

Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry
Press Release by the Chairman – Sir Anthony Hart
1 November 2012

Sir Anthony Hart, Chairman of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry released statistics today showing the number of applications received since the launch of the Inquiry helpline and website on the 1st October 2012. During the first month, a total of 101 returned applications were received of which 71 came from Northern Ireland, 7 from the Republic of Ireland, 19 from Great Britain and one from Europe. 3 forms were returned which were incomplete. The majority of applicants (72%) have indicated a preference to meet with both Acknowledgment Forum and the Statutory Inquiry. 22% did not indicate whether they wished to meet either the Acknowledgement Forum, Statutory Inquiry or both.

The Chairman in releasing the statistics said **“we are encouraged with the initial response to a low key Inquiry launch, which was to ensure that the Inquiry team could return all questions raised by phone within two days and to resolve any identified early problems.**

“A number of applications have been received which have included no name or address or where the writing is illegible or all sections not completed. All applicants are encouraged to ensure their forms are fully and clearly completed. If an applicant has not received an acknowledgement letter within two weeks of posting they should contact the help desk on Freephone 0800 6884935. If phoning from outside the United Kingdom, the country code 0044 should be added. Applications are available upon request from the help desk or can be downloaded from the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry website at www.hiainquiry.org

In conclusion the Chairman said **“statistics relating to completed applications will be updated on the website on a regular basis”.**

ENDS

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 to widen the scope of the Inquiry from 1922 - 1995 was announced by the First Minister and deputy First Minister on 18th October 2012. See <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news-ofmdfm-191012-ministers-widen-historical>.
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. Further information on the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse Bill 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 have commenced hearing 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. Members of the Inquiry are not available for interview, but any specific request for additional information should be emailed to General.Enquiries@hiainquiry.org