

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

Sir Anthony Hart, the Chairman of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry, has appointed Christine Smith QC as senior counsel to the Inquiry, and Joseph Aiken as junior counsel to the Inquiry.

Christine Smith QC was called to the Northern Ireland Bar in 1985, and was appointed a QC in 2011. She has extensive experience as a prosecution counsel in dealing with the victims of sexual and physical abuse.

Joseph Aiken barrister at law was called to the Northern Ireland Bar in 1999, and is a contributor to “Public Inquiries” by Jason Beer QC (Oxford University Press, 2011), the leading textbook on public inquiries.

The Chairman in announcing these appointments said: “I am delighted that Christine Smith and Joseph Aiken will be joining the inquiry team. Both have extensive and relevant experience and their involvement will be invaluable to both myself and the Panel Members”.

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