENT**

**HIA 386** had had a no of temper outburst during the evening & had had to be taken off unit by SD to calm. On arrival whilst not so confrontational concerned to be difficult to settle.

**ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT** After supper Kathleen & another resident began to get v. challenging towards staff. At one stage **[redacted]** & the other girl were v. menacing towards DH & snowed her in the smoky room necessitating DH to push **[redacted]** away out of reach whereupon Kathleen lashed out & struck DH on the arm & continued to be verbally threatening & abusive.

SD came to assist & the other girl had to be removed to Shamrock whereupon Kathleen began to throw doors walls scream abuse.  
~~for the next 10 minutes~~  
Initially refused to go to room but did so under her own steam. Continued to curse at MG but no further attempts to strike out.

**IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN** Unit said sanctions.

SEN STAFF NOTIFIED BY \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES OF OTHERS NOTIFIED \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

(as appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

**PRIVATE**

turned vegetarian in there. The vegetarian option was always the same meal every day. The kitchen was closed between 5pm and 9pm so we weren't allowed anything to eat or drink during that time. Supper was an apple or a drink and I was very hungry most of the time.

10. There were many times I tried to talk to the staff because I needed someone to talk to. They always just said they were busy and shut the door on me. Some of the staff I remember were **RG 10**, **RG 11** and **RG 12**, and they didn't have any interest in me. They used to say to me 'Do you think we are here because we care about you? We are only here for the money'. They used to try to wind us up by telling us how much their own kids had at home.

11. In the mornings I got up, got washed, had breakfast and I was forced to go to Mass every morning in the Chapel, whether I believed or not. I went to school on the site, which was the same school as the offenders attended and they called us the 'care bears'. School was held in just one classroom with one teacher. They didn't teach us anything but gave us a 'Playstation' to play with or crosswords to keep us occupied. When I left I couldn't cope with reading, writing or arithmetic and I had no real education. I didn't even know how to deal with people.

12. They often restrained me and locked me in the 'D' room, also known as the 'Shamrock' room for seventy two hours at a time. I was put in there for slicing my arms and glue sniffing, or for swearing, being cheeky or aggressive to the staff. I was even put in there for refusing to go to sleep at night. In the long term units we were allowed to get out and walk about but we were never allowed to go beyond the perimeter fence. I had no time to myself as I had to be followed by staff twenty four hours a day.

HIA 386

**PRIVATE**

## 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** **RG 10** had to prise her off me. **RG 10** was my keyworker.

HIA 386

PRIVATE

## PRIVATE

placed there for six weeks. I saw him in Rathgael but the staff there knew what he'd done to me. I then went back to Carnview for about two and a half years before going back to Rathgael for a second time. I had to face RG 8 everyday in Rathgael for almost two years. The staff also knew he was in the Simon Community even though that's where they sent me to after my time in Rathgael. [REDACTED] never agreed with the way [REDACTED] spoke to me about RG 8 [REDACTED] asked me whether RG 8 penis was soft or hard when he assaulted me and he told me that I asked for it. [REDACTED] was eventually moved on to another children's home in Larne.

7. The food was fine in Carnview and the accommodation was warm and comfortable enough. There was no sex or hygiene education.

Rathgael Training School, Bangor (26/12/92-06/01/93, 23/2/95-10/4/95, 23/4/95-19/9/96)

8. I was placed in Rathgael until I was seventeen and a girl called RG 9 was in charge of our unit. I started off in the care unit and I was in there for the first six months. That was awful because you didn't get out for exercise or fresh air. It was a small room and there was a TV in the common room but there was no privacy. I felt totally trapped. If you went to the toilet staff waited outside the door and we weren't even allowed to sit in the hall. In my bedroom I slept on a thin blue mattress on the floor, like those used in gymnastics. It was like a cell and I remember the staff could look at me through a glass panel and they shouted at me from outside. There was one room we were allowed to smoke in and they gave us three cigarettes a day.
9. The food was served in the living room/ kitchen area. It was disgusting and if I didn't want to eat they forced me to finish it before I was allowed to leave the table. The staff were very hard. The chicken was never cooked properly and I

HIA 386

PRIVATE



**PRIVATE**

turned vegetarian in there. The vegetarian option was always the same meal every day. The kitchen was closed between 5pm and 9pm so we weren't allowed anything to eat or drink during that time. Supper was an apple or a drink and I was very hungry most of the time.

10. There were many times I tried to talk to the staff because I needed someone to talk to. They always just said they were busy and shut the door on me. Some of the staff I remember were **RG 10**, **RG 11** and **RG 12**, **RG 12**, and they didn't have any interest in me. They used to say to me 'Do you think we are here because we care about you? We are only here for the money'. They used to try to wind us up by telling us how much their own kids had at home.

11. In the mornings I got up, got washed, had breakfast and I was forced to go to Mass every morning in the Chapel, whether I believed or not. I went to school on the site, which was the same school as the offenders attended and they called us the 'care bears'. School was held in just one classroom with one teacher. They didn't teach us anything but gave us a 'Playstation' to play with or crosswords to keep us occupied. When I left I couldn't cope with reading, writing or arithmetic and I had no real education. I didn't even know how to deal with people.

12. They often restrained me and locked me in the 'D' room, also known as the 'Shamrock' room for seventy two hours at a time. I was put in there for slicing my arms and glue sniffing, or for swearing, being cheeky or aggressive to the staff. I was even put in there for refusing to go to sleep at night. In the long term units we were allowed to get out and walk about but we were never allowed to go beyond the perimeter fence. I had no time to myself as I had to be followed by staff twenty four hours a day.

HIA 386

**PRIVATE**



## 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** **RG 10** had to prise her off me. **RG 10** was my keyworker.

HIA 386

PRIVATE

1 arm twisted behind my back and sat on. I was not able  
2 to breathe and was left bruised from these ordeals.  
3 Often depending on what I was wearing when I was being  
4 restrained, staff did not care if my private parts were  
5 exposed."

6 You say you would have been restrained at least once  
7 every fortnight. I am going to come back to that in  
8 a moment, but paragraph 12 you go on to say:

9 "One form of punishment in Rathgael was to be sent  
10 to the D room. The room was empty with the exception of  
11 a gymnasium mat on the floor. It was like a prison  
12 cell. The room had no windows and the door had a spy  
13 hole. I would be locked in the D room for a few days at  
14 a time. When I had to use the bathroom, I would have  
15 had to press a buzzer to gain a member of staff's  
16 attention, although staff often never responded. At  
17 meal times staff would throw in food to the room as if  
18 they were feeding animals. Staff would check on me by  
19 looking through the spy hole. On one occasion a member  
20 of staff called RG2" -- and just so that you know who we  
21 are talking about, that was RG2 --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- "threatened me whilst looking at me through the spy  
24 hole by saying, 'I am going to get you'. I would have  
25 been sent to the D room at least once a month."

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

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 [REDACTED] 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.

HIA 389

PRIVATE

2

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

to hide my scars from the staff. On one occasion, [RG] found me just after I cut my wrist. They were superficial wounds which were bleeding quite a lot. He took me down to the office to clean and dress my wounds. We were alone in the office and he began shouting at me, saying "you shouldn't be doing this to yourself". Suddenly he pinned me against the wall reached down and put his hand down my trousers and pushed his fingers inside my vagina. I remember staring down at the blood running down my hands and thinking that I would never be safe from him.

10. I was glad to be in Rathgael initially. I was thankful that I was getting regular food and wasn't being beaten. It was supposed to be a place of safety for me but the sexual abuse was unrelenting. I look back now at the things [RG 48] did to me, I know it wasn't rape and I did feel at the time that it wasn't the worst form of abuse. However I constantly felt afraid particularly when I was alone in the House.

11. I never felt able to tell anyone in Rathgael what [RG 48] was doing to me. I was very young at the time and I remember feeling very confused by it. I knew that he shouldn't be doing it but I felt vulnerable and I didn't have anyone else to confide in. Also I didn't think that anyone would believe me. I can see his behaviour was manipulative when I look back now as an adult. He was very kind to me in certain ways and made me feel special. For example, he bought me presents such trainers which he wasn't supposed to do. He gave me extra cigarettes and treats. We were allowed to smoke 7 cigarettes a day if our parents consented. The staff gave us the cigarettes even though we were only children. Once [RG 48] bought me a special Easter egg from Thorntons with my name written as a gift. No-one had ever treated me this way before. I can see now with hindsight it was a way of buying my silence in order for him to continue to abuse me.

12. At times I found the way the male staff at Rathgael physically restrained me to be excessively forceful. The female staff would usually try to reason with me first if I refused to do something. They had a more gentle approach. However the male staff, [RG 48] and [RG 47] would just go straight in and

PRIVATE

physically restrain me. They were well-built men. They would hold me with my head face down in the carpet and twist my hands behind my back in order to restrain me. I had a very slight build at that time. They could have held me down with one hand. I felt that the way they treated me amounted to physical abuse.

13. My behaviour in Rathgael was wayward and difficult for the staff to control at times. However there was very little engagement by the staff with the underlying problems which triggered my bad behaviour. For example, I had come from an environment where my mother had mental health difficulties and I was more or less left to fend for myself. I never really thought my mother loved or even liked me as a person. I remember once asking her to help me tie my school tie. She took my tie and choked me with it until my face went purple. She told me "Now, you won't ask me to do that again". I thought that when I went to Rathgael I would get more support but there wasn't any emotional support and although RG 48 was kind to me, he took advantage of me by sexually abusing me. I found this very difficult to understand how he could be good to me and abuse me at the same time.

14. After about 4 or 5 months my friend HIA 236 was moved into House 6. She also had her own room. I felt I couldn't tell HIA 236 about what RG 48 was doing to me but I think the same thing was happening to her. There was an understanding between us that RG 48 was treating us differently. I recall looking at each other knowingly. She also received an Easter egg from RG 48 with her name on it. One day HIA 236 and I were sitting on the summer seat. She told me that she was in love. I didn't believe her and she didn't tell me who with. I thought it was one of the boys. Later on she told me that she was having a relationship with RG 47. RG 47 had groomed her from when she went into Rathgael. She said she loved him.

15. My grandmother was my only regular visitor during my time at Rathgael. She was the only positive influence in my life at that time. She came every week but she was in her mid seventies then and I couldn't tell her what was happening. There was no-one on the staff I could complain to. I didn't have



PRIVATE

Rathgael (1994)

14. Initially I was sent to Rathgael for 15 weeks assessment. My older sister HIA 389 was also a resident there although I was not allowed to see her as staff believed she was a bad influence on me.
15. In my room at Rathgael there was no handle on the inside of my door which was locked at night. There was a glass window in the door and staff would peer through this at night when I was in bed. We had buzzers in our room that we had to ring for staff to accompany us to the bathroom. I have always suffered from a weak bladder and would have to urinate frequently. When I would press the buzzer, staff would ignore it and I would have had to urinate in a container and dispose of the contents out the window.
16. In place of a mattress I had a blue gymnastic mat. I had no bed sheet to cover the mat. I had one thin blanket and a pillow. During the winter months I was very cold.
17. The window in my room could only be opened a small amount and during the summer the air was stifling which meant it was difficult to sleep.
18. There was no choice during meal times. I am a vegetarian, although I was provided with a vegetarian meal I was never given a choice of vegetarian meals. I was given the same vegetarian pastry dish every day. Also water was only available to me during meal times.
19. When bathing in Rathgael I had to keep the bathroom door open. Both male and female staff members would have stood at the door. I found this lack of privacy disgraceful and degrading.
20. I was sent to Chapel every morning. This I could not understand as I am not a Catholic. I never felt comfortable with this.

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

28. In Rathgael I felt the standard of nursing care was inadequate. There were Matrons at Rathgael who provided medical support. For example when I was ill I would be examined however I would not be told what the issue or the treatment was nor was I given any reassurance or comfort.
29. Whilst in Rathgael my brother, [REDACTED] was gravely ill. None of the staff members told me. My sister who was a resident in the care side of Rathgael came and told me. Staff would not allow me to visit him in hospital.
30. During the entire time I spent in care in Rathgael I was bullied by three other residents.

**Princess Gardens Care Home (1994)**

31. After spending 15 weeks being assessed in Rathgael I was sent back to Princess Gardens on a trial basis. I had a pending court case, the outcome of which was a training order to Rathgael.

**Rathgael (1994 – 1997)**

32. During my time in Rathgael under the training order I was still not allowed to see my sister who was now a resident in the care side of the centre. A glass door separated us. My sister and I would run away in order to speak to each other.
33. On one occasion my brother came to visit me at Rathgael. Staff would not allow him to see me and said he needed an appointment. He had brought me a television for my room. Staff did not allow me to have it.
34. When my training order expired I was moved back to the care side in Rathgael. During this time I recall another female resident hit me on my eye. I had to be taken to hospital with concussion and a black eye. Staff mocked me and commented that the other resident 'had a great right hand'. On my return from hospital staff did not separate me from this particular resident who continued to bully me.

PRIVATE

35. I approached another staff member, [RG 6] to let him know of issues I was having and I was told to 'grow up and sort myself out'.
36. During my time under the training order I was in complete lock up.
37. When I had completed the training order in Rathgael I was placed under a care order to remain in Rathgael. I was placed in Unit 1 Downhill. This is an open unit. I had a Key Worker who was seldom on duty. When they were working I found they had limited time to listen to me. When I did get a chance to speak to them and tell them I was being bullied by the other residents and staff I was told that it was all in my head.
38. I had one brother whom I was very close to while I was in Rathgael. I would speak to him on the telephone. A staff member told me that our conversations were not appropriate. This resulted in me pushing him away and rejecting contact with him. I believe this was a deliberate tactic to alienate me from my family.
39. Once during the summer months I was on a bus trip and there was a female member of staff call [RG 7] I cannot recall her surname. I broke wind and she ordered me off the bus. I was barred from any bus trips for two weeks.
40. Whilst at school in Rathgael I would have been given tasks more suitable to primary school education. My education consisted of colouring in pictures. I was not taught anything of value and I left there without any qualifications. Consequently I have poor communication, numeracy and life skills.
41. I was placed on work experience for 15 weeks in the kitchens. I made sandwiches for the entire 15 weeks. I never gained any work experience with the exception of how to butter bread. When the kitchen staff would leave to take their breaks they would have locked me in the kitchen on my own.

PRIVATE

42. There was a plot of ground at Rathgael to the back of our unit. It was approximately 13 foot square and overgrown with grass and brambles. We asked staff if we could use the lawnmower to cut the grass. Instead we had to use paper scissors. We had to cut the grass and brambles with scissors in order to have an area to play sports. This took us around 4 days during which the staff joked and laughed at us.
43. When I had my period, staff did not supply tampons. I was given sanitary towels therefore I could not go swimming. I got bullied for this by the other residents.
44. I also had to be taken to hospital due to being restrained by staff. On one occasion my wrists were very painful. At hospital I had to have splints applied to my wrists.
45. I was usually taken to Newtownards Hospital when I sustained injuries as a consequence of being physically restrained. Hospital staff asked how I sustained the injuries. I told them while being restrained, but they never asked who in particular caused the injuries.
46. On another occasion when being restrained I twisted the muscles in my back and found it difficult to walk for several weeks. The Matron rubbed my back with a cream to relieve the pain.
47. If I had of been restrained during the night I would be in my night clothes. Staff would drag me, each holding a leg and an arm, my under pants would be visible and my breasts would be on display.
48. I was never offered counselling during my time at Rathgael.

#### Life After Care

49. I still suffer pain in my knees as a consequence of being continuously restrained and slammed against the ground whilst in care. I have a fear of being locked in

RG 271 felt behaviour was related to other residents (who are presently now in Rathgael) - RG 249 and Ruby Clarke, with the effect that HIA 503 will merge and mirror their general attitudes and behaviours within Prince's Gardens.

RG 41 asked if there had been any triggers in the family around six months ago which would have promoted the change in behaviour.

RG 233 felt that it may be connected to frustration, as HIA 503 mum had made the false promise to take her home - this inconsistency linked to her dad's parole and release might have lead to her acting out behaviours.

The situation / scenario while [REDACTED] was at home indicated that she was a weak ineffectual character which resulted in the older children caring for the younger ones. [REDACTED] had elected not to take the children and discussion focused on how she would prefer for her children not to place 'demands' on her. The older children home on occasion assaulted their mother, several of these it is felt had been most serious.

Visits from older [REDACTED] 'stirred' her to be disruptive in the Children's Home. RG 41 queried the level of co-operation given. RG 233 confirmed that some undermining can take place.

RG 41 looked through the amount of 'sexual' issues around for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and the suggestion of possible abuse - given the level of blurred role boundaries as previously indicated during this Conference.

RG 233 and RG 271 advised that the family was known in the Larne / Ballyclare area and were quite notorious in their reputation to the general public and government agencies alike.

RG 41 asked RG 234 to feedback on HIA 503 behaviour since admission to Rathgael, he advised that it had been most necessary to establish physical control of HIA 503 as she was most physically and verbally aggressive toward staff, being most non-compliant to the simplest of requests.

The group then further explored possible options and focused of HIA 503 placement in Rathgael:-

### 1. Option to Return HIA 503 to Prince's Gardens

The clear expectation and the most important factor which determined this was her behaviour. Basic control is required, she may be able to internalise this and remove herself from conflict situations / reactions and become more acceptable in her behaviour through this.



## 2. Physical Control

This was looked at by RG 41 who felt HIA 503 cannot continue to present physically as she has been doing, but concern was expressed that she would rely on different regime/structure in the Youth Treatment side of the Centre. It was felt that this was a major task - to assist HIA 503 to internalise her own controls and restraints.

The level of control exerted on HIA 503 at Prince's Gardens had consisted of grounding, and at times physical removal, hampered by the presence of her brothers who got involved and rather giddy. RG 41 asked for clarification in respect to HIA 503 aggression toward staff. HIA 503 would spit, and hit out or kick at staff.

RG 234 advised of the need to deal quickly with these situations, HIA 503 needed removal to smoking area / bedroom away from the main group. However, she would greatly attempt to block removal, but did quickly 'come down' having ventilated toward staff.

Home contact with HIA 503 mother was infrequent as she is hard to engage and refuses to visit HIA 503. RG 233 reiterated that HIA 503 does not like being put 'under pressure'.

## Intellectual Ability

RG 233 stated HIA 503 was of below average ability but was in main stream. Her previous Social Worker had seen HIA 503 as more socially skilled than she was presenting of late.

RG 41 felt HIA 503 needed to take control of herself and behaviours, gain insight and reflect on these, but it was down to HIA 503 to make the necessary choices.

## HIA 503 Expectations of her Mother

It was agreed that HIA 503 held unrealistic expectations as to what her mother could provide for her. Prince's Gardens had noted an element of bought affection on the part of HIA 503. RG 41 felt that HIA 503 should be encouraged to talk about her mother.

Keyworker in Prince's Gardens is significant to HIA 503. Field Social Worker stated that HIA 503 and her relationship had deteriorated but she would still be involved in the case management. RG 271 also stated that her younger brothers had recently started life story book work and this might encourage HIA 503 to do so.

Field Social Worker stated that both Social Services and Prince's Gardens were blamed for the little contact from mum. Denise had no contact. However, access



visits were to be set along similar lines to Prince's Gardens - Family Centre a neutral venue. Social Services were dealing with the younger boy's fostering breakdown. RG 41 stipulated that an access was to be arranged before Christmas.

### Possible Areas of Work

Solvent Abuse had been a concern in Prince's Gardens. Staff had observed HIA 503 sniffing Tippex in park, gas / hairspray - Doctor had been called and an ambulance summoned after one incident. HIA 503 appearance 'went down hill'. RG 41 requested that she reflect on the deterioration and on what she does want. W Salters highlighted the large litany of events and HIA 503 high degree of unhappy behaviours that perhaps another placement be sought with a more therapeutic focus, to prevent HIA entering the Training School system.

### Placements

RG 271 agreed, but nothing is available within the Board area. Field Social Worker felt Carnview was inappropriate. RG 234 further suggested Threshold, Richmond Fellowship Kinahalla Project or Barnardo's Sharonmore Project, who would be able to meet HIA 503 needs more appropriately within a therapeutic setting. Given that HIA 503 was a very immature child and for the foreseeable future would remain in care, but he was hopeful for an increase in her capacity to alter and change.

### Decisions of Case Conference / Action Plan

1. HIA 503 to be advised of return option to Prince's Gardens - determined by her behaviour. RG 234
2. HIA 503 to be encouraged to internalise her controls and restraints as she cannot present such unacceptable physical / verbal aggression. (Care Staff Team, Rathgael)
3. HIA 503 to be engaged in ascertaining her expectations regarding her mother and her care plans for the future. RG 234
4. HIA 503 to have access visit with her brothers before Christmas. (Field Social Worker)
5. Solvent Abuse - HIA to reflect on the cause and effect of her 'decline' in appearance and cause for concern. RG 234
6. Case Review all parties to meet again on 20 January, 1994 at 11.00 am.

RG 234

RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL WORKER

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

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

42. There was a plot of ground at Rathgael to the back of our unit. It was approximately 13 foot square and overgrown with grass and brambles. We asked staff if we could use the lawnmower to cut the grass. Instead we had to use paper scissors. We had to cut the grass and brambles with scissors in order to have an area to play sports. This took us around 4 days during which the staff joked and laughed at us.
43. When I had my period, staff did not supply tampons. I was given sanitary towels therefore I could not go swimming. I got bullied for this by the other residents.
44. I also had to be taken to hospital due to being restrained by staff. On one occasion my wrists were very painful. At hospital I had to have splints applied to my wrists.
45. I was usually taken to Newtownards Hospital when I sustained injuries as a consequence of being physically restrained. Hospital staff asked how I sustained the injuries. I told them while being restrained, but they never asked who in particular caused the injuries.
46. On another occasion when being restrained I twisted the muscles in my back and found it difficult to walk for several weeks. The Matron rubbed my back with a cream to relieve the pain.
47. If I had of been restrained during the night I would be in my night clothes. Staff would drag me, each holding a leg and an arm, my under pants would be visible and my breasts would be on display.
48. I was never offered counselling during my time at Rathgael.

#### Life After Care

49. I still suffer pain in my knees as a consequence of being continuously restrained and slammed against the ground whilst in care. I have a fear of being locked in

PRIVATE

42. There was a plot of ground at Rathgael to the back of our unit. It was approximately 13 foot square and overgrown with grass and brambles. We asked staff if we could use the lawnmower to cut the grass. Instead we had to use paper scissors. We had to cut the grass and brambles with scissors in order to have an area to play sports. This took us around 4 days during which the staff joked and laughed at us.
43. When I had my period, staff did not supply tampons. I was given sanitary towels therefore I could not go swimming. I got bullied for this by the other residents.
44. I also had to be taken to hospital due to being restrained by staff. On one occasion my wrists were very painful. At hospital I had to have splints applied to my wrists.
45. I was usually taken to Newtownards Hospital when I sustained injuries as a consequence of being physically restrained. Hospital staff asked how I sustained the injuries. I told them while being restrained, but they never asked who in particular caused the injuries.
46. On another occasion when being restrained I twisted the muscles in my back and found it difficult to walk for several weeks. The Matron rubbed my back with a cream to relieve the pain.
47. If I had of been restrained during the night I would be in my night clothes. Staff would drag me, each holding a leg and an arm, my under pants would be visible and my breasts would be on display.
48. I was never offered counselling during my time at Rathgael.

#### Life After Care

49. I still suffer pain in my knees as a consequence of being continuously restrained and slammed against the ground whilst in care. I have a fear of being locked in

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

**RG 27** would make excuses to get me on my own and kiss me. This continued over a period of around 2 years. There was no sex just kissing and friendship. We did attempt to have sex but **RG 27** could not achieve an erection. **RG 27** was 32 years older than me. He was more of a father figure to me and I had a bond with him. I believe the staff in Rathgael were aware about our relationship. I believe someone reported **RG 27** and he was sacked or made to take early redundancy. No one from Rathgael ever asked me about my relationship with **RG 27**

20. On one occasion I had been sniffing glue with two other girls. **RG 33** the Vice Principal took us to his office. **RG 34** and **RG 35** were also there. **RG 33** was shouting at me. **RG 35** was standing at the door. There was a window open so I attempted to leave via it. I had one leg out of the window and **RG 33** knocked me against the wall and pinned me there by my throat. I was knocked unconscious. When I regained consciousness blood was running from my head. He again knocked me against the wall. I was taken to Newtownards hospital by Mr **RG 36**. I received 6 stitches for the injury on my head. I told my mother about this incident but I am not sure if she reported this to the police.

21. During my time in Rathgael another resident and my friend, **RG 37** who was from [REDACTED] advised staff that she did not want to return to live with her grandparent as she was being abused. Staff ignored this and when she was sixteen she was sent back to live with her abusers. I was informed by staff that [REDACTED]

22. I received no visits from my family when I was resident in Rathgael. On occasion I would have visited my brother in the Royal Victoria Hospital. He suffered from cystic fibrosis and spent a lot of time in hospital. My brother [REDACTED] died in [REDACTED] from cystic fibrosis

23. I spent two years in Rathgael and left in August 1987 when I was nearly seventeen years old.



Response to Allegations Appearing in Witness Statement of HIA 268

7. At paragraph 20 of her witness statement, HIA 268 contends that after sniffing glue with two other girls, they were all taken by me to my office. Mr. RG 34 and RG 35 are said to have been present. I am said to have shouted at HIA 268. As she made efforts to leave the room through an open window, I am alleged to have knocked her against a wall and pinned her to the wall by holding her throat. She avers that she lost consciousness. When she came to, she is said to have discovered that her head was bleeding. She says that I again knocked her against a wall. She was taken to hospital by Mr. RG 36. HIA 268 claims that her head injury was treated at hospital and 6 stitches were administered.
8. I recall a HIA 268. I believe that she was a tall child with red hair.
9. I categorically deny that I assaulted HIA 268 at any time. I categorically deny that I knocked or pinned HIA 268 against a wall. I categorically deny that I held HIA 268 throat. The allegations made against me by HIA 268 are false and without foundation.
10. I recall an occasion when HIA 268 was in an office and she attempted to leave through a window and was subsequently injured. I wish to make the following points about this matter:
  - (a) HIA 268 was present in RG 34 office when I arrived at that office. I did not take HIA 268 and two other girls to my office. There may have also been two other girls present in the office, but I am unable to recall their identity. I do not recall RG 35 being present. I do not recall why I went to Mr. RG 34 office. I may have had some responsibility for discipline at the relevant time. I believe that HIA 268 and others had absconded shortly before or after a morning assembly and were subsequently located, most likely, by members of the care staff in the School's grounds.
  - (b) I recall that HIA 268 behaviour was erratic and unpredictable. She was loud and obscene. She was, in my view, under the influence of some intoxicant. Whilst RG 34 and I were behind his desk, RG 34 climbed onto his desk which contained various items and papers. The desk was positioned under a window. HIA 268 opened the window and attempted to get out through the window. I estimate that there was an 8 to 9 foot distance between the window and the ground outside.
  - (c) I accept that I did take hold of HIA 268 at this time in order to stop her from jumping out through the window. I think I caught hold of her arm. My intention was to then guide her away from the window and off the desk. HIA 268 lost her footing at one point and fell back into the room. I believe that she slipped on papers present on the desk and hit her head on a bookcase. HIA 268 was injured as her head was bleeding. I do not recall her losing consciousness in my

presence. I believe that she did receive medical treatment in hospital. I do not recall how she came to be conveyed from the office to hospital.

**Response to Allegations Appearing in Witness Statement of** HIA 172

11. At paragraph 30 of his witness statement, HIA 172 claims to have been 'marched over to house 4 with my arm up my back' and 'I believe that I was moved there so that I could not run away and phone Childline again.' It is unclear whether those allegations are directed at me in any way. Insofar as it is suggested that I was involved in the allegation appearing at paragraph 30, I categorically deny that I engaged in the conduct alleged.
12. At paragraph 41 of his witness statement, HIA 172 claims that I put him in detention and told him to copy a book. He makes not mention of his ability to perform the task set. He suggests that he was detained in a 'broom cupboard' that contained a desk. He claims that he was refused permission to have lunch. HIA 172 contends that I entered the 'broom cupboard' and punched and kicked him. I am said to have only stopped my attack on HIA 172 when I heard other people approaching. HIA 172 claims to have then fled this attack.
13. I do not recall HIA 172. I categorically deny that I assaulted HIA 172 at any time. I never punched or kicked him. His allegations against me are false and entirely without foundation.
14. I wish to make the following general points about discipline and detention:
  - (a) Detention was employed as a means of disciplining pupils. There was a practice of detaining pupils on a Friday afternoon and I had some involvement in the organisation of that practice. My recollection is that a points system was operated and those pupils who had not accumulated sufficient points were detained in a class room on a Friday afternoon. Other pupils who had accumulated sufficient points were permitted what was called, at that time, "leave" on a Friday afternoon.
  - (b) A number of pupils displayed very challenging behaviours. There were times when pupils would become threatening and / or violent towards members of staff and / or other pupils. On occasion, I was compelled to restrain pupils who were presenting an immediate risk to their own safety or the safety of others. On occasion, I was compelled to take children by their arm and escort them from a classroom in order to diffuse a violent situation and prevent injury to them and / or others.
  - (c) I recall that some children who had been removed or expelled from classrooms and brought to offices in the hope that they might calm down in that place proceeded to cause damages to offices and their contents. There were thus occasions when having a disruptive pupil in an office was ineffective and inappropriate.
  - (d) I, on occasion, made use of a room that was previously used as a store room. At the time I used the room, it contained only a desk and a chair. The room was

RATHGALL CENTRE  
FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
CARE

## UNTOWARD INCIDENT REPORT FORMS

NAME HIA 503 HOUSE UNIT 9  
DATE 2-6-95 TIME 6:30 pm  
REPORTED BY Mgpay STAFF INVOLVED Mg DH

## LEAD UP TO INCIDENT

There had been a marked deterioration in HIA 503 general attitude since her review meeting on 1-6 had decided on a TSO account. There had been an escalation in confrontational behaviour & offensive language - this had been compounded by the admission of her former 'abandoning' friend from Carrivick.

## ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT

HIA 503 & the other girl had been jumping cues all afternoon that they intended to run whilst out on leave run before tea. Other residents confirmed this was their intention. Thanks to staff vigilance this was thwarted when out however on arrival back it was obvious this was still in their mind e.g. pulling on extra clothes etc. Mg spoke to both girls & made them aware that we were aware of their motives & would not be allowing them out of the unit.

As the evening wore on both girls showed their frustration by abusing staff, slamming doors. HIA 503 became the more agitated of the duo & visibly winding up. Had hidden glass bottle in her person etc - when asked to go upstairs to calm refused & began to lash out at Mg & DH. Mg had to restrain her. SD called & on his arrival took Kathleen down to his office.

## IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

HIA 503 was spoken to about her behaviour & gave assurance that if permitted she would reform group & behave appropriately.

SEN STAFF NOTIFIED BY Mg TIME

NAMES OF OTHERS NOTIFIED TIME

(as appropriate)



## 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** **RG 10** had to prise her off me. **RG 10** was my keyworker.

HIA 386

PRIVATE

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.

HIA 389

PRIVATE

2

OCD 116 - HIA 231

136

PERSON INTERVIEWED: RG 47

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

RG 47

Em ...

Well I've statements from other members of staff here saying the same thing.

RG 47

Ah hm.

You know that it was difficult there was maybe one or 2 staff and ...

RG 47

It was very, very difficult.

... and you were on a one to one.

RG 47

Well you have to appreciate at that time up until 1986 or 87 we didn't have girls.

Ah hm.

RG 47

We were totally unprepared.

They came down then from Whiteabbey.

RG 47

They burnt Whiteabbey out.

Ah hm.

RG 47

And all of a sudden they were dumped on us.

Ah hm.

RG 47

And we were ill trained and totally ill prepared and grossly understaffed.

Yeah.

RG 47

I mean I had to, I had to get people who I deemed as totally unsuitable in to get in and supervise kids.

Ah hm.

RG 47

And I said to you earlier on if they ...

Yeah.

RG 47

... had 2 arms and 2 legs and a head.

They were in.

RG 47

They were in.

Hm, okay so obviously it was a difficult situation you were saying you were understaffed I mean you would've been on, were you on your own with her in

## COURSES :-

3/90

I.S.T. (PART 1)

4/90

I.S.T. (PART 2A)

GOV'S (PART 1, 2A).

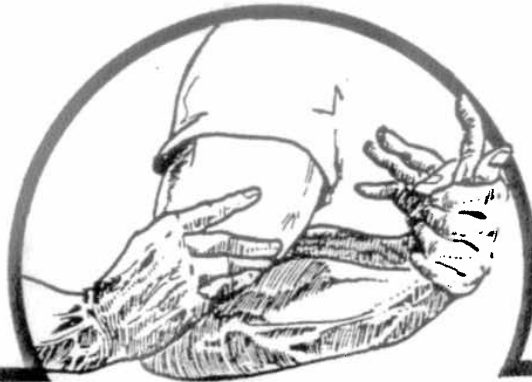
1/91

IST/GOV (PART 2B)

A23  
CHR STORE**CONTROL AND RESTRAINT TRAINING****INSTRUCTORS RECORD**



**RESTRICTED.**



# **CONTROL & RESTRAINT**

**TECHNIQUES AND TACTICS.**

**PART 1.**

**MANUAL OF INSTRUCTION.**

**RESTRICTED.**

Published - 010191

RGL-38275

6

VIEW AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF SUPERVISING  
OFFICER\*

(In fast stream cases, the recommendation must be from an officer not below the rank of Inspector)

It is quite clear that **RG 157** has been a difficult child for a long time and I feel that **RG 91** was given a task for which he had received no training. This, I believe, was a serious error of judgement on the part of the Rathgael and Whiteabbey Schools Management Board and a contributory factor in this incident occurring. **RG 91** quite clearly, got too emotionally involved with this girl and his action on the morning in question seems to have been one of spontaneous relief at finding her alive. I feel certain that **RG 91** will not be put in such a position again and I do not believe that a prosecution would serve the public good. Accordingly I recommend this file be marked 'No Prosecution'.

Signed: Date: D H THOMPSON D/Inspt 11257  
8 October 1986

VIEWS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF SUB-DIVISIONAL  
COMMANDER

An unfortunate situation in which a male member of staff became emotionally involved with a female inmate.

On the basis of the facts as presented, I would recommend that the file be marked 'no prosecution'.

Signed: Date: P J TIMONEY Ch Insp D/SDC  
13 October 1986

PRIVATE

14. At Whiteabbey we were allowed to go home at the weekends. I did not want to go home as my Mother would have been drinking alcohol and had poor hygiene standards in the home. On a few occasions I ran away other than be sent home. I would usually go to the Mount Vernon area and drink alcohol or sniff glue. Sometimes I would have stayed away for a few weeks at a time. On occasion the police would find me and take me back or I would get hungry and go to the police station and ask them to bring me back.
15. During my time in Whiteabbey I had to wash my own clothes. At night I would wash my underwear and dry them on the radiator. I was not provided with washing power and had to use carbolic soap which the home provided. This led to me developing vaginal thrush. As a consequence of the infection I was often sent to the Royal Victoria Hospital to undergo internal examinations which I found intrusive and humiliating.
16. At Rathgael the residents had to undertake all housekeeping duties. I found it difficult to operate the large buffing machines that were used to shine the floors.
17. I did not receive any visits from my family or from social services during my time in Whiteabbey Training School.

**Rathgael 1985-1987**

18. In 1985 I was moved to Rathgael as Whiteabbey closed. All the teaching staff at Rathgael were male and I often saw them slap or punch the male inmates. In Rathgael I had more freedom. I was taller and I was able to stand up for myself so I did not get bullied. I learned to play the system and I received more off days.
19. Soon after arriving at Rathgael my maths teacher, **RG 27** started to take a personal interest in me. This started by sending me to do messages on his behalf. It soon progressed to him organising fishing trips away so we could sit in the van together and kiss whilst the other residents went fishing. He would also have taken me to bars and bought me alcoholic drinks and given me cigarettes.

PRIVATE

14. At Whiteabbey we were allowed to go home at the weekends. I did not want to go home as my Mother would have been drinking alcohol and had poor hygiene standards in the home. On a few occasions I ran away other than be sent home. I would usually go to the Mount Vernon area and drink alcohol or sniff glue. Sometimes I would have stayed away for a few weeks at a time. On occasion the police would find me and take me back or I would get hungry and go to the police station and ask them to bring me back.
15. During my time in Whiteabbey I had to wash my own clothes. At night I would wash my underwear and dry them on the radiator. I was not provided with washing power and had to use carbolic soap which the home provided. This led to me developing vaginal thrush. As a consequence of the infection I was often sent to the Royal Victoria Hospital to undergo internal examinations which I found intrusive and humiliating.
16. At Rathgael the residents had to undertake all housekeeping duties. I found it difficult to operate the large buffing machines that were used to shine the floors.
17. I did not receive any visits from my family or from social services during my time in Whiteabbey Training School.

**Rathgael 1985-1987**

18. In 1985 I was moved to Rathgael as Whiteabbey closed. All the teaching staff at Rathgael were male and I often saw them slap or punch the male inmates. In Rathgael I had more freedom. I was taller and I was able to stand up for myself so I did not get bullied. I learned to play the system and I received more off days.
19. Soon after arriving at Rathgael my maths teacher, **RG 27** started to take a personal interest in me. This started by sending me to do messages on his behalf. It soon progressed to him organising fishing trips away so we could sit in the van together and kiss whilst the other residents went fishing. He would also have taken me to bars and bought me alcoholic drinks and given me cigarettes.

PRIVATE

**RG 27** would make excuses to get me on my own and kiss me. This continued over a period of around 2 years. There was no sex just kissing and friendship. We did attempt to have sex but **RG 27** could not achieve an erection. **RG 27** was 32 years older than me. He was more of a father figure to me and I had a bond with him. I believe the staff in Rathgael were aware about our relationship. I believe someone reported **RG 27** and he was sacked or made to take early redundancy. No one from Rathgael ever asked me about my relationship with **RG 27**

20. On one occasion I had been sniffing glue with two other girls. **RG 33** the Vice Principal took us to his office. **RG 34** and **RG 35** were also there. **RG 33** was shouting at me. **RG 35** was standing at the door. There was a window open so I attempted to leave via it. I had one leg out of the window and **RG 33** knocked me against the wall and pinned me there by my throat. I was knocked unconscious. When I regained consciousness blood was running from my head. He again knocked me against the wall. I was taken to Newtownards hospital by Mr **RG 36**. I received 6 stitches for the injury on my head. I told my mother about this incident but I am not sure if she reported this to the police.

21. During my time in Rathgael another resident and my friend, **RG 37** who was from [REDACTED] advised staff that she did not want to return to live with her grandparent as she was being abused. Staff ignored this and when she was sixteen she was sent back to live with her abusers. I was informed by staff that [REDACTED]

22. I received no visits from my family when I was resident in Rathgael. On occasion I would have visited my brother in the Royal Victoria Hospital. He suffered from cystic fibrosis and spent a lot of time in hospital. My brother [REDACTED] died in [REDACTED] from cystic fibrosis

23. I spent two years in Rathgael and left in August 1987 when I was nearly seventeen years old.

PRIVATE

**RG 27** would make excuses to get me on my own and kiss me. This continued over a period of around 2 years. There was no sex just kissing and friendship. We did attempt to have sex but **RG 27** could not achieve an erection. **RG 27** was 32 years older than me. He was more of a father figure to me and I had a bond with him. I believe the staff in Rathgael were aware about our relationship. I believe someone reported **RG 27** and he was sacked or made to take early redundancy. No one from Rathgael ever asked me about my relationship with **RG 27**

20. On one occasion I had been sniffing glue with two other girls. **RG 33** the Vice Principal took us to his office. **RG 34** and **RG 35** were also there. **RG 33** was shouting at me. **RG 35** was standing at the door. There was a window open so I attempted to leave via it. I had one leg out of the window and **RG 33** knocked me against the wall and pinned me there by my throat. I was knocked unconscious. When I regained consciousness blood was running from my head. He again knocked me against the wall. I was taken to Newtownards hospital by Mr **RG 36**. I received 6 stitches for the injury on my head. I told my mother about this incident but I am not sure if she reported this to the police.

21. During my time in Rathgael another resident and my friend, **RG 37** who was from [REDACTED] advised staff that she did not want to return to live with her grandparent as she was being abused. Staff ignored this and when she was sixteen she was sent back to live with her abusers. I was informed by staff that [REDACTED]

22. I received no visits from my family when I was resident in Rathgael. On occasion I would have visited my brother in the Royal Victoria Hospital. He suffered from cystic fibrosis and spent a lot of time in hospital. My brother [REDACTED] died in [REDACTED] from cystic fibrosis

23. I spent two years in Rathgael and left in August 1987 when I was nearly seventeen years old.





3/7/87 cont.

- [e] Any further committal by the staff member of any criminal offence or other misdemeanour deemed to be of a serious nature would be regarded as a breach of the warning and, under the Disciplinary Procedures would result in summary dismissal.

It was proposed by Lady Margaret Porter, seconded by Mr. Wm. Keown and unanimously agreed by the Board that the decision of the Disciplinary Panel be approved.

1/7/87

RATHGAEL AND WHITEABBEY SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel of the Board held on Wednesday, 1st July, 1987 at 10.30 a.m..

**PRESENT:** Mr. M. Brown [Chairman],  
Rev. M. E. Hewitt, Mrs. M. Sandford, Rev. H. D. McMorran.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. T. Baxter and Mr. D. L. Campbell.

MINUTE 95A

The Panel considered an incident involving a member of the teaching staff at the Centre, and a pupil, where by it was alleged that the staff member had taken the pupil, who was under age, to a public house on the evening of Friday, 29th May, 1987.

The members of the Panel were provided with a typed statement giving details of the incident.

The staff member and Mr. McKee (NAS) were invited to attend and arrived at the appointed time.

Following statements and a series of questions relating to the incident, the staff member and the NAS representative withdrew.

The Panel considered the matter set before them, and after discussion concluded that the incident had taken place as alleged. They, therefore, recommended to the Management Board that a Written Final Warning should be given. It was agreed that the Final Warning, which would be in the strongest possible terms, would remain upon the staff member's record for two years as laid down in Paragraph A.5 of the Disciplinary Procedures for Teachers in Training Schools. It should be made clear that, in the event of the staff member having contact with any pupil outside normal school hours without the authority of a senior member of staff, (from the rank of Deputy Assistant Director upwards) or being guilty of any criminal offence or other misdemeanour deemed to be of a serious nature, would be regarded as a breach of the warning and under the Disciplinary Procedures would result in summary dismissal.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

21/9/87

PRIVATE

**RG 27** would make excuses to get me on my own and kiss me. This continued over a period of around 2 years. There was no sex just kissing and friendship. We did attempt to have sex but **RG 27** could not achieve an erection. **RG 27** was 32 years older than me. He was more of a father figure to me and I had a bond with him. I believe the staff in Rathgael were aware about our relationship. I believe someone reported **RG 27** and he was sacked or made to take early redundancy. No one from Rathgael ever asked me about my relationship with **RG 27**

20. On one occasion I had been sniffing glue with two other girls. **RG 33** the Vice Principal took us to his office. **RG 34** and **RG 35** were also there. **RG 33** was shouting at me. **RG 35** was standing at the door. There was a window open so I attempted to leave via it. I had one leg out of the window and **RG 33** knocked me against the wall and pinned me there by my throat. I was knocked unconscious. When I regained consciousness blood was running from my head. He again knocked me against the wall. I was taken to Newtownards hospital by Mr **RG 36**. I received 6 stitches for the injury on my head. I told my mother about this incident but I am not sure if she reported this to the police.

21. During my time in Rathgael another resident and my friend, **RG 37** who was from [REDACTED] advised staff that she did not want to return to live with her grandparent as she was being abused. Staff ignored this and when she was sixteen she was sent back to live with her abusers. I was informed by staff that [REDACTED]

22. I received no visits from my family when I was resident in Rathgael. On occasion I would have visited my brother in the Royal Victoria Hospital. He suffered from cystic fibrosis and spent a lot of time in hospital. My brother [REDACTED] died in [REDACTED] from cystic fibrosis

23. I spent two years in Rathgael and left in August 1987 when I was nearly seventeen years old.

RGL-38263

**RESTRICTED**

DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

Statement Of:

RG 2

Statement Number: S26

well aware of this situation.

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: S HOBSON

9801020404137: I37 CONVERSION OF E437 - 1999 RATHGAEL ENQUIRY  
AC135079 KGONW084SCCT Printed On: 30/10/2015 10:42:35

Page 2 of 2

**RESTRICTED**



RGL-38264

ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY		Headquarters Reference No.			
Prosecution File				Whether now	
		C 61/115/86		In Custody	On Bail
Name(s) and Address(es) of accused: —					
RG 91					
RG 91				N/A	N/A
TRANSIT CHART (To be completed by each forwarding member or office)				Date of Original Arrest: —	Not Arrested
To whom file forwarded	Date	To whom file forwarded	Date	Nature of Offence(s)	
Sgt/Inspector Bangor	8.10.86			Indecent Assault on a Female	
S.D.C.	14.10.86				
C.C. Crime	16.10.86				
D.P.P.	23/10/86				
S.D.C.	6/11/86				
Bangor					
Whether any offence alleged requires the consent of the Attorney General or Director of Public Prosecutions.				Date next in Court: —	
YES/NO (Delete as appropriate)				Court and Place	
Consent of Attorney General or Director of Public Prosecutions				Officer in charge of case: —	
GIVEN/REFUSED				P.R. MARTIN W/D/Const 435	
Copy Directions to				Sub Division in which offence committed: —	
S.D.C. BANGOR				BANGOR	
Form No. 38/35 (c)				104.0000000 3000 9-03 5p 106	



RGL-38265



Belfast 235111

DEPARTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR  
OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS  
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE  
BELFAST BT1 3NX

RUC Ref: C61/115/86

DPP Ref: 5237/86

SUBJECT: ALLEGED INDECENT ASSAULT ON [REDACTED] RG 157  
AT RATHGAEL TRAINING SCHOOL, BANGOR, AROUND  
AUGUST 1985  
[REDACTED] RG 91

Chief Constable

Direction

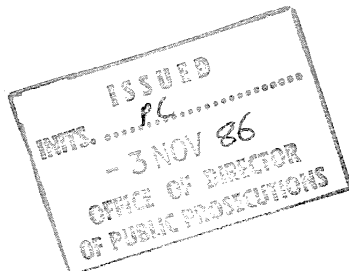
This file does not, in my view, disclose evidence of a criminal offence and I direct that it be marked "no prosecution".

Police investigation file is returned herewith.

D M R BARLOW  
for Director of Public Prosecutions

October 1986

DMRB/OES



RGL-38266



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

CLOSURE SHEET  
(To be attached to every file closed)

## RECORDS RETENTION POLICY

THIS FILE IS CLOSED

NO FURTHER PAPERS ARE TO BE ADDED

A new file has been opened: Ref  
(if appropriate)

Disposal Schedule Ref: VO.1 46.2

Recommended Action: PR

Year of first paper: 1986 Reviewed by: C. Nicholl

Year of last paper: 1986 On: 5.11.09

MAM7

RGL-38267

H.Q. REF. NO: .....

S/DIVISIONAL REF. NO: EB/86/2587 .....

DIVISIONAL REF. NO: .....

## ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY

'E' Division BANGOR Sub-Division/Department  
SUPERINTENDENT'S STATION/BRANCH 25 NOVEMBER 1986 Date  
SUBJECT: INDECENT ASSAULT RG 91

TO: Chief Constable, Crime Branch .....

Complied with. Main file returned for filing.

*L. Dunn .*

L DUNN (Mrs)  
Sub Divisional Admin Officer  
for Sub Divisional Commander

27 NOV 1986



RGL-38268

H.Q. REF. NO: .....

S/DIVISIONAL REF. NO: .....

DIVISIONAL REF. NO: .....

## ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY

'E'

Division

BANGOR

Sub-Division/Department

CID OFFICE

Station/Branch

20/11/86.

Date

SUBJECT: Indecent Assault -

RG 91

TO: W.D.C. Martin.

It has been requested that the above file now be returned to  
the S.D.C.

Could you please forward this without delay.

*D. H. Thompson*  
D H THOMPSON  
D/Inspector 11257  
20/11/86.

D/Inspector  
Bangor

All interested parties have been informed. File returned herewith.

M R MARTIN  
W/D/Const 435.  
24 11 86

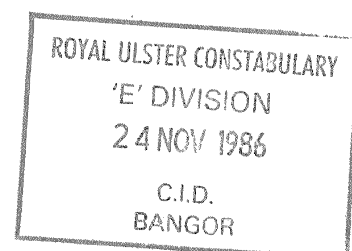
*R. Martin*  
S.D.C.  
BANGOR

For information

*D. H. Thompson*  
D H THOMPSON  
D/Inspector 11257  
24 11 86

Form 51/1

Dd. 8712405 1000M 1/85 37494 Gp. 195



RGL-38269

NO PROSECUTION.

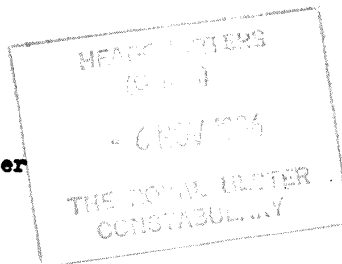
SUBJECT: - ALLEGED INDECENT ASSAULT ON RG 157 AT RATHGAEL  
 TRAINING SCHOOL, BANGOR, AROUND AUGUST 1985  
RG 91

REF.NO: C61/115/86

HEADQUARTERS  
 ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY  
 "BROOKLYN"  
 KNOCK ROAD  
 BELFAST BT5 6LE

November 1986

Sub-Divisional Commander  
Bangor



- 1 The copy directions of the Director of Public Prosecutions are forwarded herewith for information and compliance.
- 2 Please inform interested parties accordingly and return the main file to this office for filing.

Wm. F. Gao. SUPERINTENDENT  
 for CHIEF CONSTABLE

ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY	
Bangor SUB DIVISION	
File Ref. <u>ER/86/2587</u>	
11 NOV 1986	
To: <u>D/Superintendent Bangor</u>	
None and return	
Retain	
Action and report by	
Forwarded for information	<u>note</u>
* Return by <u>15/11/86</u>	
<u>L. Dunn</u>	<u>SDAO/JSR</u>

RGL-38270

## ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY

## RUC REFERENCES

(Delete as appropriate)

To: The Director of Public Prosecutions

SUB-DIVISION: ..... BANGOR .....

Per: The Legal Registrar  
Royal Courts of Justice  
Belfast

DIVISION: ..... 'E' .....

or: The Circuit Assistant Director

H.Q.: ..... HEADQUARTERS .....

..... Eastern ..... Circuit

(C.I.D.)

20 OCT 1986

THE ROYAL ULSTER  
CONSTABULARY

NB: In "Fast Stream" cases only the Sections marked \* should be completed.

SUBJECT\*(nature of offences,  
venue, persons  
involved)Alleged indecent assault on [REDACTED] RG 157 at Rathgael  
Training School, Bangor by [REDACTED] RG 91 44 years,  
residential social workerDATE OF  
OFFENCE\*

Around August 1985

DATE REPORT  
SUBMITTED\*

8. 10. 86.

REPORTING\*  
OFFICER

NAME	M R MARTIN
RANK AND NUMBER	W/D/Constable 435
STATION	Bangor
SUB-DIVISION	Bangor
DIVISION	E
TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR CONTACT	454444

20 OCT 1986

RGL-38271

2.

PERSONS REPORTED\*

(Separate page 2 for each person reported. Number pages 2, 2a, 2b etc.)

(Delete as appropriate)

SURNAME	RG 91	
FORENAMES		
DATE OF BIRTH		
ADDRESS		
CHARGED	<del>YES</del> NO	COPY CHARGE SHEET ATTACHED AT PART IV
SUMMONS ISSUED	<del>YES</del> NO	COPY SUMMONS ATTACHED AT PART IV
INFORMATION LAID	<del>YES</del> NO	COPY INFORMATIONS ATTACHED AT PART IV
DATE OF FIRST COURT APPEARANCE	N/A	
AT DATE OF THIS REPORT IS	<del>IN CUSTODY</del>	<del>ON BAIL</del>

NATURE OF EVIDENCE\*  
AGAINST PERSON  
REPORTED

(Tick as appropriate)

WRITTEN CONFESSION	X
ORAL CONFESSION ONLY	
VISUAL IDENTIFICATION	
MEDICAL EVIDENCE	
FORENSIC EVIDENCE	
DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	
OTHER (SPECIFY)	

ANTECEDENT HISTORY\*  
OF PERSON REPORTED

(Summarise relevant information eg. marital status, employment, associates, mental or physical abnormalities. Give physical description where appropriate)

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS	<del>YES</del> NO	COPY CRO 22 ATTACHED AT PART IV
RG 91	COPY CRO 14 ATTACHED AT PART IV	
<p>is a married man, living with his wife and 3 children aged 19, 18 and 11 years in a 3 bed roomed Housing Executive house. He has been a residential social worker at Rathgael Training School for the past 8 years. His main associates are his 3 brothers and he has no mental or physical abnormalities. He is of medium build and height.</p>		

RGL-38272

3.

OUTLINE OF CASE\*

(Give **salient** facts in chronological order with clarity and brevity. Do not merely repeat witness statements. Where more than one person reported summarise case against each)

RG 91

has been a residential social worker in Rathgael Centre for Young People for the past 8 years. Seven and a half of these years have been spent with boys and 6 months with girls when Whiteabbey Girls Training School closed. It was during the period of 6 months when the alleged indecent assault took place.

The total substance of the complaint is that RG 91 kissed RG 157 on the neck one morning in her bedroom.

The background of the case is as follows:-

RG 91

was in charge of boys at Rathgael for the past 8 years. About May 1985 Whiteabbey Girls School closed down and the girls were transferred to Rathgael. In March 1985, 5 of the most disruptive girls were transferred to Rathgael and Cecil Braniff was one of the social workers to volunteer to look after this unit and was allocated RG 157 to look after. The men got no specific training for looking after these girls.

RG 91

tried to counsel RG 157 as best he could and in a fatherly way as he has a daughter of a similar age. He wrote letters to her when she was at home on weekend leave to try and encourage her to return to the school. RG 157 also wrote back to him. One particular night RG 157 threatened to commit suicide and RG 91 and another female social worker sat with her until about 11.45pm.

The following morning RG 91 went to her room to see that she had not done anything stupid. When he saw that she was all right he kissed her on the neck.

He was subsequently questioned about this by his authorities and told them exactly what had taken place. Since this alleged incident RG 157 has left Rathgael and RG 91 has moved back to the boys unit.

RG 91

I interviewed RG 91 on 10 September 1986 and he made a comprehensive statement after caution covering all these points. He was totally open and frank on all aspects. It would appear to me that RG 91 became too involved personally and emotionally, with this girl and at no time intended to do her any harm. There was at no time any suggestion of any sexual contact and I do not believe there was ever any intended. The reason for the delay in this file was due to the fact that the social worker who had the letters belonging to RG 157 was off on sick leave for a long period and there was no access to them.

I certify that **all** witness statements taken by police in connection with this investigation are included in this file.

RGL-38273

4.

EVIDENCE STILL  
TO BE OBTAINED\**(Tick as appropriate)*

FORENSIC REPORT	
POST MORTEM REPORT	
MEDICAL REPORT	
PHOTOGRAPHS	
MAPS	
OTHER (SPECIFY) .....	

COMPLAINTS  
AGAINST POLICE\**(Delete as appropriate.  
Insert C & D reference  
if known)*

A COMPLAINT HAS BEEN MADE	<del>YES</del> NO	C & D REF. NUMBER .....
---------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------

ASSESSMENT OF  
WITNESSES

To be completed **only**  
when information of  
particular relevance is  
available

eg. character credibility,  
attitude to person(s)  
reported, reliability, any  
disability affecting capa-  
bility as witness.

State the quality of  
witness to a disputed  
identification

State the involvement  
of witnesses in reported  
crime

RGL-38274

5

OTHEROBSERVATIONS

(Include any additional matter relevant for DPP consideration, eg. sectarian background of case)

It may be of interest to note that the male staff at Rathgael Training Centre received no specific training in the counselling of the female inmates.

RECOMMENDATIONS\*AS TO CHARGES  
AND PROCEEDINGS

(Stated shortly by reference to section of statute)

I do not believe any purpose would be served by prosecuting  
RG 91

Signature of Reporting Officer: M R MartinDate: M R MARTIN W/D/Constable 435  
1 October 1986

33/34[d]



RGL-38275

6

VIEW AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF SUPERVISING  
OFFICER\*

(In fast stream cases, the recommendation must be from an officer not below the rank of Inspector)

It is quite clear that RG 157 has been a difficult child for a long time and I feel that RG 91 was given a task for which he had received no training. This, I believe, was a serious error of judgement on the part of the Rathgael and Whiteabbey Schools Management Board and a contributory factor in this incident occurring. RG 91 quite clearly, got too emotionally involved with this girl and his action on the morning in question seems to have been one of spontaneous relief at finding her alive. I feel certain that RG 91 will not be put in such a position again and I do not believe that a prosecution would serve the public good. Accordingly I recommend this file be marked 'No Prosecution'.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: D H THOMPSON D/Inspt 11257  
 8 October 1986

VIEWS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF SUB-DIVISIONAL  
COMMANDER

An unfortunate situation in which a male member of staff became emotionally involved with a female inmate.

On the basis of the facts as presented, I would recommend that the file be marked 'no prosecution'.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

P J TIMONEY Ch Insp D/SDC

13 October 1986

ALLEGED INDECENT ASSAULT

PART II

INDEX TO STATEMENTS

CONTENTS

RG 157

PAGE(S)

- 1-1a
- 2
- 3
- 4

RGL-38277

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: RG 157AGE OF WITNESS (if over 21 enter "over 21"): RG 157OCCUPATION OF WITNESS: UnemployedADDRESS: RG 157

TO BE COMPLETED  
WHEN THE  
STATEMENT HAS  
BEEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of two pages, 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.

Dated this 28th day of February 19 86.

Jayne B Bramwell W/D/Con

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom  
statement was recorded or received

RG 157

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I live at RG 157

with my borther

RG 157

and his girlfriend. In March 1985 I was transferred from Whiteabbey Girls Training School to Rathgael Training School as I was under a Care and Protection Order. When I went to Rathgael my key worker was RG 91 he is about 48 years of age. I used to get out every Friday to Sunday and I would go to my brother's at RG 157 Road - while I was there RG 91 would phone the house and ask if I was there. One time he asked me to meet him at the front of the City Hall. I wouldn't go. He then wrote me letters - two he handed me in Rathgael and a card and letter he sent to my brother's house. I ran away a couple of times because I was scared of RG 91 because he kept pestering me and saying, "You like the Vodka's and Cokes, I'll take you out and buy you some".. Hesaid one night he would take me out to some Glen in Bangor, but I wouldn't go. He also told my brother once that he wanted to take me on holiday for two weeks. The thing that frightened me most was that he came into my room one morning in August 1985 about 7.15 am. All the rooms are single, but the rules are no men staff in the girls room. I woke up and RG 91 was kissing round my neck, he told me to be quiet when I asked him what he was doing in my room. He didn't try anything else, but I was really scared so when I went home that weekend a letter was waiting for me and a card both from RG 91 Another who works

RG 91

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: .....

RGL-38278

## STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: [REDACTED] RG 91

CONTINUATION PAGE NO: 1

in Rathgael called [REDACTED] RG 38 lived near me and I went round to her. I told her I was scared and wasn't going back at the end of my weekend leave. I showed her all the letters and cards and told her what had been happening. My brother wouldn't let me go back and [REDACTED] RG 38 got me extended leave. She kept the letters and card and gave them to Senior Staff Member [REDACTED]. She then phoned the house a couple of days later and told my brother she had spoken to [REDACTED] RG 91 and he admitted it and he was being moved into a boys unit. I never heard anything more, but I am worried in case anything would happen to someone else as he is still working in Rathgael.

Compared with the original and certified a true copy



Form 38/36 [a]  
(Plain)

Dd.8712403.1000m.1/85.7439.Gp.191

SIGNATURE OF STATEMENT MAKER: ....  
la.

[REDACTED] RG 91

RGL-38279

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF:

RG 61

AGE OF WITNESS [if over 21 enter "over 21"]:

Over 21

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS:

Warden

ADDRESS:

c/o Rathgael Centre for Children & Young People  
Rathgael, BangorTO BE COMPLETED  
WHEN THE  
STATEMENT HAS  
BEEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of one page, 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.

Dated this

29th

day of

September 19 86

M R Martin W/D/Const

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom  
statement was recorded or received

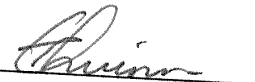
RG 61

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I am a house warden at Rathgael Centre for Children and Young People. One of the girls I have had under my care was RG 157. I can recall a particular evening when RG 157 was demanding a lot of attention from RG 91 who was her primary worker. She was threatening suicide and he was very concerned about this and after she had gone to bed RG 91 was still very concerned about her state of mind and wanted to talk to her further. He asked me to accompany him to her bedroom as he wanted to keep himself right. We both went to her room at about 10.15pm and I remained with him while he talked to RG 157 until about 11.35pm when we both left the room together. The night supervisor on duty that evening was asked to keep a special eye on RG 91 and was informed of her depressive and suicidal talk.

(Signed) Rosalynd Anderson

Certified a true copy of the original



Form 38/36

(Plain)

Dd. 8712561 10/85 Gp198 RP.

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: .....

RGL-38280

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

TO BE COMPLETED  
WHEN THE  
STATEMENT HAS  
BEEN WRITTEN

STATEMENT OF: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE OF WITNESS (if over 21 enter "over 21"): \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: c/o Rathgael Centre for Children and Young People, Rathgael, Bang

I declare that this statement consisting of one pages, 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.

Dated this 29th day of September 19 86

M R Martin W/D/C

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom

C F Robinson

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

On 5 September 1986 I saw Woman Detective Constable Martin at Bangor RUC Station and handed to her copies of letters sent by **RG 91** **RG 157** to **RG 157** and from **RG 157** to **RG 91**

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Certified a true copy of the original Chin ok.

Form 38/36  
(Plain)

Dd. 8712561 10/85 Gp198 RP.

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

RGL-38281

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

TO BE COMPLETED  
WHEN THE  
STATEMENT HAS  
BEEN WRITTEN

STATEMENT OF: Margaret Roberta MARTIN

AGE OF WITNESS (if over 21 enter "over 21"): Over 21

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS: Woman Detective Constable

ADDRESS: CID Greater Belfast Region

I declare that this statement consisting of one pages, 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.

Dated this 6th day of October

1986

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom  
statement was recorded or received

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I am a Woman Detective Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary presently attached to the Criminal Investigation Department for the Belfast Region. On 10 September 1986 I RG 91 residential social worker, RG 91 in an interview room at Bangor RUC Station where he had come at my request. I informed RG 91 of my identity and told him that I was making enquiries regarding a complain by RG 157 of alleged indecent assault. I cautioned RG 91. He said that he knew what I was talking about and that he had discussed the matter with his authorities. He explained the circumstances to me and I invited him to make a written statement after caution which he did. I marked this statement MRM 1. On 5 September 1986 I was handed photocopies of letters by Freda Robinson, Deputy Director, Care, Rathgael Training Centre from RG 91

Form 38/36  
(Plain)

Dd. 8712561 10/85 Gp198 RP.

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: M.R. Martin



RGL-38282

ALLEGED INDECENT ASSAULT

PART III

EXHIBITS

ITEM IDENTIFICATION MARK	DESCRIPTION	PRODUCED BY	REFERRED TO BY	REMARKS	PAGE(S)
MRM 1	Statement after caution by R G S	W/D/Constable MARTIN			1-1b

RGL-38283

## WRITTEN STATEMENT AFTER CAUTION

MRM1

STATEMENT OF: RG 91ADDRESS: RG 91OCCUPATION: RG 91TAKEN BY: W/D/C Martin AT: Bangor RUC StationON: 10th Sept '86 IN PRESENCE OF: \_\_\_\_\_I, RG 91 : Wish to make a statement.

I want someone to write down what I say. I have been told that I need not say anything unless I wish to do so and that whatever I say may be given in evidence.

RG 91

SIGNATURE OF STATEMENT MAKER

I have been a residential social worker at Rathgael Centre for Young People for the past eight years. I have looked after boys for 7½ years of this period. Then in March 1985 a group of 5 girls were brought from Whiteabbey Girls Training School to Rathgael. This was because Whiteabbey was closing down and these were 5 of the most disruptive girls. Phase II of the girls - the remainder - came about May 1985. The 5 girls were placed into a secure lock-up wing and my management asked for volunteers to work in that unit. I should say that at this time there were a lot of changes in the system in that boys in for care were being separated from the boys involved in crime. When the first 5 girls came to Rathgael, two female staff came also. I was one of the staff from Rathgael to volunteer to go into this unit. This was run on a one-to-one basis, that is one member of staff to one child. The warden of the unit, RG 157 decided which member of staff looked after which child. I was allocated to RG 157 a seventeen year old girl. I have a daughter of a similar age. We got no specific training

3.55pm

38/36 [n] Plain

RGL-38284

CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: RG 91

CONTINUATION PAGE NO: 2

for looking after these girls. I found RG 157 to be a difficult girl to handle, always wanting her own way and would go all out to get her own way, at all costs. She frequently absconded and often did not return from weekend leave. A member of staff, mostly myself, would leave her to her brother's house in the Shore Road, Belfast. During the time she was in Rathgael I tried to guide RG 157 in a fatherly role as she didn't really have anyone else to turn to. RG 157 became involved [REDACTED] who was an in-mate at Rathgael. This boy appeared to lead her astray by sniffing glue and wasn't good company for her. One particular evening RG 157 was very emotionally upset and she told me that she would slash her wrists or commit some sort of suicidal attempt. She said that she wouldn't be there the next morning when I came in. A female member of staff, I think [REDACTED] and I sat with her in her dorm until about a quarter to twelve. We advised the night supervisor to check on her hourly. I went home and returned at about 7am the following morning. I enquired from the night supervisor as to her condition. She told me that she had been restless most of the night. I went up and knocked her door. There was no reply. I knocked again and unlocked her door and went in. She was wakened and lifted her head above the bedclothes. I don't think she spoke and I think I said something like, "I'm glad to see you are still here", and kissed her on the neck and told her to hurry up and get up and left her room and went downstairs again. I should say that technically I shouldn't have gone into her room but I just wanted to satisfy myself that she was ok and it would be what I would do at home with my own daughter. <sup>CB</sup> Later that day RG 157 asked me if I would take her for a walk. I asked the permission of the head of the unit to do this and it was granted in the hope of settling RG 157 down. We walked into Bangor and she talked a lot about [REDACTED] and when we were walking back she attempted to run away. I would sometimes write to RG 157 for the letter to arrive at her brother's house when she was on weekend leave, always hoping that this would influence her to return to

Form 38/36 [a]  
(Plain)

Dd. 9712627 1000M 4/86 No. 1 SPL

SIGNATURE OF STATEMENT MAKER: [REDACTED]

la

RGL-38285

## STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: RG 91

CONTINUATION PAGE NO: 3

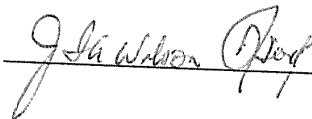
Rathgael and to try and draw her away from the company she kept. RG 157 would occasionally write back. During the time I looked after RG 157 I only had the welfare of the child at heart and tried to guide her as I would my own daughter or any of my family. At no time did I ever touch RG 157 in any sexual manner as I looked upon her as I would have done as my own daughter. I even took RG 157 to my home to let her see a normal family life and she met my wife and family. My wife had met her on a previous occasion when I organised a fun run. I was questioned about the letters I had written to RG 157 by my own authorities and I explained the situation to RG 173 and also spoke about the morning I went into RG 157 room. They asked me about kissing her on the neck and I told them I had and explained the circumstances to them. This was about August 1985. This information was fed into the Management Board and also to the Northern Ireland Office. I then went back to work in the boys unit and have remained there happily ever since. On hindsight I think I got too personally involved with RG 157 in a caring role.

(Signed) RG 157

I have read the above statement and I have been told that I can correct, alter or add anything I wish. This statement is true. I have made it of my own free will.

(Signed) RG 157

Certified a true copy of the original



ALLEGED INDECENT ASSAULT

PART IV

OTHER DOCUMENTS

CONTENTS		PAGE(S)
Letters from	RG 91	1-1b
Letters from		2-2a
Report from Kachgaei		3-3a

RGL-38287

Dear **RG 157**

I can only hope that your leave goes very well for you. I would like to say that I had a wonderful week with you. I will miss you when you go on leave today. I will be thinking about you. Please try not to go on the glue because I want you to think of the pain you put yourself through and the pain that you put me into. Please think for once in your life when you feel that you need glue. Please read this letter, don't show this letter to no-one else.

Love **RG 91**

Certified a true copy of the original

J. A. Wilson O/Sey

RGL-38288

Dear **RG 157**

I am sorry what I said to you but one thing I want you to know that I love you very much. I want to take you out on a date. I don't like people who hurt you and use you, look what as happen those kind of people our just laughing at you, please try and understand what I am saying to you. I only wish you that you would have told me how you felt this day on the train. I will all ways stand by you but don't go to them who have hurt you because when that happen I am hurt and left to pick up the pieces of your life as well as my own. I just could not sleep at all last night thinking of the way I left you. Don't blame yourself, blame me. I have change my name this is just between us, don't let anyone read our letter. I have you always on my mind. My stage name is [REDACTED]

I love you  
[REDACTED]Certified a true copy of the original J. H. Wilson D/Sent



RGL-38289

Well [REDACTED] RG I am sorry if I hurt your feelings last night at home. I thought that I had lost you forever last night. When to took hold of your arm I did not want to let go. I thought of a lot of things that we had did and talk about my feeling for you will never change does not matter what you do. I will always want to be there. Don't ever tell anyone of us keep between us only remember I would all way want to share our love for each other at all times again you are getting out for the weekend. I hope and pray that I will see you on Sun.

All my love for you

[REDACTED] xxxxxxxxxxxx

PS: Don't forget to phone me and let me have a reply

Certified a true copy of the original

J. M. White

RGL-38290

Rathgael Intensive Care

RG 157

Dear RG 91

Lying in bed thinking of the past 3 months and of everything you have done for me I gave you a lot of cheek on Friday and I'm sorry. It really hurt me thinking about it afterwards. These past 2 weeks have been really rough for us, everything you done for me it was just as if I was throwing it all back in your face and I really do regret it. The weekend is going in slowly but surely. I watched break dance today on TV and the Blues Boys and then went to the airport to pick Shelley up. You said you would be thinking of me all weekend. Well I was thinking of you too. I hope you had a good one, you left me your address. But I told you on Friday night I wouldn't go on the run. I think I've hurt you enough, by letting you down on these past 4 leaves especially the last one. I've told you more than I've told any other member of staff in W/Abbey that's because I trust you and you have treated me as if I was your daughter. Well RG 91 this letter might be boring you by the time you get to this point but I just want you to know that when I'm in Rathgael or even out of it on leave or for good I will never forget you.

Love from your keychild

RG 157

RG 91

I wrote this letter on Saturday night; to-day I found out [REDACTED] was on the run and with [REDACTED] Everything I wrote in this letter I meant but RG 91 I have to go to them. I must see

RGL-38291

It's breaking my heart. It's as if I'm sticking a knife in you. You told me you'll come and get me, if I ever went on the run. **RG 91** no matter what becomes of me this time I will never forget you and I don't know but I'm doing it for **RG 91** I have to see him. I'm lying in my room now. I hope you will understand that. I hope and pray everything or something stops me.

Please forgive me

Love **RG 157**

If the police get me and I go to the YOC I will keep in contact with you. If they don't I will come to you **RG 91**, it's breaking my heart but I must tell you. I'm very sorry. I hope today something stops me or I have an accident and can't go. I came back after collecting Denise. I couldn't go. I tried but couldn't; don't ask me why I couldn't but wanted to.

Love from **RG 157**

Certified a true copy of the original *J. Du Wilson* *W/S*

RGL-38292

# Rathgael Centre for Children and Young People

(Rathgael and Whiteabbey Schools Management Board)

Director - Mr. T. Baxter

Tel: Bangor (0247) 454276

19 September 1986

Rathgael Centre  
169 Rathgael Road  
BANGOR  
Co. Down  
BT19 1TA

RG 157

Whiteabbey  
Order on  
School

RG 157

is the youngest child in a family of three, the other two members are married and living away from the family home. RG 157 was widowed about ten years ago and from all accounts has had difficulty caring for all the children since that time. Her standard of care has been questionable and RG 157 made a habit of running away from home, often living rough or staying with "friends". The local police at Greencastle Station were alerted on eleven occasions between May, 1981 and March, 1983 that she was missing from home. For a further period of approximately two months she was reported as missing almost every other night.

The Headmaster of her school, Graymount Girls' Secondary, Mr. Scarlett and his staff tried for two years to cope with her disruption, occasional abuse, refusal to accept school discipline, running away from school, refusal to bring books or do work in several classes. She was referred to the Palmerston Assessment Centre and their verdict was that she was too disruptive for that special Centre.

She was made the subject of a Training School Order on the 5th July, 1983, having prior to that date been referred to the Child Psychiatry Department of the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. The Consultant Psychiatrist stated that there was no evidence of psychiatric illness but that she had serious maladjustment problems both at home and school. During her period in Whiteabbey Girls' Training School she absconded at least fifty times. She and some other girls were transferred to Rathgael School in advance of the main party. Her habit of absconding continued though not so frequently.

During RG 157 stay both in Whiteabbey and Rathgael she attached herself to individual staff, eliciting their sympathy, involvement and commitment by her detailed and often pathetic outlining of her background to date, and an earnest commitment to plans for her future. On each occasion the staff involved pursued the plan with RG 157 but on each occasion RG 157 was unwilling or unable to play her part in the fulfilment of the plan, as when she was involved in making out a contract for her placement in the hostel, and breaking it within an hour of transfer, or after actively seeking a place on a Youth Training Programme scheme, refusing to return after two days.

She eventually settled and consideration was given to getting her into the community as soon as possible. Her mother was not regarded as being able to cope with her and her brother and sister were not able to offer her accommodation. After much discussion and deliberation contact was made with the Accommodation Officer from the Extern organisation, which resulted in her being offered a place at their Hostel in which she is presently a resident. She moved there on the 15th November last year and commenced as a trainee on the Youth Training Programme (Y.T.P.) Scheme at Chatham House

RGL-38293

RG 157

.../2

on the 21st November. The Y.T.P. place only lasted two days after she walked out.

Since then she has been licensed and is under the supervision of our Community Care Team. She has had several moves and does not yet have appeared to have resolved her many problems, but is sufficiently stable to remain in the community.

PRIVATE

member of staff called **RG 2** and I used to dread him working because he would flirt with all the teenage girls. As a result of everything that had happened in my life I had learned by this stage to keep my head down.

28. Three specific boys who were regularly pinned to the floor by staff members using chairs. When the boys wanted released the staff refused. This resulted in the boys getting angry and having to be restrained. A member of staff called **RG 2** was renowned for this.

29. A senior staff member called **RG 41** had a favourite female resident. She would punish and threaten to punish the other residents if this girl was annoyed in any way.

30. We were taken to the shop once by a member of staff called **RG 20** to spend our pocket money. I was mouthy to him in the shop and when we returned to Rathgael I refused to go into house 3. I was sitting outside on the grass. He came back out of the house and I told him to "fuck off". He grabbed me with both his hands around the chest area and pulled me into the house. I yelled for him to stop but he did not.

31. On one occasion I remember falling down the stairs in House 3. I was clumsy with stairs. I was fined some of my pocket money as when I had fallen I used bad language. Staff did not help me up nor check if I sustained any injuries.

32. The secure unit was called Shamrock House. I spent around six months in Shamrock House. In my bedroom I had a plastic mattress and a plastic cube to place my clothes on. I found the bed extremely uncomfortable to sleep on and the bed sheet would always slide off the mattress. When I was in Shamrock House the doors were locked and I had to ask for permission for everything. If I wanted to go to the toilet or get a drink I had to ask permission and a member of staff came with me, I always had to wait. We all had to stay in the one room and watch television. We were never allowed to be on our own. The only time we were allowed out of the unit was to have a cigarette. Our bedroom doors were locked at night time. During my time in Shamrock House I attended school, although at most I would have coloured in pictures, completed crosswords

NAME:

DATE:

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of [REDACTED] RG 20

I, [REDACTED] RG 20 County Down will say as follows:-

1. I have read and considered all of the Documents contained in the Index of Disclosed Material that have been served on me;
2. So far as the allegation made against me by [REDACTED] HIA 198 is concerned, I deny this emphatically. I never grabbed or touched her inappropriately;
3. So far as the allegations made against me by [REDACTED] HIA 267 are concerned, I would say that I have no recollection of this person. I did not start working in Rathgael until 1981 by which time this person would have left as his Training School Order would have expired;
4. So far as the allegation made against me by [REDACTED] HIA 389 that I inappropriately restrained her sister Kathleen, I deny this emphatically, and with regard to the allegation that I fondled [REDACTED] HIA 389 breasts and those of [REDACTED] RG 23 this is completely untrue. I never on any occasions touched any of the children in Rathgael inappropriately;
5. With regard to the allegations made against me by [REDACTED] HIA 429 I deny these emphatically, I was interviewed about this matter by the PSNI and as can be seen from the transcript of my interview also contained in the Index of Documents, I denied these allegations during Police interview;
6. So far as the allegation made against me by [REDACTED] RG 185 is concerned, I deny I ever locked [REDACTED] RG 185 in the Lock Up Room on any occasion unless I was instructed to do so by my Superiors and it would only have been done in accordance with regulations and to ensure her safety;
7. In so far as the allegation made against me by [REDACTED] RG 160 is concerned, I deny that I on any occasion touched or restrained her other than in accordance with accepted practice and within the regulations in force at the time;
8. In so far as the allegations made against me by [REDACTED] RG 203 are concerned, I deny these emphatically. I did not bang her or anyone else's heads together or against a wall, nor did I trail anyone upstairs by the hair. In all my dealings with [REDACTED] RG 203 I at all times acted in accordance with accepted practice and within the regulations in force at the time. These allegations were put to me during my interview with the Police and were denied as can be seen from the transcript of the interview contained in the Index of Documents;



1 Q. So we'll deal with them as we go through. I mean, for  
2 example, there is one thing that I have been able to  
3 ascertain happened in 1996, which is technically outside  
4 the terms of reference, but we will go through them in  
5 any event.

6 You say here in paragraph 27 that some of the staff  
7 in Rathgael were kind and others used to antagonise  
8 children to the point where the children required to be  
9 physically restrained.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. You say there was a member of staff called RG2 and you  
12 used to dread him working, because he would flirt with  
13 all the teenage girls. As a result of everything that  
14 happened in your life you had learned by that stage to  
15 keep your head down. Before talking about him I just  
16 wondered who were the good staff? Who were kind? Who  
17 do you remember being kind?

18 **A. I remember the part-time staff being kind. They would**  
19 **have been not there, not used to the everyday daily**  
20 **grind of being in Rathgael. They used to just come in**  
21 **for a couple of hours and then you wouldn't see them for**  
22 **about a week, you know. They were mainly kind and they**  
23 **would have talked to you. They would have chatted where**  
24 **the full-time staff just didn't bother. They really**  
25 **didn't bother with you. They just didn't care that you**

PRIVATE

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

23. Another member of staff, [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 [RG 23] She had large breasts. [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, [RG 24] [RG 24] is the manager of [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 [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 [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

NAME:

DATE:

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of [REDACTED] RG 20

[REDACTED] RG 20

County Down will say as follows:-

1. I have read and considered all of the Documents contained in the Index of Disclosed Material that have been served on me;
2. So far as the allegation made against me by [REDACTED] HIA 198 is concerned, I deny this emphatically. I never grabbed or touched her inappropriately;
3. So far as the allegations made against me by [REDACTED] HIA 267 are concerned, I would say that I have no recollection of this person. I did not start working in Rathgael until 1981 by which time this person would have left as his Training School Order would have expired;
4. So far as the allegation made against me by [REDACTED] HIA 389 that I inappropriately restrained her sister Kathleen, I deny this emphatically, and with regard to the allegation that I fondled [REDACTED] HIA 389 breasts and those of [REDACTED] RG 23 this is completely untrue. I never on any occasions touched any of the children in Rathgael inappropriately;
5. With regard to the allegations made against me by [REDACTED] HIA 429 I deny these emphatically, I was interviewed about this matter by the PSNI and as can be seen from the transcript of my interview also contained in the Index of Documents, I denied these allegations during Police interview;
6. So far as the allegation made against me by [REDACTED] RG 185 is concerned, I deny I ever locked [REDACTED] RG 185 in the Lock Up Room on any occasion unless I was instructed to do so by my Superiors and it would only have been done in accordance with regulations and to ensure her safety;
7. In so far as the allegation made against me by [REDACTED] RG 160 is concerned, I deny that I on any occasion touched or restrained her other than in accordance with accepted practice and within the regulations in force at the time;
8. In so far as the allegations made against me by [REDACTED] RG 203 are concerned, I deny these emphatically. I did not bang her or anyone else's heads together or against a wall, nor did I trail anyone upstairs by the hair. In all my dealings with [REDACTED] RG 203, I at all times acted in accordance with accepted practice and within the regulations in force at the time. These allegations were put to me during my interview with the Police and were denied as can be seen from the transcript of the interview contained in the Index of Documents;

1           so I can't tell you what he says about those allegations

2           --

3   **A. Uh-huh.**

4   Q. -- HIA389, but what RG5 has said is that she is not in  
5       a position to comment on these matters and they should  
6       be addressed directly with him. Now we have tried to do  
7       that, but, as I've indicated, we have not received any  
8       response from him.

9           If we can go back to your statement then at  
10       paragraph 23 -- I think it is page 091 -- you say that  
11       there was a number -- another member of staff -- and  
12       this is someone we have spoken about earlier -- RG20,  
13       would often pretend to tickle you.

14            "In reality he was fondling my breasts. This  
15       happened throughout my time in House 3 at Rathgael.  
16       There was another resident", whom you name, and I will  
17       just give her first name, **RG 23**. "She had large breasts  
18       and RG20 would often fondle her."

19           He has given us a statement, HIA389, and he has said  
20       in his statement at 4793:

21            "So far as the allegation made against me by HIA389  
22       that I inappropriately restrained her sister ..." --

23           That was in relation to the incident we were talking  
24       about, HIA386 -- he says he -- he denies this  
25       emphatically:

PRIVATE

Rathgael Training School (21/10/93 – 07/12/93 & 01/03/94 – 08/12/94 & 11/01/95  
– 08/02/1995 & 13/06/95 –Released on licence 14/06/95)

3. When I arrived in Rathgael I was taken to Reception which was located in House 5. I had my own room initially and I stayed there about a month until I settled in. Initially, I was grateful to be in Rathgael because there was a structure and routine which had been absent from my home life. I was glad to have regular food and clean clothes.
4. I was moved to House 6 after about a month in House 5. HIA 236 stayed in House 5 and RG 45 was moved to House 8. I stayed there for almost two years. There were about ten boys in the House and I was the only girl for a while. My bedroom was upstairs and I had a bedroom to myself for the majority of the time I was in Rathgael. There was a dormitory along the stairs where the boys slept and we were not allowed to go into each other's rooms at night. There was an office on the upstairs landing where the staff were based when they were on duty. The staff that I remember were RG 48, RG 84, RG 85 and RG 86. I think my keyworker was RG 84. RG 47 was a senior member of staff in Rathgael.
5. RG 48 a social worker, was one of the senior staff assigned to House 6. He was a well-built man in his mid-forties. He had brown hair. RG 48 was effectively my key worker when I was in House 6. He was very well respected by the other staff and they deferred to him a lot on day to day matters regarding our welfare. There was a perception that he was beyond reproach.
6. RG 48 began sexually and physically abusing me almost as soon as I moved to House 6. He did not hit me but he was always very forceful when he grabbed me and pinned me down or against a wall. One evening I was doing the dishes in the kitchen of House 6 and he came up behind me. He put his hands down the front of my trousers and forced his fingers inside me. I could feel him rubbing himself against me from behind and I could feel

PRIVATE

his erection through his clothing. I told him to pull his hand out and get him to stop but he wouldn't. This happened every time he and I were alone. He took his chance to touch me at any opportunity.

7. I remember another occasion he made me sit on his knee in the T.V room. He grabbed me and pulled my trousers down. He put his hand down my underpants and forced his fingers inside my vagina in seconds. He put his other hand on my breast and took my bra off. I tried to get away from him and I kept saying **RG 48** stop it' and as I did, my top came down. There were numerous instances like this and these approaches by **RG 48** were constant. I always told him to stop but he was too strong and quick for me.
8. I remember a particular incident when I was off school for a couple of days. I think I was suspended but I cannot remember why. **RG 48** said he would look after me. We were alone in the house at about 9am or 10am. We were not supposed to be alone with members of staff but we frequently were. Normally, if I was not at school, I was asked to do housework in House 6. I was lying on my bed in my room. **RG 48** came into my room and asked me to do housework. I refused. He came over to the bed, grabbed me, pulled my trousers down and pushed his fingers inside my vagina. He lay on top of me. I could feel his erect penis through his trousers. I really felt that he was going to have full penetrative sex with me. I felt very scared as I felt certain he was going to rape me. Suddenly, the downstairs door opened and another member of staff, **RG 87** the housemaster at House 6, came inside the house. He knew I was off school and he called upstairs for me. **RG 48** quickly jumped off me, left my bedroom and went into the upstairs office. **RG** went into the office and asked **RG 48** why I wasn't doing any housework. **RG 48** pretended as if he had been working in the upstairs office all along. I was too shocked and upset to say what had just happened. Every time I saw **RG 48** after this a wave of panic came over me.
9. I began cutting myself as a way of coping with the sexual abuse I was experiencing in Rathgael. I used to cut my arms with glass from broken bottles or anything else I could find. I always wore long sleeved tops in order

PRIVATE

his erection through his clothing. I told him to pull his hand out and get him to stop but he wouldn't. This happened every time he and I were alone. He took his chance to touch me at any opportunity.

7. I remember another occasion he made me sit on his knee in the T.V room. He grabbed me and pulled my trousers down. He put his hand down my underpants and forced his fingers inside my vagina in seconds. He put his other hand on my breast and took my bra off. I tried to get away from him and I kept saying **RG 48** stop it' and as I did, my top came down. There were numerous instances like this and these approaches by **RG 48** were constant. I always told him to stop but he was too strong and quick for me.
8. I remember a particular incident when I was off school for a couple of days. I think I was suspended but I cannot remember why. **RG 48** said he would look after me. We were alone in the house at about 9am or 10am. We were not supposed to be alone with members of staff but we frequently were. Normally, if I was not at school, I was asked to do housework in House 6. I was lying on my bed in my room. **RG 48** came into my room and asked me to do housework. I refused. He came over to the bed, grabbed me, pulled my trousers down and pushed his fingers inside my vagina. He lay on top of me. I could feel his erect penis through his trousers. I really felt that he was going to have full penetrative sex with me. I felt very scared as I felt certain he was going to rape me. Suddenly, the downstairs door opened and another member of staff, **RG 87** the housemaster at House 6, came inside the house. He knew I was off school and he called upstairs for me. **RG 48** quickly jumped off me, left my bedroom and went into the upstairs office. **RG** went into the office and asked **RG 48** why I wasn't doing any housework. **RG 48** pretended as if he had been working in the upstairs office all along. I was too shocked and upset to say what had just happened. Every time I saw **RG 48** after this a wave of panic came over me.
9. I began cutting myself as a way of coping with the sexual abuse I was experiencing in Rathgael. I used to cut my arms with glass from broken bottles or anything else I could find. I always wore long sleeved tops in order



PRIVATE

to hide my scars from the staff. On one occasion, **RG** found me just after I cut my wrist. They were superficial wounds which were bleeding quite a lot. He took me down to the office to clean and dress my wounds. We were alone in the office and he began shouting at me, saying "you shouldn't be doing this to yourself". Suddenly he pinned me against the wall reached down and put his hand down my trousers and pushed his fingers inside my vagina. I remember staring down at the blood running down my hands and thinking that I would never be safe from him.

10. I was glad to be in Rathgael initially. I was thankful that I was getting regular food and wasn't being beaten. It was supposed to be a place of safety for me but the sexual abuse was unrelenting. I look back now at the things **RG 48** did to me, I know it wasn't rape and I did feel at the time that it wasn't the worst form of abuse. However I constantly felt afraid particularly when I was alone in the House.

11. I never felt able to tell anyone in Rathgael what **RG 48** was doing to me. I was very young at the time and I remember feeling very confused by it. I knew that he shouldn't be doing it but I felt vulnerable and I didn't have anyone else to confide in. Also I didn't think that anyone would believe me. I can see his behaviour was manipulative when I look back now as an adult. He was very kind to me in certain ways and made me feel special. For example, he bought me presents such trainers which he wasn't supposed to do. He gave me extra cigarettes and treats. We were allowed to smoke 7 cigarettes a day if our parents consented. The staff gave us the cigarettes even though we were only children. Once **RG 48** bought me a special Easter egg from Thorntons with my name written as a gift. No-one had ever treated me this way before. I can see now with hindsight it was a way of buying my silence in order for him to continue to abuse me.

12. At times I found the way the male staff at Rathgael physically restrained me to be excessively forceful. The female staff would usually try to reason with me first if I refused to do something. They had a more gentle approach. However the male staff, **RG 48** and **RG 47** would just go straight in and

PRIVATE

and made a note of any tattoos or scars on my body. I had to stand there completely naked while this examination took place and I found it mortifying and degrading. I was put in a cell and treated the same way as the adult prisoners even though I was only a child.

20. I was in Maghaberry for five weeks initially and during that time no-one from Rathgael came to see me. I felt it was a sort of punishment. I was told that it was to "straighten me out" but I knew it was wrong. It was a frightening environment for a young teenager and I was very afraid while I was there. No-one at Rathgael ever took the time to ask why we were behaving in the way that we were or asked us to speak to a child psychologist.

21. I returned to Maghaberry again under another 5 week Order in February 1995. This was extended and I actually stayed there until 13 June 1995 when I was released on licence.

#### Life After Care

22. In 1995 [RG 88] a girl I knew in Rathgael, made a complaint of sexual abuse against [RG 48]. I was interviewed in connection with this complaint and I made a statement which is dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 1995. I was fifteen at this time. I don't remember making this statement. I cringe when think about that statement now because I understand that [RG 88] needed support back then and I didn't provide it. I protected [RG 48] at that time because I genuinely liked him and he was good to me.

23. In 1999 I lived in Bristol with my boyfriend for 8 months before returning to Northern Ireland. I was a different person back then. I was drinking heavily every day and unable to cope with my life generally. Police from Northern Ireland came over to interview me in Bristol in connection with a complaint against [RG 89] and [RG 47]. [RG 89] was a member of staff in House 8. I believe he was suspended because of physical abuse. [RG 47] was being investigated as [RG 45] had told about his relationship with [HIA 236]. I also made a later statement to the police on 15/11/2013 in relation to [RG 47] and [HIA 236] relationship.

## PRIVATE

Rathgael. When I returned I was placed in house 4. I was good so I was sent to house 5. I then spent the remainder of my time in house 6.

14. RG 48 was also pursuing me at every opportunity. He was very strong and would grab me when there was no one else around. He put his hands up my top and down my pants and digitally penetrated me. He would kiss me. This continued until I left Rathgael.

Life After Care

15. My relationship with RG 47 continued for fourteen and half years after I left Rathgael. He videoed us having sex in Fofany but he said that he deleted it.
16. In 1999/2000 someone reported the fact that RG 47 and I were having a relationship in Rathgael to the police. He told me to get rid of all the cards and letters between us in case the police ever conducted a search. He was suspended from Rathgael and moved to Dublin. I denied everything at that stage about RG 47 and RG 48.
17. My relationship with RG 47 ended in 2008. I knew RG 47 flat mate [REDACTED] and one night when RG 47 was out for his staff Christmas party I was speaking to [REDACTED] on the telephone. [REDACTED] told me that RG 47 had been seeing someone else for ten years and that he had had a vasectomy after his children were born. I felt betrayed by this deception because I had spent years trying to conceive his baby. All the time he knew that I was never going to conceive a baby.
18. I reported all of this to the police in 2008 but soon after that I suffered a nervous breakdown. RG 47 had me convinced that we were trying for a baby and that one day we would be together. He made me feel that there was something wrong with me for not becoming pregnant as he had two kids. He groomed me from the age of fourteen and he knew exactly what he was doing

HIA 236

2. In relation to the evidence submitted to the Inquiry by [HIA 231] I can confirm she was in house 6 and I was her key worker. I would have had day to day contact with her. I was never alone with any young person for an hour whilst they were off school. Given the staff ratios that would have been next to impossible. I never entered the room of a young person alone. I certainly never acted towards [HIA 231] in any untoward manner and I categorically deny any form of sexual behaviour towards her, or indeed any other young person in my care. I never indulged in any form of horseplay, inappropriate or otherwise with [HIA 231] either in the kitchen or the TV room. [HIA 231] never at any stage sat on my lap. [HIA 231] did approach me with two other girls with an injured wrist. I washed and dressed the wound and waited the arrival of the Matron who was expected imminently. I never singled [HIA 231] out for special treatment and never personally bought her any gifts of any nature. I have no specific recollection of an easter egg but have to say it is not unreasonable to suggest that eggs may have been bought for the young persons from central funds. I would of course, given my position as her key worker have devoted specific time to her which would not have been given to others for whom I did not have that role. I would on occasions have had to restrain [HIA 231] within the context of her behaviour and the applicable protocols. However I only ever used reasonable force in so doing.

3. In relation to the evidence submitted to the Inquiry by [HIA 236] I remember [HIA 236] at Rathgael. She would have been one of two girls in the unit along with Catherine. I suspect this is what is behind the suggestion of special treatment. She did not receive any special treatment and at no time was she bought gifts by me. As I have said I have no specific recollection of easter eggs but can say any such items would not have been personally gifted by me. The same would apply to any birthday card. I categorically deny any inappropriate behaviour towards [HIA 236] or any other young person in my care. Specifically I never at any stage touched [HIA 236] in a manner which could be construed as sexual. I remember an occasion when [HIA 236] returned late from weekend leave and I allowed her to have a cigarette in the boy's showers which was the designated smoking area. I went with her to light her cigarette and turned around to come back and met [RG 128] coming the other way. I did not have my arm around [HIA 236] I

1 Senior staff -- night staff was doing his rounds and had  
2 to ring to get back into the house. So when he rang,  
3 RG82 put me back to my room. Eventually things changed  
4 in that RG82 used to brush against me all the time when  
5 there was plenty of room to get past me. He would rub  
6 across my breasts with his hand. I said, "What are you  
7 doing?" and he said, "I'm just getting past you". RG82  
8 used to buy me cigarettes, which staff weren't allowed  
9 to do. I remember one time RG82 did have his hand  
10 directly on my breast over my nightdress. I told him  
11 'No' and moved his hand. I told him I'd tell, but he  
12 just said, 'Who'd believe you?' I spoke to -- I did  
13 speak to RG52, who was my house worker -- my key worker  
14 in House 2. I told her what RG82 was doing. I believe  
15 she told night staff to keep an eye, but sure senior  
16 night staff had to ring the bell to get in. So there  
17 wasn't much point."

18 You go on to say who she eventually married.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. I was asking you about -- you told the Inquiry -- in the  
21 Inquiry statement you say you had not said to any member  
22 of staff about this, but you told the police that you  
23 had actually told --

24 **A. I had actually mentioned to RG52, but because RG52 never**  
25 **got to back to me -- as I was explained to you in that**

## PRIVATE

two members of staff but they would pin my arms behind my back or grab me and force me to the lock up room.

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. I was so upset and frightened by this that I opened one of the upstairs windows. They had 'L' brackets, which were similar to child locks and the windows could only be opened very slightly. I prised it open widely enough for me to jump through. I wanted to abscond and I dropped down onto the concrete below. It was a steep drop of about 10 feet and I know it was a dangerous thing to do. My legs hurt a little but I wasn't seriously injured. I thumbed a lift to **████████** and went to my mother's house. The police collected me the next day and took me back.

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** must have said something to him and it stopped after that.

14. I absconded from Rathgael more than 30 times in the period 1987 to May 1990. I absconded mostly because I was homesick. I remember feeling isolated, vulnerable and being left on my own a lot in the lock-up unit. I began self harming during this time by cutting my arms. I made sure to always cover up the cuts on my arms and the staff never noticed. I saved up my pocket

①

I first met [redacted] HIA 438 in House 9A. This was a boys unit, but due to overcrowding in House 9. Michelle 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] HIA 438 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] HIA 438 says she was in H2 with some unit, but this was still in the early 1980s.

[redacted] HIA 438 I cannot remember 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] HIA 438 as this would have been a lockable offence. This could not have happened anyway as [redacted] HIA 438 was not in my unit.

[redacted] HIA 438 stated my surname was [redacted] in fact it is [redacted]. She also said I was in my fifties in fact I was in my early forties. She also said I was well built but then I was quite then.

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



throwing billiard balls at a female member of staff whom she thought I was having an affair with. From the very outset of her time at Rathgael HIA 236 developed an obsessive crush on me and would have reacted violently and unpredictably as a result, including habitually stealing my possessions. At no time during her time at the school did I have any form of inappropriate relationship with HIA 236 or any other pupil. In fact I avoided HIA 236 as much as I could.

3. I am aware of the date 31.5.94 and its significance to HIA 236. However I was only made aware of it a number of years later when she had left Rathgael.

4. At no time did I have any form of secret system of communication with HIA 236 either by scratching my nose or ear or in any other manner. She later told me she had made this all up to impress Catherine.

5. I was never at any time at the outdoor centre at Fofany.

6. I never sent any cards or private communications to HIA 236 during her time in Rathgael.

7. I realise that the following does not strictly fall within the remit of this Inquiry as it all happened after 1995. However I feel it is appropriate to include it in an effort to be as forthcoming as possible.

8. I did have a relationship with HIA 236 from January 1997 to March 2000. It then stopped when I moved to the Republic of Ireland but restarted after she tracked me down sometime in 2001 and it continued until 2008. This is something I am deeply ashamed of and can only attribute it to my own weakness and vulnerability after my mother died and my marriage was breaking down. She was over the age of consent but I fully accept this does not make me morally any less culpable.

9. I emphasise again that nothing remotely inappropriate took place between me and Valerie during her time in Rathgael.

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

PRIVATE

7. Some of the staff at Rathgael were lovely and then there were others that I didn't like as much. I liked [RG 47] and [RG 48] [RG 47] was a senior in Rathgael and worked in the office block. He was forty six years old at that time. If there was any trouble he was the one who came and sorted it out. [RG 47] paid me more attention than the other girls. He came down to the kitchen in House 4 and cooked with me once. He was always playing pool with me and he knew I liked him. I was confused sometimes because of the way he behaved with me. Things started to get tense between us. I wished he would leave me alone at times and yet at other times I wanted him to talk to me. I talked to [RG 47] about the sexual abuse I suffered at the hands of family members. I felt I could talk to him as he seemed interested in what had happened to me and asked me questions. I think this is why I saw him as a father figure.
8. One day I was misbehaving in school and threw a plant. [RG 47] put me in the lock up room for an hour and a half. He then handed me in some paperwork which said that I was going to be sent to Maghaberry for the rest of my training school order. I was extremely upset and started to cry. He held open his arms and I hugged him. He asked me if I hated him and I replied that I probably liked him too much. He told me he felt exactly the same and that I couldn't tell anyone. He kissed me on the cheek. When I asked about Maghaberry he ripped up the paperwork. It turned out that he had changed the name on another girl's paperwork to make it look like I was being sent to Maghaberry. He walked me back to the school block and told me he loved me. I said that I loved him too but I think I was shocked and confused. I loved him as a father figure. This happened on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1994. I know the date because [RG 47] would write it in cards and letters he sent to me and in later years in text messages.
9. A couple of weeks later I was in the school block fixing a wooden condiment box for House 6. When I was taking it in to House 6 he waved me down. He

HIA 236

PRIVATE

PRIVATE

was standing in the main room with his arms outstretched and we kissed for the first time.

10. There was a bathroom in the corridor which linked House 5 and House 6. He told me to tell the staff in House 6 that I was going to have a bath. He would come from House 5 and we would meet in the bathroom. We kissed and this is where he touched me over my clothes for the first time. When I was at home on leave he would phone me on the pay phone on my estate. When he phoned me from Rathgael he hung up every three minutes as he said the call would not appear on the phone records if it was less than three minutes. If I phoned him at home and his daughter answered I had to ask for **RG 47** because he told his daughter that it was work related.

11. He asked me if I had ever slept with anyone before. I told him that I had so that I sounded experienced even though I had not. On hindsight I know he wanted me to be a virgin. Eventually we had sex in House 6 and we continued to have sex on a regular basis. He liked to take risks. He used to make me partake in his fantasies. He used to tell me that my mum and dad had sent me into Rathgael to be punished by him. I was really under his spell and control. I thought we were going to be together and he told me he wanted us to have children. He told me that he wrote in the log book that I tried it on with him, just to cover his tracks.

12. He had covert signals when he wanted to communicate with me when other people were around. For example if he scratched his ear it meant I love you **RG 47** There was a meaning if he scratched his knee or nose but I cannot recall what they meant.

13. On 27<sup>th</sup> September 1994 I was sent to HMP Maghaberry on a 5 week order for misbehaving. During my time in HMP Maghaberry **RG 47** sent me cigarettes. He collected me when I was released and brought me back to Rathgael. I remember we were intimate in his car before we returned to

HIA 236

PRIVATE

## PRIVATE

Rathgael. When I returned I was placed in house 4. I was good so I was sent to house 5. I then spent the remainder of my time in house 6.

14. RG 48 was also pursuing me at every opportunity. He was very strong and would grab me when there was no one else around. He put his hands up my top and down my pants and digitally penetrated me. He would kiss me. This continued until I left Rathgael.

Life After Care

15. My relationship with RG 47 continued for fourteen and half years after I left Rathgael. He videoed us having sex in Fofany but he said that he deleted it.
16. In 1999/2000 someone reported the fact that RG 47 and I were having a relationship in Rathgael to the police. He told me to get rid of all the cards and letters between us in case the police ever conducted a search. He was suspended from Rathgael and moved to Dublin. I denied everything at that stage about RG 47 and RG 48.
17. My relationship with RG 47 ended in 2008. I knew RG 47 flat mate [REDACTED] and one night when RG 47 was out for his staff Christmas party I was speaking to [REDACTED] on the telephone. [REDACTED] told me that RG 47 had been seeing someone else for ten years and that he had had a vasectomy after his children were born. I felt betrayed by this deception because I had spent years trying to conceive his baby. All the time he knew that I was never going to conceive a baby.
18. I reported all of this to the police in 2008 but soon after that I suffered a nervous breakdown. RG 47 had me convinced that we were trying for a baby and that one day we would be together. He made me feel that there was something wrong with me for not becoming pregnant as he had two kids. He groomed me from the age of fourteen and he knew exactly what he was doing

HIA 236

OCD 116 - R

HIA 231

216

PERSON INTERVIEWED:

RG 48

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

Ah hm.

No more I don't want any more of this crap, right.

Ah hm.

I'm married, I'm happily married I've got 2 kids and all the rest of it, finished because if it happens again then you're going to go back, come back in again to Maghaberry and it, you can finish your sentence there.

The date of that last one bringing her back from Maghaberry is the 31<sup>st</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> 94 and by that stage I would say you would have been well aware of how obsessed she was with you.

Oh yes of course I was yes ah ha.

So why would you put yourself in a position of making yourself vulnerable.

Cause I didn't have the staffing.

Yes but what I've said before is if there's 2 st., even if there was only yourself and one other member of staff, why did you not stay in the unit and the other member of staff go and pick her up from Maghaberry.

Why.

Yes.

Because it was my job to do that sort of thing, I was doing ...

As a senior member of staff.

... as a senior member of staff yeah, ah ha.

To ferry children back and forward from, or young people.

I was ferr., I was ferrying children and young people all over the place.

Ah hm.

Non stop, to courts to here to there to everywhere, right, a Jack of all trades.

But if this girl was making your life hell why would you put yourself in that position.

Cause I wanted to, to point out, right she'd already by this stage spent twice ...

Ah hm.

throwing billiard balls at a female member of staff whom she thought I was having an affair with. From the very outset of her time at Rathgael [HIA 236] developed an obsessive crush on me and would have reacted violently and unpredictably as a result, including habitually stealing my possessions. At no time during her time at the school did I have any form of inappropriate relationship with [HIA 236] or any other pupil. In fact I avoided [HIA 236] as much as I could.

3. I am aware of the date 31.5.94 and its significance to [HIA 236] However I was only made aware of it a number of years later when she had left Rathgael.

4. At no time did I have any form of secret system of communication with [HIA 236] either by scratching my nose or ear or in any other manner. She later told me she had made this all up to impress [REDACTED]

5. I was never at any time at the outdoor centre at Fofany.

6. I never sent any cards or private communications to [HIA 236] during her time in Rathgael.

7. I realise that the following does not strictly fall within the remit of this Inquiry as it all happened after 1995. However I feel it is appropriate to include it in an effort to be as forthcoming as possible.

8. I did have a relationship with [HIA 236] from January 1997 to March 2000. It then stopped when I moved to the Republic of Ireland but restarted after she tracked me down sometime in 2001 and it continued until 2008. This is something I am deeply ashamed of and can only attribute it to my own weakness and vulnerability after my mother died and my marriage was breaking down. She was over the age of consent but I fully accept this does not make me morally any less culpable.

9. I emphasise again that nothing remotely inappropriate took place between me and [HIA 236] during her time in Rathgael.

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

OCD 116 -

HIA 231

145

PERSON INTERVIEWED:

RG 48

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

RG 48

Ah it was I don't know January, February 1997 I think yeah my mum died in 1996.

Ah hm.

And 1997 between her leaving the school (clears throat) excuse me and that time she'd be phoning me at the school 15, 20, 30 times a day.

Ah hm.

End of my day, non stop and in November 96 my mum died, my marriage broke up and my dad was ah in the hospital with em Alzheimer's disease.

Okay.

So I was in a pretty bad place so she asked me if she could see me one day and I said yeah.

So that was 1997.

1997 yeah.

What age would you say HIA 236 was at that stage.

Either 17 or 18 I can't remember.

Yeah she was born in 1978.

Right.

1978 yes she would have been around 18ish. Is that what you're saying.

Aye about 17 or 18 I can't honestly remember.

Okay and at that stage you would've been, she was 17 or 18 you would've been ...

Forty ...

Forty 7, 48.

... something like that yeah.

You're just about the 30 years older than her just from my records.

Em yeah, yeah.

Okay so tell me what happened then, you agreed to meet up with her.



PERSON INTERVIEWED:

RG 48

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

RG 48

I agreed to meet up with her em she got a bus down to Newtownards I picked her up and brought her out to my place in Ballyeasborough.

Okay and what happened then.

Sexual intercourse.

Okay and can you just explain to me the transformation from this drug addict, nuisance who was obsessed with you and you were avoiding her to actually a couple of years later meeting up with her and having sex with her I mean they're, they're black and white there, can you just explain how that.

The fog came in and 86 as I say my mum died who I was particularly close to.

Ah hm.

And my marriage broke up and as I say my ah, my dad was in ah long term care.

Okay and so you're saying basically that you were vulnerable that your mum had died, your dad in long term care, your marriage had broken up. How did that suddenly make HIA 236 attractive to you.

I have no idea at all and I can't answer that. Just all I can say I was in a bad place.

Ah hm.

And em it just happened.

Okay are you saying that when you brought her down to Ballyeasborough when she was 17 or 18 that that was the first time that you'd sexual intercourse with her.

Yes.

And how long did the relationship continue for then or was it a relationship.

It wasn't really a rel., it was a sexual relationship as far as I was concerned em until I left in 1999 and then I went I left ah let me see now, I left in April 2000 and moved to Dublin, I ended the relationship so there was a lull of I don't know a year or 2 and I was on tour at one stage and I was up in em Carrickarede.

Ah hm.

With ah a group and I was sitting in the little café there having a cup of coffee and in she walked and then all of a sudden she realised that em I worked for Eire Bus and she got the telephone number and then she started phoning my work.

PERSON INTERVIEWED:

RG 48

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

RG 48

I agreed to meet up with her em she got a bus down to Newtownards I picked her up and brought her out to my place in Ballyeasborough.

Okay and what happened then.

Sexual intercourse.

Okay and can you just explain to me the transformation from this drug addict, nuisance who was obsessed with you and you were avoiding her to actually a couple of years later meeting up with her and having sex with her I mean they're, they're black and white there, can you just explain how that.

The fog came in and 86 as I say my mum died who I was particularly close to.

Ah hm.

And my marriage broke up and as I say my ah, my dad was in ah long term care.

Okay and so you're saying basically that you were vulnerable that your mum had died, your dad in long term care, your marriage had broken up. How did that suddenly make HIA 236 attractive to you.

I have no idea at all and I can't answer that. Just all I can say I was in a bad place.

Ah hm.

And em it just happened.

Okay are you saying that when you brought her down to Ballyeasborough when she was 17 or 18 that that was the first time that you'd sexual intercourse with her.

Yes.

And how long did the relationship continue for then or was it a relationship.

It wasn't really a rel., it was a sexual relationship as far as I was concerned em until I left in 1999 and then I went I left ah let me see now, I left in April 2000 and moved to Dublin, I ended the relationship so there was a lull of I don't know a year or 2 and I was on tour at one stage and I was up in em Carrickarede.

Ah hm.

With ah a group and I was sitting in the little café there having a cup of coffee and in she walked and then all of a sudden she realised that em I worked for Eire Bus and she got the telephone number and then she started phoning my work.

HIA REF: [ ]

NAME: RG 48

DATE: [05/11/15 ]

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

---

Witness Statement of RG 47

---

I, RG 47 will say as follows: -

1. As regarding HIA 231

She would have been restrained on a fairly regular basis. She was an exceptionally volatile girl and would have frequently brought drugs into school. As a result her behaviour was quite often outrageous. She was always restrained according to protocol and usually for her own protection. At all times minimal reasonable force was used in restraining any child in my care when it was necessary. At no time did I ever strike or otherwise use unnecessary force against any child in my care.

As will be expanded upon below. I am unaware of what HIA 236 told but was aware that HIA 236 had developed an obsessive crush on me from the outset of her time at Rathgael. This was never reciprocated or acted upon whilst Valerie was at Rathgael.

2. As regarding HIA 236

I never paid her any more attention than any of the other girls in the unit except as was required due to her behaviour. She created volatile situations all the time, assaulting other members of staff and so forth. On one occasion I remember her

throwing billiard balls at a female member of staff whom she thought I was having an affair with. From the very outset of her time at Rathgael HIA 236 developed an obsessive crush on me and would have reacted violently and unpredictably as a result, including habitually stealing my possessions. At no time during her time at the school did I have any form of inappropriate relationship with HIA 236 or any other pupil. In fact I avoided HIA 236 as much as I could.

3. I am aware of the date 31.5.94 and its significance to HIA 236. However I was only made aware of it a number of years later when she had left Rathgael.

4. At no time did I have any form of secret system of communication with HIA 236 either by scratching my nose or ear or in any other manner. She later told me she had made this all up to impress HIA 231.

5. I was never at any time at the outdoor centre at Fofany.

6. I never sent any cards or private communications to HIA 236 during her time in Rathgael.

7. I realise that the following does not strictly fall within the remit of this Inquiry as it all happened after 1995. However I feel it is appropriate to include it in an effort to be as forthcoming as possible.

8. I did have a relationship with HIA 236 from January 1997 to March 2000. It then stopped when I moved to the Republic of Ireland but restarted after she tracked me down sometime in 2001 and it continued until 2008. This is something I am deeply ashamed of and can only attribute it to my own weakness and vulnerability after my mother died and my marriage was breaking down. She was over the age of consent but I fully accept this does not make me morally any less culpable.

9. I emphasise again that nothing remotely inappropriate took place between me and HIA 236 during her time in Rathgael.

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

DATE	HIA 236 30 OCCURRENCE SHEET	INI
	declined to leave any message.	RH
19/4/94	Out for a walk this evening with S.W. HIA 236 very quiet at start of shift however improved as evening went on.	MC
20/4/94	Up at 8am / went up to class however spent the morning between her bedroom + class. HIA 236 to transfer to House 5 at 4pm today	MC
20/4/94	Admitted to Hse 5 at 4.50pm. Was spoken to by BR re Rules of unit and expectations - Nobody special everyone treated the same. - boarded in N°1 Single - It is envisaged that HIA 236 shall be subject of a PhD only and transfer in approx 2yrs time of Permisen Weekie	MC
20/4/94	HIA 236 Par in top office and talked with me quite openly about bunging one 'trip' into Rathgar which she gave to Donna at around 3pm but strongly denied that it could have had anything to do with Donna's mood as it should have been wearing off at around 8.30pm. HIA 236 Also quite openly told me that whilst on island leave she would usually take a 'trip' on Friday, on Saturday she would take drink or sniff because a 'trip' wouldn't work the next night. When I asked her why she took drugs, drink & solvents she told me they make her feel happy.	
21.4	Antics commenced - Non compliant in School Rtd to unit By [redacted] to clean driveway etc I am not happy with the management of Valerie's Non compliance already she is being punished by her peers as being special. I have spoken [redacted] and he is away of my concerns. Planned leave has ceased. Re Valerie and she is aware.	
21.4.	Declined Breakfast and lunch.	

OCD 116

RG 47

205

PERSON INTERVIEW

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

BAR 47

So that's HIA 236 statement is there anything you want to say in relation to that.

No I knew that she rang her cause she told me she was going to ring her.

Okay. This is a statement from Mary Cromie, 26<sup>th</sup> of February 1999 she also had worked in Rathgael around the time.

Ah hm.

She says I have worked in Rathgael for 9 years, I transferred to the YT side in 1993. In about 94 3 girls from Ballymena came to the semi secure unit at Fox Lodge, they were HIA 236 RG 45 and HIA 231 HIA 236 had latched onto me and would talk to me, I was her key worker. Over a period of time I noticed that HIA 236 appeared to have a crush on Gary Jones who was deputy director, she loved to see him coming into the unit and would've asked to get him over. When he was going she would ask for him to stay for a while longer and occasionally her eyes would fill with tears when he was leaving. Were you aware of that, that she was in tears when you were going or.

Oh yeah, ah ha, yeah.

Did that happen a lot or.

I'm not honestly too sure I don't really know but I know certainly as soon as I appeared on the scene she was a lot happier.

Ah hm.

And then she would do everything she could under the sun to keep me there, you know create a situation ...

Ah hm.

... I told you about her throwing snooker balls at one female member of staff, anything at all to keep me there.

Okay. Em, I'll continue just with [REDACTED] I recall an incident sometime around 94, 95 when HIA 236 had come back into the unit, she seemed to be either high or else in a highly excited state, on this night she was very distressed and was crying, it was near the end of my shift which finished at 10.30pm and I remember trying to get her settled down before I left. She said he shouldn't be working here I have to tell you something, then she would say I can't tell you but I have to tell you, this went on for some time. I was trying to get her settled and told her if she wanted to tell me something she could. She continued to say that she had to tell me something, she was very distressed throughout, my main priority was to get HIA 236 settled as she hadn't been forthcoming about what was bothering her. She had come down from being distressed and I told her I would speak to her in the morning after she had had

PERSON INTERVIEW

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

a good nights sleep. I left and went home, I had a very uneasy night about what HIA 236 had said, I worried about whether she was fantasising about RG 47 or else was there something not quite right. The next day HIA 236 wasn't forthcoming about giving me any further information. I went to my line manager and asked to talk to him. After some time we went into the maisonette beside Fox Lodge as I wanted privacy to talk to him. I told him that I had a bad feeling that HIA 236 had been trying to say something to me the previous evening about RG 47 and I had a dreadful feeling that there was something not right about this, previous to this I had cause to tell RG 47 I thought HIA 236 had a notion of him. He would've taken an interest in certain kids and HIA 236 was one of them. I mentioned this to [REDACTED] as well. [REDACTED] told me I had done the right thing telling him, I remember [REDACTED] telling me at a later date that Melanie had also approached him about HIA 236 and concerns she had. I remember it wasn't appropriate to talk about it wherever we were and the subject wasn't discussed further. So that's concerns from [REDACTED] dating back to when HIA 236...

RG 47

Ah hm.

... would have been in there.

Ah hm.

Is there anything that you want to say about that.

It's news to me.

I'll just quote, he would have taken an interest in certain kids and HIA 236 was one of them.

I took an interest in all the kids.

Ah hm.

Every kid that was there.

Well that's a member of staff saying you'd an interest in certain kids.

No.

And that HIA 236 was one of them.

I took an interest in every kid and every member of staff that I had there.

Okay there was another statement from [REDACTED] y more recently. Basically that's in relation to HIA 236 phoning her more recently. Ah this is a statement from Mary Cromie on 15<sup>n</sup> October 2009.

SOLICITOR

When was the initial statement taken from Mary Cromie (inaudible).



RG 47

OCD 116

PERSON INTERVIEW

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

RG 47

Yes.

In that particular house unit.

Yes.

In charge of all the staff and all the kids.

Yeah he said he was a retired senior team leader.

Yeah.

Ah hm, so the statements on file from him saying that nothing that he was aware of. He said yes staff did work on one to ones em ...

R And was he [REDACTED] em team leader.

Nn no.

R No.

He, she was in House 4, Terry was in House 6.

R Do we have a statement from her team leader that she eventually goes to speak to about this.

I think it's [REDACTED] RG 73 who I haven't been able ...

[REDACTED] RG 73 yeah.

... there's, I still have people that haven't been spoken to, I've asked for his details em to try and get an address for him.

R Ah hm.

I think it's [REDACTED] RG 73

Yeah [REDACTED] was ...

Is that right.

... the team leader in House 4 yeah.

Okay so [REDACTED] RG 87 is saying he didn't suspect anything, no reason to think that there was anything going on. Em this is a statement from [REDACTED], I think we mentioned it earlier, dated the 27<sup>th</sup> of the 11<sup>th</sup> 13. I worked in Rathgael from 1988 until 2012 I worked in all of the different houses as a night supervisor. I made a statement re [REDACTED] HIA 236 and [REDACTED] RG 47 in 1999 to say that I found him hiding under a table in the office block, [REDACTED] RG 47 told me he was hiding from [REDACTED] HIA 236 he seemed to get a fright

## PERSON INTERVIEW

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

when I walked into the room and turned on the lights as the room had been in darkness before. He said he was waiting for [RG 250] who was also a night supervisor to take him in [RG 250] car to get his own car. I knew he parked his own car elsewhere to hide it from [HIA 236]. I wish to add that I never saw or heard of anything re [HIA 236] and [RG 47] but I worked on a different side. I recall [RG 250] saying to me that [HIA 236] was obsessed with [RG 47]. [RG 250] is now deceased. I stand by my statement from 99 and have nothing further to add, so we mentioned him earlier.

Earlier yeah.

Em this is a statement from [RG 276] 28<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 13.

Who.

[RG 276] she, oh she'd a different surname, [RG 276], I can't remember.

Right.

She, she's married since she worked there.

Right.

I can't think what her name was. She began working in Rathgael Youth Treatment in September 1994 as a casual care worker and got a full time post later as a residential care worker, she's now a team leader. She's never witnessed any behaviour by the staff which she would consider abusive towards the children. Sometime between 95 and 98 she was involved in an incident where a female resident reported to her that [HIA 236] was having a relationship with [RG 47] em I gave police a full interview and statement about a year after that, I'm trying not to bring people in that I don't have statements from.

Ah hm, ah hm.

So I'm sort of paraphrasing, em she'd reported the matter to the manager of the next unit, it says [RG 73] it's a typing error.

That's [RG 73] yeah, yeah.

It's [RG 73]

Yeah.

Em [RG 73] always denied I'd spoken to him and she says I believe he was covering for [RG 47]

No [RG 73] was not like that.

(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 [REDACTED] one of the seniors on the justice side. RG 47

I arrived at the office block at 1015<sup>h</sup> 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 [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] senior night supervisor was coming in his car to take him home. This is what happened. [REDACTED] lived on site. RG 250 RG 47

I later met the girl who asked me had I seen [REDACTED] RG 47 [REDACTED] I told her he had gone off centre. She then headed towards her unit. At this time I did not know

PERSON INTERVIEW

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

RG 45

Oh yes, ah ha, I, I accept that.

Okay but what you're saying is that any bits before that whenever she was in Rathgael are not true, is that a fair ...

Totally untrue, I mean she made a statement that it was every other day for a year and a half.

Yes.

That would be (inaudible) a year and a half ah nearly 500 days, 250 days, no.

Well what I would say to you is even if it, if it was once it would still be an offence so but what you're saying ...

All I'm saying that it did not take place.

... is that that didn't happen at all. Okay I'll move on then to HIA 231 HIA 231 statement em this is dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 11<sup>th</sup> 13 now she says I was 13 years old when I arrived in Rathgael. Further to previous statements I have made I wish to make the following statement now. I'll just clarify that, she had made ...

Ah hm.

... previous statements before in relation to both herself and others and said that nothing had happened and that she knew nothing, so that was her stance around 1999 whenever there was a previous investigation.

Ah hm.

R Okay in respect of my client, in respect of these actual allegations.

Yeah. Yes for part of it yes, that's not the whole thing but that was part of it yes. So what she says is HIA 236 was 14 years old and RG 45 15 years old at that time. Us 3 girls knew each other from P5, P6 at school. I was placed in House 6, I recall one day when HIA 236 and I were up in court and were waiting in the cells, she told me she was in love and going with someone but yet she couldn't tell me who, she was giggling. Later that day we were at Rathgael sitting on a summer bench and she told me that she was going with RG 45 a senior member of staff. I couldn't get my head around it, I was shocked because of HIA 236's age and because of his position. I then started and noticed the way they looked at each other the eye contact the staring and the flirting. That's the first bit I would ask you ...

No.

... did, was there eye contact, staring and flirting.

OCD 116

PERSON INTERVIEW

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

RG 45

Of course there was eye contact ...

With HIA 236

... I mean I have to look at people to talk to them don't I.

Well she's talk, talking about in an inappropriate way.

No.

In a flirting way.

No you said did I look at her.

Yes.

The answer is yes I did look at her, I have to look at people ...

Yes.

... when I'm interacting with them.

But not in a flirtatious manner.

But not, not in a flirt., flirtatious way.

She says they called each other Boo.

No.

Em, she once told RG 45 that she knew about the relationship, she says he shouted at her that she knew about this. She says he then became a little more open about the relationship in front of me. He hugged HIA 236 in front of me. Would you have hugged HIA 236 in the course of your work.

No. No, it was a big no, no.

He also used me as a cover for example he said he was taking us out on day trips but for example one time I recall he took HIA 236 and I out in the car but he dropped me off somewhere beside the sea on some rocks and left me there for an hour so that HIA 236 and him could go have sex.

No way, I, during the day time ...

Ah hm.

... I took her and HIA 236 out of school.

I don't know if she says day time does she, wait to we see.

OCD 116 -

PERSON INTERVIEW

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

RG 45

Okay I'll continue with what Catherine has said. She says ah I saw him kiss her once, we were being returned home and HIA 236 was very upset and crying, he held her face in his hands and gave her a quick snog, she was telling him she loved him.

No, it wasn't unusual for her to tell me she loved me.

Yes.

But that never took place.

Well I think we understand what snog means, did you snog her.

No.

Okay, he replied they would always have a relationship. When he used me as a cover to get HIA 236 out in the car I recall the minute we were in that car his hands would've been on leg rubbing it straight away and he used to say to her, hey honey.

No.

So did you touch HIA 236 leg in the presence of HIA 231

No.

Further to this a snogging incident happened in the top office in Rathgael.

Sorry.

She says the, she's going back to the snogging incident as she describes it and says it happened in the top office in Rathgael.

No.

That's all it says so I can't fi., file that any further. Throughout Gary and HIA 236 relationship she showed me cards and letters he had sent to her, he even sent them to her house after Rathgael. She says I had a 2 bedroom flat in a managed apartment type hostel in Ballymena once, I recall my 2 oldest children were only toddlers then and one night my kids and I shared a bedroom so HIA 236 and RG 45 could have the other bedroom where they spent the night.

That's true and I've already told you about that.

Okay. On another occasion I took my kids out to leave them on their own as they had nowhere else to go for sex.

That's true.

RG 45

209

OCD 116

PERSON INTERVIEW

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

when I walked into the room and turned on the lights as the room had been in darkness before. He said he was waiting for [RG 250] who was also a night supervisor to take him in [RG 250] car to get his own car. I knew he parked his own car elsewhere to hide it from [HIA 236]. I wish to add that I never saw or heard of anything re [HIA 236] and [RG 45] but I worked on a different side. I recall [RG 250] saying to me that [HIA 236] was obsessed with [RG 45]. [RG 250] is now deceased. I stand by my statement from 99 and have nothing further to add, so we mentioned him earlier.

RG 45

Earlier yeah.

Em this is a statement from [RG 276] 28<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 13.

Who.

[RG 276] she, oh she'd a different surname, [RG 276], I can't remember.

Right.

She, she's married since she worked there.

Right.

I can't think what her name was. She began working in Rathgael Youth Treatment in September 1994 as a casual care worker and got a full time post later as a residential care worker, she's now a team leader. She's never witnessed any behaviour by the staff which she would consider abusive towards the children. Sometime between 95 and 98 she was involved in an incident where a female resident reported to her that [HIA 236] was having a relationship with [RG 45] em I gave police a full interview and statement about a year after that, I'm trying not to bring people in that I don't have statements from.

R

Ah hm, ah hm.

So I'm sort of paraphrasing, em she'd reported the matter to the manager of the next unit, it says [RG 73] it's a typing error.

That's [RG 73] yeah, yeah.

It's [RG 73]

Yeah.

Em [RG 73] always denied I'd spoken to him and she says I believe he was covering for [RG 45]

No Sam was not like that.



OCD 116

PERSON INTERVIEW

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

RG 45

Okay, from the record that I have it says June 1985 deputy assistant director on the youth treatment stroke justice side.

Yeah, yeah, ah ha.

Would that be right.

Yeah.

That was June 85.

Alright.

And May 1989 appointed assistant head of youth treatment.

That's right yeah.

Is that okay ...

Yeah, ah hm.

... ju., just from the records I've gone through there but I have to ask you ...

Ah hm.

... first okay. Em, when did you leave Rathgael.

28<sup>th</sup> of February 1999.

Okay, okay thank you. So those are the different roles that you would have performed then and from 1985 really you would say you were in a senior role is that correct.

I was in a senior role but I was also ah filling lots of gaps in the staffing and all that sort of thing.

Ah hm.

Cause we were grossly understaffed.

Yes. Okay so the allegations are relating really to 1994 to 1995 so at that time you would have been assistant head of youth treatment is that ...

Yes ah ha.

... what you did until you finished.

That's correct yeah, yeah.

OCD 116 -

PERSON INTERVIEW

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

RG 45

Did I do something wrong.

OR

Again in, in respect of that simply all that is doing is putting a summary of your opinion ...

Yes well I'm ...

OR

... in front of the jury.

... yes.

OR

So I, you know unfortunately I am going to have to stop you there unless it's a direct question to my client and he has answered the question as to why he put himself in a situation or why he got in a relationship and he has clearly stated that he was in a bad place at that time and that he was in a relationship once she was an adult and over the age of consent ...

Yeah.

OR

... and I don't think he can take it any further than that at this stage I think to continue to sum it up is just to put police version of events and police opinion in front of the jury which I think is unfair and prejudicial to my client at this stage.

Okay so you're denying that when she was 15 or 16 and in Rathgael that you had a sexual relationship with her. You're saying that the only thing that happened was that she had an obsession with you at that time.

Yes.

And that you didn't act on that until later.

I did not.

Okay em on your file there's a quote from RG 241 who was the director. She describes you as a very capable and caring manager with a flare for organisational matters. Relates very well to both young people, parents and staff, an able communicator and administrator. Works well in a crisis and is very much open to change. RG 45 would be an asset to any organisation. He's being considered for early retirement in light of his long service and that was dated the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> 99.

Ah hm.

Now what I want to say about that is em from interviewing you today you're an intelligent man you had a high position, you've qualifications you know you're not stupid and you've got into a relationship with someone vulnerable and you have portrayed yourself I feel in this as it, you're saying it was a time when you were vulnerable well I'm putting it to you ...

throwing billiard balls at a female member of staff whom she thought I was having an affair with. From the very outset of her time at Rathgael HIA 236 developed an obsessive crush on me and would have reacted violently and unpredictably as a result, including habitually stealing my possessions. At no time during her time at the school did I have any form of inappropriate relationship with HIA 236 or any other pupil. In fact I avoided HIA 236 as much as I could.

3. I am aware of the date 31.5.94 and its significance to HIA 236. However I was only made aware of it a number of years later when she had left Rathgael.

4. At no time did I have any form of secret system of communication with HIA 236 either by scratching my nose or ear or in any other manner. She later told me she had made this all up to impress Catherine.

5. I was never at any time at the outdoor centre at Fofany.

6. I never sent any cards or private communications to HIA 236 during her time in Rathgael.

7. I realise that the following does not strictly fall within the remit of this Inquiry as it all happened after 1995. However I feel it is appropriate to include it in an effort to be as forthcoming as possible.

8. I did have a relationship with HIA 236 from January 1997 to March 2000. It then stopped when I moved to the Republic of Ireland but restarted after she tracked me down sometime in 2001 and it continued until 2008. This is something I am deeply ashamed of and can only attribute it to my own weakness and vulnerability after my mother died and my marriage was breaking down. She was over the age of consent but I fully accept this does not make me morally any less culpable.

9. I emphasise again that nothing remotely inappropriate took place between me and HIA 236 during her time in Rathgael.

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

PRIVATE

end of my time in Rathgael I felt I could go to him with an issue and he would listen. He died of leukaemia.

35. One day in front of the whole unit a member of staff accused me and another boy of masturbating over the toilet. I had not done so and I denied it was me. The other boy also denied that it was him. I was asked if the other boy was a liar and he was asked if I was a liar. We all had to stand and wait until one of the two of us owned up. The pressure was so great that the other boy broke down in tears saying that he was unable to ejaculate. This happened in front of the other children who were all girls. It was later discovered that the substance found on the toilet was actually shampoo. It was humiliating to have to go through that all unnecessarily. The staff frequently played mind games with us and played us off against each other.
36. A girl attacked me and I pushed her away in self-defence. She fell and hit her head and I was blamed and punished for hurting her. No acknowledgement was given to the fact that she attacked me first and I was only defending myself.
37. When I was in house 10 I went on hunger strike in protest over our treatment. We were locked up for twenty hours a day. We had no privacy. There were no curtains on the bedroom windows and the staff would walk in to the bathroom whenever they liked. I refused food and drink but was made to sit at every meal. After the second day I could see the concern in some of the staff's eyes. When I woke up after the second night I was feeling very weak. I took my inspiration from Bobby Sands and the other prisoners in the H Blocks. I remember thinking that if Thatcher let those prisoners in the Maze die she would likely let me die. People were concerned so I started eating again. I even put up a poster on my bedroom window declaring that I was on hunger strike. My window looked over the main Rathgael Road. [REDACTED] RG 61 [REDACTED] the housemistress, took my poster down. I generally liked [REDACTED] RG 61 [REDACTED] as she was a reasonable person.
38. I remember when I was in house 10 some inspectors visited. There was always an element of pretence when there were visitors. Normally we would have

Residential workers / key workers would present the report and take questions from Committee members. Young People were aware of the process and contributed to their reports; parents and carers would have been very much part of the process, especially if release was being recommended. This process developed over the years and would have mirrored the Looked After Children (LAC) Review Process. Recommendations were part of the report and my recollection is that these recommendations were generally accepted with few exceptions. The Committee would set a date for discharge on license which would result in the young person being referred to the aftercare / community care team, also based in Rathgael.

### Bullying

66. Bullying in various forms, including that of a sexual nature, was becoming a recognisable issue in Training Schools and Children's Homes from the early 1980s when staff increasingly started to question certain behaviours. There was growing recognition that bullying was not acceptable and could not be tolerated when detected. Staff were to be more observant and trained to detect such behaviours and to immediately challenge the individuals involved. When this behaviour was detected it was often dealt with by simply transferring one child to another unit and those responsible being immediately reprimanded and advised of the consequences of repeat behaviour, for example loss of points, exclusion from activities, reduction in pocket money. Name-calling was by far the most damaging aspect of bullying in the eyes of the young people but the most difficult to control and detect. It is interesting to note that the 1991 APRU report<sup>23</sup> on absconding makes no reference to bullying as a presenting problem. This may be taken to indicate that bullying was not seen to be a significant issue at the time.

### Self-harming

67. Self-harming was a behaviour that manifested itself initially with some girls in residential care, with some boys then mimicking some of these behaviours but

---

<sup>23</sup> Exhibit 6 - 1991 APRU report on absconding at Rathgael

PRIVATE

and that I wanted a different bowl of cereal and he hit me across the face. No member of staff asked me what had happened to my face. The food in Rathgael was a joke and was not sufficient to sustain a growing teenager.

23. I should not have been placed in house 5 where I was surrounded by young offenders who had convictions for a variety of crimes including ABH, GBH, burglary and car theft. I was unable to relate to these children in any way and was badly beaten. There was a smoking room at the back of house 5 and I went there to try to fit in. I never smoked before I went to Rathgael.
24. I had belongings stolen and the staff had no interest in helping me locate them. My mother had given me a Walkman for my thirteenth birthday. I was not allowed to have it in my room overnight and was made to leave it outside my door every night. I got up one morning and it was gone. All of the children were locked in their rooms at night time so I believe that a member of staff took it.
25. I was moved to house 9b which was the boys reception unit on the care side. It had a cosier atmosphere than house 5.
26. I remember when I was in house 9b being locked in a room. I was placed there by a member of staff called RG 4. He twisted my arm so far up my back my shoulder was almost broken. When I was left in the room I had to bang on the door because I needed to go to the toilet. No one would let me out so I had to defecate on the floor.
27. A three year care order was made and I was moved to house 3. People on the care side were called Care Bears. When I was in house 3 I continued to attend school at the Jaffa Centre in Belfast. My key worker was called RG 43. The housefather was called RG 49.
28. I remember a day when I questioned why the staff table got butter and we got Flora. I could not tolerate hypocrisy and I questioned everything. I have a strong sense of equality. I think I attracted so much abuse because I spoke out.

PRIVATE

28. In Rathgael I felt the standard of nursing care was inadequate. There were Matrons at Rathgael who provided medical support. For example when I was ill I would be examined however I would not be told what the issue or the treatment was nor was I given any reassurance or comfort.
29. Whilst in Rathgael my brother, [REDACTED] was gravely ill. None of the staff members told me. My sister who was a resident in the care side of Rathgael came and told me. Staff would not allow me to visit him in hospital.
30. During the entire time I spent in care in Rathgael I was bullied by three other residents.

**Princess Gardens Care Home (1994)**

31. After spending 15 weeks being assessed in Rathgael I was sent back to Princess Gardens on a trial basis. I had a pending court case, the outcome of which was a training order to Rathgael.

**Rathgael (1994 – 1997)**

32. During my time in Rathgael under the training order I was still not allowed to see my sister who was now a resident in the care side of the centre. A glass door separated us. My sister and I would run away in order to speak to each other.
33. On one occasion my brother came to visit me at Rathgael. Staff would not allow him to see me and said he needed an appointment. He had brought me a television for my room. Staff did not allow me to have it.
34. When my training order expired I was moved back to the care side in Rathgael. During this time I recall another female resident hit me on my eye. I had to be taken to hospital with concussion and a black eye. Staff mocked me and commented that the other resident 'had a great right hand'. On my return from hospital staff did not separate me from this particular resident who continued to bully me.



PRIVATE

35. I approached another staff member, [RG 6] to let him know of issues I was having and I was told to 'grow up and sort myself out'.
36. During my time under the training order I was in complete lock up.
37. When I had completed the training order in Rathgael I was placed under a care order to remain in Rathgael. I was placed in Unit 1 Downhill. This is an open unit. I had a Key Worker who was seldom on duty. When they were working I found they had limited time to listen to me. When I did get a chance to speak to them and tell them I was being bullied by the other residents and staff I was told that it was all in my head.
38. I had one brother whom I was very close to while I was in Rathgael. I would speak to him on the telephone. A staff member told me that our conversations were not appropriate. This resulted in me pushing him away and rejecting contact with him. I believe this was a deliberate tactic to alienate me from my family.
39. Once during the summer months I was on a bus trip and there was a female member of staff call [RG 7] I cannot recall her surname. I broke wind and she ordered me off the bus. I was barred from any bus trips for two weeks.
40. Whilst at school in Rathgael I would have been given tasks more suitable to primary school education. My education consisted of colouring in pictures. I was not taught anything of value and I left there without any qualifications. Consequently I have poor communication, numeracy and life skills.
41. I was placed on work experience for 15 weeks in the kitchens. I made sandwiches for the entire 15 weeks. I never gained any work experience with the exception of how to butter bread. When the kitchen staff would leave to take their breaks they would have locked me in the kitchen on my own.

## RATHGAEL CENTRE

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	SICK		NO. OF DAYS	DIAGNOSIS	TREATMENT	BED	UP	HOSPITAL
		FROM	TO						
2801		14 11 96			% sore throat. TPN Throat slightly inflamed.	Paracetamol Elixir 10 mls four			
2802		15 11 96			Infected Aene 1 + 1.	sterile dressing Antibiotic 100 mg 4x4 Plavix 300 mg 1x1 Oxytetracycline 7.5 mg 4x4	31/11/96 Reduce Oxytetracycline to 1x1 BD		See 1-90
2803		15 11 96			Assaulted by LA Walker last pm left eye beds	Arteries + 1			To Castle Rte. no damage to eye
2804		15 11 96			Drunk + 1 last pm				
2805		15 11 96			Thinks that she has a urinary inf menstruation NAD.				
2806		15 11 96			Drunk + 1 last pm				
2807		15 11 96			Drunk + 1 + Lent from Sister to Castle Hosp per ambulance Admitted to Centre 1.15 pm				

DH 838613 140 395 7425 (p.555)

- 38.** Shamrock House was a converted staff maisonette and a unit. It and Fox Lodge were self-contained with its own classroom, kitchen, bedrooms and recreation room. For the first time, specific colours were used to decorate the accommodation to help create a calm environment for the young people. There was also a strict anti-ligature policy operated within the secure accommodation, which meant that certain equipment had to be used, the bedrooms in particular had to be kitted out in a certain way and items such as sheets were not permitted.
- 39.** Information in relation to Shamrock House is provided at RGL-102743 – RGL-102748 and the SSI carried out an inspection of Shamrock House specifically in 1992<sup>17</sup>. The main recommendations were in relation to record keeping, the lack of a complaints procedure and the poor state of some of the bedroom equipment. There was no criticism of the level of care afforded to the young people, nor of the use of the time-out room. Management at that time indicated that they were committed to introducing an Independent Representative Scheme and early discussions with NIACRO had already taken place in relation to this. The IR Scheme was implemented shortly after and provided a further opportunity for young people and parents to have access to an external scrutiny body. This also provided a further assurance mechanism to senior management and the Board as any issues raised through the IR scheme would have been highlighted.
- 40.** Fox Lodge had a secure play area at the rear of the unit. This area had basketball nets fixed to the wall and the area marked out for padder tennis. There was also an attempt to grow flowers and vegetables. Young people were encouraged to use this area and in good weather it would have been used for visits. A pool table was provided in most of the units and was well used and a good activity for young people and staff to interact. Board games were popular and well used as was the early computer games. (see RGL-31991 Use of Time Out).

---

<sup>17</sup> RGL-23798 – RGL-23833

PRIVATE

physically restrain me. They were well-built men. They would hold me with my head face down in the carpet and twist my hands behind my back in order to restrain me. I had a very slight build at that time. They could have held me down with one hand. I felt that the way they treated me amounted to physical abuse.

13. My behaviour in Rathgael was wayward and difficult for the staff to control at times. However there was very little engagement by the staff with the underlying problems which triggered my bad behaviour. For example, I had come from an environment where my mother had mental health difficulties and I was more or less left to fend for myself. I never really thought my mother loved or even liked me as a person. I remember once asking her to help me tie my school tie. She took my tie and choked me with it until my face went purple. She told me "Now, you won't ask me to do that again". I thought that when I went to Rathgael I would get more support but there wasn't any emotional support and although **RG 48** was kind to me, he took advantage of me by sexually abusing me. I found this very difficult to understand how he could be good to me and abuse me at the same time.

14. After about 4 or 5 months my friend **HIA 236** was moved into House 6. She also had her own room. I felt I couldn't tell **HIA 236** about what **RG 48** was doing to me but I think the same thing was happening to her. There was an understanding between us that **RG 48** was treating us differently. I recall looking at each other knowingly. She also received an Easter egg from **RG 48** with her name on it. One day **HIA 236** and I were sitting on the summer seat. She told me that she was in love. I didn't believe her and she didn't tell me who with. I thought it was one of the boys. Later on she told me that she was having a relationship with **RG 47**. **RG 47** had groomed her from when she went into Rathgael. She said she loved him.

15. My grandmother was my only regular visitor during my time at Rathgael. She was the only positive influence in my life at that time. She came every week but she was in her mid seventies then and I couldn't tell her what was happening. There was no-one on the staff I could complain to. I didn't have

PRIVATE

puzzles and played games on the computer. I did not receive the same education as children in mainstream education.

33. The food I was received in Rathgael was disgusting; I do not believe the food was fit for human consumption. When I was in Shamrock House the meals I received were nearly cold and had a rubber texture.
34. There was no medical or dental care. There was a Matron called **RG 75**, but she just seem to dispense Strepsils for every ailment. On one occasion I had an injury to my foot and I was given a Strepsil.
35. I never received a hair cut during my time in Rathgael.
36. Despite all my problems I was not given any medication or any help. I had very little education as no-one understood my problems.
37. I did not receive any life skills during my time spent in Rathgael, for example, how to look after my appearance or respect myself. I was not prepared for life when I left care.

#### Life After Care

38. I left Rathgael when I was seventeen years old. I was deemed 'high risk' and discharged to the care of my father. My parents had since divorced and my father had no knowledge of how to manage me nor did he want to manage me. My father, brother and sister were drinking heavily. I contacted Rathgael and social services regarding this and I was told 'it's a good home', 'there is nowhere else for you to go' and that social services had no legal obligation towards me. I believe my family had a huge resentment for me as I was blamed for breaking up the family. To this day I feel consumed with guilt and find it very difficult to accept that I deserve a future.
39. I registered with a dentist when I left Rathgael. I required eight fillings as my teeth had been neglected throughout my childhood.

PRIVATE

staff had no interest in my welfare. They only cared about me when they were paid to.

46. I have been permanently scarred by my experience in Rathgael. The children were brutal and violent and the staff turned a blind eye. I lived in fear of everyone around me and was beaten by both children and staff. The place was barbaric and ruled by violent people. There seemed to be a culture of assaulting children as a means of management and getting children hooked on cigarettes as a means of asserting control. The whole time I was in Rathgael my social workers kept telling me that I was not supposed to be there.

#### Life After Care

47. I believe that my childhood in care has over-shadowed the rest of my life. I believe I have been discriminated against because of the stigma of being in care.
48. My life after care has been extremely difficult. I have struggled both physically and mentally. I feel that I am always on the defensive and I am highly strung. I have been traumatised by the experiences of care, I have trust issues and nightmares. I feel vulnerable and damaged from the war zone I have emerged from. I discovered in later years that I have lasting physical damage as a result of the assaults I received in care. I have had surgery on both my shoulder joints. I have a vertebrae pushing on my sciatic nerve causing a loss of feeling in my leg. I have struggled with depression and anxiety as a result of my life time in care. I see myself as a prisoner who was exposed to violence when I was captive.
49. I made a statement to the police in 1993 about my time in Lissue. No action was taken and I felt that the police were unsympathetic.
50. I am taking part in this Inquiry because I do not think the people who physically and mentally damaged me should be allowed to get away with what they did. I would like the government to acknowledge what happened to me and apologise

## PRIVATE

in 1976. For example, at [REDACTED] there were technical drawing classes which I found impossible to keep up with as we were never taught this in Rathgael.

14. School finished about 3.30pm and we could do whatever we wanted before bed time. There was a snooker table, some miniature tennis courts where we played "patter tennis", and a swimming pool. The site itself was quite open but we were all locked in at night. There were opportunities to abscond but I only absconded once, following the incident where I was returned to Rathgael because I was frightened about getting caught and punished.

15. If any boy did run away, the police usually caught them quite quickly. The staff would isolate you for a time after you were returned and you were made to wear shorts instead of jeans. The boys who ran away were closely supervised by a housemaster for a while after they were caught.

16. My father came to visit me every weekend when I was in Rathgael. My parents had separated at this stage and my mother had moved to [REDACTED]. She visited less frequently as it was difficult for her to travel. I don't remember any external visitors coming to Rathgael for example, social workers or health/education welfare visitors. I was able to talk to certain members of staff, for example, the staff who were my housemasters about the things which bothered me while I was there, [REDACTED] RG 18 or [REDACTED] RG 19. They were both good men, but there was a sense that if you complained about bullying, they were all in cahoots with each other and nothing would really be done to change behaviours.

17. I remember Rathgael as an almost entirely negative experience. When I went there first although I was getting into trouble, it was not serious trouble and looking back, I can see that I was quite innocent. I was exposed to a lot of negative influences there and my own behaviour started to escalate into more serious drinking and crime. Things happened to me in Rathgael which made me feel very insecure about myself and have adversely affected my whole life. For example, I was never taught to value myself and I never had the confidence to push myself career wise. Consequently, because I missed



## PRIVATE

out on so much of my education, I felt the only real job I could do was to work as a labourer with my father.

**Life After Care**

18. I left Rathgael when I was sixteen and never went back to full time education. After I left Rathgael, I began to drink heavily. I always felt a bit vulnerable in social situations and alcohol helped me deal with that. I had an alcohol problem from my late teens to when I was nearly 40. I feel that it stole decades of my life away. I worked as a labourer but I found it hard to commit to a job when I was drinking. I was also in and out of the criminal justice system for the best part of 16 years. When I look back at my behaviour now I feel shame and embarrassment because of some of the things I did.
19. In 1998, the police arrested me for driving without tax or insurance and possession of cannabis. Prior to my arrest, I had been on a serious drinking binge for about a year and a half. I wasn't eating properly and I had lost so much weight, I really thought I was going to die. This arrest proved to be a turning point in my life. I began the withdrawal process in prison and I felt that God had given me this opportunity as one last chance. I have changed since those days and now I am a born again Christian.
20. I do some voluntary work now with my Church and it is a great comfort to me. Since I became a born again Christian, I have told my experiences to members of my congregation quite frequently. When I think about giving that testimony, I also think about how my experiences in Rathgael affected me. I would like the opportunity to contact some of the people who abused me back then in order to let them know how those experiences hurt me. However, I found out some years ago, that some of them, for example, RG 16 are dead. It would have been nice to receive an apology directly from them.

PRIVATE

4. We were punished in Rathgael for not complying with instructions, self-harming or generally messing around. There was a team leader called **RG 11** and he was a big man. He was seen as an enforcer and the other staff looked up to him. He would kick me and punch me. When he punished me he would tell the other staff to leave him to deal with me. He would lay into me, punching me and kicking me with his trainers while gripping me by my hair or my throat. I also witnessed him grabbing other residents by the throat and dragging them away. You could hear their screams getting louder and you knew what was happening to them. The other members of staff were aware of what he was doing but they were scared of him.
5. There was another member of staff who beat me for messing around in the television room. He pulled me up the corridor and threw me in to his room. I cannot remember his name but he was between 25 and 30 and walked with a skip to his step.
6. I started self-harming when I was in Rathgael. If you were self-harming at night **RG 11** had to be contacted. An ambulance was never phoned as the staff did not want to bring attention to the place. You could smell alcohol from some of the staff as they drank and smoked when they were on duty.
7. When I look back at my time in Rathgael I realise how wrongly we were treated but at the time we thought it was part and parcel of being in care. Despite the issues I have with Rathgael I enjoyed my time there in comparison to the political situation I was living in in Belfast. Undoubtedly it was a place of safety and the majority of the staff could not have done enough for you and were kind people. I believe that the problems with the care in Rathgael were the result of deficiencies in the recruitment, supervision and training of staff.

**Somerton Road Children's Home (17/10/1989 – 30/11/1989)**

8. I moved from Rathgael to Somerton Road. I was sexually abused by one of the older residents at night time. I have no complaints about the staff in Somerton Road and I enjoyed my time there as it had a more caring and homely environment.

OCD 116

PERSON INTERVIEW

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

So, he's still alive is he that you know of.

Oh yes ah ha.

Yeah.

Yeah.

I know some people that I've tried to get in contact with are now deceased.

Who is dead.

Hm.

I know [RG 250] dead yeah.

I have a list outside with a name on it.

Ah no.

(Inaudible) 3 years.

I have a list outside, I can tell you when we come out of the interview, there was a couple of people, Boyd Marshall.

Awe God, he was a night supervisor yeah.

So, so there's a few people (inaudible).

And I take it you, you've agreed with us earlier that Rathgael's records weren't exactly (inaudible) and many people that we've tried to get in touch with their names (inaudible) we've asked Rathgael and they've said ...

Oh aye nobody ...

... did they work here, they were senior management and they're like, hm.

... nobody actually appreciates the, the amount of pressure that staff are under there. Up until 86 it worked a treat ...

Ah hm.

... and then all of a sudden Northern Ireland Office dropped us all in it and dropped the girls in and it was sheer, none of us were trained for it.

Ah hm.

OCD 116

PERSON INTERVIEW

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

RG 45

We didn't know what the hell to expect and things just went belly up from then, records, you were chasing your tail 24/7.

Okay well look that's really the statements, there is another statement from HIA 236 with as I've said some of the exhibits there for the letters and cards and things.

Ah hm.

But before I do that I just want to go through, can I give you that ...

Ah hm.

... I just want to go through some of the Rathgael records that were found.

Ah hm.

It'll not take too long, it's just in relation to contact that you would've had ah with HIA 236 whenever you were there, okay. Em this is ex., exhibit GM64 which is a separation report dated 24<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 94 signed SGJ.

Ah hm.

Which is your initials.

Yeah.

Wait to we see. Ah it's the 24<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 94, HIA 236 I foul language and unacceptable behaviour, D room for 35 minutes and it's signed SG, I think that's RG 45 again.

Ah hm, aye.

Is that your writing there just that that was yourself.

Yeah.

Okay I'm really just showing these to you to show that you would've had opportunities maybe to go with her on, on her own, she had talked about you taking her to the D room so that's just an example that you would've taken her to the D room.

Yeah.

And there's, there's no notification that he would've been on his own at that em or that there wasn't another staff member there or ...

Oh there'd been another member of staff.

OCD 116

PERSON INTERVIEW

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

RG 45

Okay.

Cause there's no way at all you'd take her by yourself.

So as I say this will not take long, there's not too many here to go through. Okay the next one is exhibit GM60 fiv., 65 House 4 admissions involving RG 45 and I've 3 in brackets so I think there's 3 in here, okay, if you just look at that, I'm just showing you that, HIA 236 admitted to unit at 3.40pm re her behaviour for 72 hours em date 19 of the 1<sup>st</sup> 95 and then to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 95 returned to House 6 by RG 47

Yeah.

That's, okay, this is another one HIA 236 admitted to A4 by RG 45 unacceptable behaviour, 12<sup>th</sup> of the 4 95, 9.45am until the 12 of the 4<sup>th</sup> 11.30am.

Ah ha.

I'm not saying that's particularly your writing but obviously it's been put in that you were involved.

It's not my writing.

Yeah okay and the last one then, HIA 236 admitted to unit by RG 45 until morning, making a nuisance of herself on campus, that's 18<sup>th</sup> of the 8 95 9.15pm to 19<sup>th</sup> of the 8<sup>th</sup> 95, 11.45 and then discharged to home.

Ah ha.

So I'm just showing examples of when you could have had contact with her and that your ...

(Inaudible) name is down there, there's no issue that my client hasn't had contact with her obviously he worked in the centre.

Yeah.

And he did indicate that he would have sanctioned quite a lot of, of those but I mean again ...

It's just to ...

... in respect of that it doesn't necessarily indicate whether or not (a) there was another member of staff with him again you know some of those entries are not my client's writing he's indicating so.

That's fine ...