

## CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION BOARD

Application of [REDACTED]

The applicant was born in 1961 and resided at a Children's Group Home run by the Education Department from 1969 until 1981.

During the time she was resident at the home the applicant alleges that she was indecently assaulted by one Leslie Hughes one of the house parents. *Report on Mr Hughes Boat moored out by Straubins fort.*

On the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1989 Hughes was convicted of having on divers occasions between the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1969 and the 18<sup>th</sup> November 1977 indecently assaulted the applicant while she was aged between 8 and 15 years.

The applicant did not make a formal complaint and matters came to light in the course of other enquiries. When the applicant was invited to attend Police Headquarters to make a statement, she did so but categorically refused to make a formal statement. The applicant did make an oral statement which was recorded in the officer's note book but this cannot be made available to the Board. The applicant alleged that she had been indecently assaulted. The applicant also made other allegations which were denied by Hughes.

*I was called into police HQ voluntarily*

The conviction which followed was based on the information provided by and the admissions made by Hughes after the facts as related to the police orally by the applicant were put to him. It is on those facts that the Board proceeds and finds that the applicant was the victim of a crime of violence. In 2001 the applicant decided that she wished to make a formal complaint but the police were not able to proceed further. The applicant made a written statement to a police officer. The Board is concerned that the statement should have been given so long after the events had occurred and long after the conviction of the assailant when at that time ( 1989 ) there was concern, notwithstanding her distress, that she was only able to remember the barest of details.

An application was made under the Scheme in August 2002 and the documents such as they were arrived from the police in October 2003. The delay in making the application, notwithstanding that leave was given by the chairman of the Board so to do, does not assist in establishing the facts and has hindered the investigation by the Board.

The Board after much research has been able to consider a limited number of documents relating to the case which have been found but they do not represent what the Board would customarily be supplied with for its consideration. The Board expresses its concern at the lack of assistance at the appropriate times given by the applicant notwithstanding the unpleasant nature of the events.

The Board has also received a report from the applicant's General Practitioner that she first saw [REDACTED] in 2000. She was referred to Tina Baker, clinical psychologist, to whom the applicant had previously been referred in 1998 at which time she failed to keep the appointment. It was not until two years later that the applicant attended on Ms Baker following a reference by her General Practitioner.

Ms Baker reports inter alia in July 2000 that the applicant " *harbours a great deal of understandable hurt and resentment about the abuse at the hands of her foster father, but also towards her own father who, although, put some effort in keeping his children after their mother walked out, and then continued to be in touch after they went into care, he appeared to desert them the moment his girl friend came along* "

The Board, with the limited information which it has been able to consider, makes an award on the facts as set out by the Crown at the sentencing hearing and the admissions contained in the statement of the assailant.

The Board accepts that the applicant suffered from stress and anxiety for a number of reasons from 1991 one of which related to her treatment in the foster home by Hughes.

On this basis the Board awards the sum of £2500.00.