

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Written submissions of **BAR 2**

In relation to my criminal trial for sexual offences against children at Macedon and the subsequent allegations made to the Inquiry, I would like the Inquiry to consider the following submissions:
Three facts emerged which finally exposed the allegations to be lies.

- 1 Firstly the PSNI encouraged the children to contact solicitors and pursue compensation claims during the early stages of their investigation.
- 2 Secondly a number of the children were in contact with each other and collaborated together before and during the trial
- 3 Thirdly one of the principal accusers wrote to both his social worker and another prison inmate outlining the extent of the collusion that had taken place and confirming that the allegations were lies.

It was these facts which finally lead to all the convictions being quashed. I had served 10 months in prison and had suffered the trauma of an ordeal which lasted from my initial arrest until my release - approximately 4 years. As a consequence of being the subject of these false allegations and subsequent conviction and imprisonment it has taken a long time to regain my sense of normality. I suffered vitriolic media treatment and paramilitary threats and lost my secure employment [REDACTED]

This in turn resulted in me leaving my family and friends through no fault of my own.

I stress these matters as I think it is important for the Inquiry to realise that the trawling techniques and the attraction of financial rewards coupled with the institutional and law enforcement directives that anyone who reports physical or sexual abuse should be believed mean that a new category of victim has emerged. One who is often ignored? That is the person who has been falsely accused of child abuse and finds it difficult to rebut the allegations because of the battery of institutions lined up against them.

I urge the Inquiry to give consideration to this aspect of their work and to examine what systems were in place before or after allegations were made to protect the hard working carer who by the nature of their work and the background and vulnerability of those in their care, are exposed to false and life changing accusations.

Reavey Solicitors
159-161 Shankill Road
Belfast BT13 1FD
On behalf of **BAR 2**


Signed

Dated this 19 day of April 2016