

Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry
Press Release by the Chairman – Sir Anthony Hart
19 October 2012

Sir Anthony Hart today welcomed the announcement by the First Minister and deputy First Minister that the terms of reference of the Historical Institution Abuse Inquiry have been widened to include the years 1922 to 1995.

He said “**It is helpful to have this decided at an early stage in our work. We want to ensure that no victims or survivors of institutional abuse in Northern Ireland are excluded. The Inquiry will issue revised advertisements, amend existing information leaflets and update the Inquiry website at www.hiainquiry.org**”

“**Applications to speak to both the Acknowledgement Forum and the Statutory Inquiry are now being received, and I would encourage anyone who wishes to tell their story to contact us. Application forms can be downloaded from our website or requested by calling the Inquiry helpline.**”

“**If survivors are unsure of actual dates when they were in residential care, they should provide as much information as possible on the application form and give us the approximate dates.**”

Completed applications from within the UK, should be sent to Freepost H I A Inquiry address, for those outside the U.K., completed applications (stamped) should be sent to H I A Inquiry, P O Box 2080, Belfast BT1 9QA.

Requests for information packs and to raise a query should be made to Freephone number 0800 068 4935 (For callers outside the United Kingdom, the UK country code 0044 should be added).

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Notes to Editors

1. Following an inter-departmental task force report, the Northern Ireland Executive, on 29th September 2011, announced there would be an Investigation and Inquiry into historical institutional abuse.
2. On 31st 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 the panel members for the Acknowledgement Forum.
3. An amended terms of reference was announced by the First Minister and deputy First Minister on 18th October 2012.
4. The Inquiry will be chaired by Sir Anthony Hart, assisted by Panel members Geraldine Doherty and David Lane. Acknowledgement Forum Panel members are: Beverley Clarke, Norah Gibbons, Dave Marshall QPM and Tom Shaw CBE.
5. The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse Bill is currently at Committee stage which is due to conclude on 26th October 2012. Further information can be found on the Northern Ireland Assembly website.
6. The work of the Acknowledgement Forum is not dependent on the passage of the legislation and Panel Members will begin to hear accounts of the experiences of victims and survivors shortly after completed applications have been received.
7. Applications can be requested on Freephone number 0800 068 4935 or can be downloaded from the Inquiry website.
8. The Inquiry intends to hold a preliminary hearing before Christmas at which the chairman will explain how he intends to proceed and give interested parties an opportunity to comment. More details on this will be made available later.
9. Members of the Inquiry are not available for interview, but any specific request for additional information should be emailed to General.Enquiries@hiainquiry.org