

Press Release

Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry Report to be published tomorrow

Issued: 19th January 2017

For immediate use

All media requests for information should be directed to the Inquiry's Deputy Secretary, Paula Dawson, on 028 9072 0625 or 07786 320916, or at paula.dawson@hiainquiry.org.

The Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry will formally publish its Report on **Friday 20th January 2017**.

The Chairman, Sir Anthony Hart will deliver a statement at **11.00am at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Shaws Bridge, Belfast**. In his statement, he will detail the findings of the statutory inquiry panel and its recommendations on the following matters as specified in the Inquiry's Terms of Reference:

- An apology - by whom and the nature of the apology;
- Findings of institutional or state failings in their duties towards the children in their care and if these failings were systemic;
- Recommendations as to an appropriate memorial or tribute to those who suffered abuse;
- The requirement or desirability for redress to be provided by the institution and/or the Executive to meet the particular needs of victims.

However, the nature or level of any potential redress (financial or the provision of services) is a matter for the Northern Ireland Executive.

The Report is the culmination of four years' work by the Inquiry. **It is 2,300 pages long and comprises 10 volumes**. It includes the report of the Inquiry's confidential Acknowledgement Forum.

HIA Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry

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The Report was delivered to the First Minister and deputy First Minister, as required by the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, on 6th January 2017, two weeks in advance of publication.

The publication of the Report brings to a conclusion the Inquiry's investigation into historical institutional abuse. The Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry was formally established in January 2013 by the Northern Ireland Executive. Its remit was to investigate child abuse that occurred in residential institutions in Northern Ireland over a 73-year period from 1922 to 1995.

There were 223 days of public hearings which formally opened on 13 January 2014 and concluded on Friday 8 July 2016. During the course of the public evidence sessions, the Inquiry heard from 527 witnesses. Of these, 246 witnesses were applicants who gave evidence in person and the statements of a further 87 applicants were read into the record.

In total 526 individuals made a formal application to speak to the Inquiry and/or its Acknowledgement Forum. Most of the applications (330) were from individuals residing in Northern Ireland.

The Inquiry's Acknowledgement Forum heard from 428 applicants. The focus of the Forum was on the individual survivors – their life stories, the abuse they suffered, their views of the institutions, and how their abuse has impacted on the rest of their lives. The Forum was essentially private and confidential.

A total of 22 institutions in Northern Ireland were investigated by the Inquiry in relation to allegations of historical institutional abuse and/or neglect and were the subject of the public hearings. In addition, the Inquiry investigated a small number of other homes or institutions where specific issues had been identified that did not necessitate public hearings.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR 20 JANUARY 2017

1. The launch event to publish the Inquiry Report will take place commencing at **11.00 hours GMT on Friday 20th January 2017 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel (formerly the Ramada Hotel), 117 Milltown Road, Shaws Bridge, Belfast BT8 7XP.**
2. Members of the media are being permitted, on the morning of publication, prior to the commencement of the Chairman's statement, to have advance sight of the report. Advance viewing is being permitted under strictly controlled conditions and all media attendees who have registered must agree to abide by them before being admitted. As places for this opportunity are limited, access was granted on a 'first come first served' basis. **Registration for advance sight of the Report is now closed.**

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3. A **pool arrangement** is in place with the BBC and UTV to enable all accredited broadcast media outlets which have provided sufficient advance notice to the BBC to have timely access to footage and audio material from the publication proceedings, and with Pacemaker Press International to have timely access to photographs of the same where sufficient notice to Pacemaker has been given. **No other filming or audio recording, and no photography, is permitted anywhere within the event venue.**
4. All media personnel wishing to attend the launch event were required to apply for accreditation. **The closing date for accreditation was Monday 16th January 2017.** The Inquiry reserves the right, if necessary, to permit entry only to accredited media personnel. **You should email the Inquiry's Deputy Secretary, Paula Dawson (paula.dawson@hiainquiry.org), if you have any further queries about the arrangements for the launch event.**
5. The Inquiry has issued a **Media Protocol** and legally-binding **Restriction Orders** of relevance to the media. **It is essential that all editors, journalists, photographers and camera crews involved in covering the publication of the Inquiry's Report read these documents.**

GENERAL BACKGROUND

6. Following an inter-departmental task force report, the Northern Ireland Executive, on 29 September 2011, announced there would be an Investigation and Inquiry into historical institutional abuse.
7. On 31 May 2012, the First Minister and deputy First Minister announced the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry, and advised the Assembly of the Chair of the Inquiry and of the Panel Members for the Acknowledgement Forum.
8. An amended Terms of Reference to widen the scope of the Inquiry from 1922 - 1995 was announced by the First Minister and deputy First Minister on 18 October 2012. See <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news-ofmdfm-191012-ministers-widen-historical>
9. On 12 June 2012, the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse Bill and the associated Explanatory and Financial Memorandum were laid before the Assembly. The Bill passed through a number of stages and, on 11 December 2012, the 'Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse Bill' was passed by the Assembly. Following Royal Assent, the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 became law on 19 January 2013. The Inquiry is formally established under this Act.
10. Sir Anthony met with Ministers in the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister in April 2014 to seek an extension of one year to the date by which the Inquiry must submit its report. This was subsequently granted in January 2015 and, therefore, under its amended Terms of Reference, the Inquiry was required to complete its hearings and all investigative work by mid-summer 2016, and to submit its report to the Northern Ireland Executive within 6 months.
11. The Inquiry had a remit to investigate physical, emotional and sexual childhood abuse, and childhood neglect which occurred in residential institutions in Northern Ireland over a 73-year period up to 1995.
12. For the purposes of the Inquiry "child" meant any person under 18 years of age; "institution" meant anybody, society or organisation with responsibility for the care, health or welfare of children in Northern Ireland, other than a school (but including a training school or borstal) which,

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during the relevant period, provided residential accommodation and took decisions about and made provision for the day to day care of children; “relevant period” meant the period between 1922 and 1995 (both years inclusive).

13. It should be noted that the Inquiry was tasked with examining whether there were institutional failings in respect of historical abuse and neglect. The Inquiry had no legal power to find anyone guilty of criminal acts.
14. The Inquiry’s Chairman, Sir Anthony Hart, is a retired senior High Court judge who practised in Northern Ireland. The other members of the Inquiry panel are Geraldine Doherty, who was formerly the Head of the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work in Scotland, and David Lane CBE, who was formerly Director of Social Services in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, England.
15. Acknowledgement Forum Panel members are: Beverley Clarke, Norah Gibbons, Dave Marshall QPM and Tom Shaw CBE. Biographical details for these individuals, Senior and Junior Counsel to the Inquiry, and other members of the Inquiry team are available on the Inquiry website: www.hiainquiry.org
16. The Chairman announced on 4 November 2015 that the Inquiry would be investigating an additional 6 homes or institutions in relation to alleged historical institutional abuse and/or neglect. The full list of homes/institutions is as follows:

Local Authority Homes

- Lissue Hospital, Lisburn
- Kincora Boys’ Home, Belfast
- Bawnmore Children’s Home, Newtownabbey
- Fort James and Harberton House, Londonderry (added May 2015)

Juvenile Justice Institutions

- St Patrick’s Training School, Belfast
- Lisnevin Training School, County Down
- Rathgael Training School, Bangor
- Hydebank Young Offenders’ Centre (added May 2015)
- Millisle Borstal (added November 2015)

Secular Voluntary Homes

- Barnardo’s Sharonmore Project, Newtownabbey
- Barnardo’s Macedon, Newtownabbey

Roman Catholic Voluntary Homes

- St Joseph’s Home, Termonbacca, Londonderry
- Nazareth House Children’s Home, Londonderry
- Nazareth House Children’s Home, Belfast
- Nazareth Lodge Children’s Home, Belfast
- De La Salle Boys’ Home, Rubane House, Kircubbin
- St Joseph’s Training School for Girls, Middletown, Co Armagh (added November 2015)
- Institutions run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Derry/Londonderry, Belfast and Newry (added November 2015)

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Church of Ireland

- Manor House, a children's home near Lisburn (added November 2015)

The Inquiry also conducted public hearings into two other matters that were relevant to the way children were treated in the residential children's homes in Northern Ireland that fall within the Terms of Reference.

- The first considered the practice of child migration, where children were sent from Roman Catholic, Protestant and local authority homes in Northern Ireland to homes in Australia.
- The second related to Fr Brendan Smyth, a member of the Norbertine Order, who was convicted of offences relating to children in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and who was alleged to have abused children within a number of children's homes within Northern Ireland.

In total therefore the Inquiry investigated 22 homes and conducted two additional hearings into related matters.

17. Further background information on the Inquiry is contained in a background briefing paper which is available from the Inquiry's Deputy Secretary. Further information is also available on the Inquiry's website www.hiainquiry.org
18. **All media requests for information should be directed to the Inquiry's Deputy Secretary, Paula Dawson, on 028 9072 0625 or 07786 320916, or at paula.dawson@hiainquiry.org.**