

MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY
SITTING AT CORN EXCHANGE, CATHEDRAL QUARTER, BELFAST

HEARD BEFORE THE INQUIRY PANEL
ON MONDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2023 - DAY 60

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I N D E X

W I T N E S S

P A G E

P128' S FATHER

D I R E C T L Y E X A M I N E D B Y M S . B R I G G S 5

1 THE INQUIRY RESUMED ON MONDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AS
2 FOLLOWS:

3
4 CHAIRPERSON: Good afternoon.

5 MS. BRIGGS: Good afternoon, Chair and members of the 14:00
6 Panel. This afternoon I'm taking the oral evidence of
7 P128's father. And he's confirmed that he is content
8 to be known as his first name, Douglas. He and his
9 wife Doreen have provided a joint statement to the
10 Inquiry, but it's signed by Douglas, about their son, 14:00
11 who is to be called P128, Chair. The reference is
12 STM-154-1. And unless there's anything further, Chair,
13 the witness can be called in.

14 CHAIRPERSON: And no Restriction Orders are necessary?

15 MS. BRIGGS: No, Chair. 14:01

16 CHAIRPERSON: That's fine. Thank you very much.

17
18 P128'S FATHER, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS DIRECTLY EXAMINED
19 BY MS. BRIGGS AS FOLLOWS:

20 14:02
21 CHAIRPERSON: Can I just thank you both very much for
22 coming along to help the Inquiry. Can you hear me all
23 right? Can you hear me?

24 A. No.

25 CHAIRPERSON: No? All right, we're all going to have to 14:02
26 shout a bit. I just wanted to welcome you to the
27 Inquiry, to thank you very much for coming to give
28 evidence and I am going to hand you over to Ms. Briggs.

29 1 Q. MS. BRIGGS: Douglas, I'm not sure if this microphone

1 is on. Can you hear me okay? You can.

2 A. A wee bit, please.

3 2 Q. A wee bit louder? How's that? I'm not sure if the
4 microphone volume can be raised at all. How about now,
5 Douglas, can you hear me okay? 14:02

6 A. Okay.

7 3 Q. You can. Okay. We've met earlier, as you know. And
8 you've provided a statement to the Inquiry, okay? And
9 as I've explained to you, I'm going to read that out
10 first, okay, and then I'm going to ask you some 14:02
11 questions about the statement, okay?

12 A. Yeah.

13 4 Q. And as I've explained to you earlier in the Inquiry, we
14 try to avoid using names wherever we can. We're going
15 to call your son P128, okay? And the same applies to, 14:03
16 for example, staff members; you have a list of some
17 names in front of you and their are ciphers, so if you
18 can try to use those, okay? And as I explained, if
19 there's a slip-up, we can deal with that, okay? But we
20 try to avoid using the names, all right? 14:03

21

22 If you're happy enough and you're comfortable, I'm
23 going to start reading your statement. Are you happy
24 enough?

25 A. Mhm-mhm. 14:03

26 5 Q. Okay. The reference is STM-154-1. And it should come
27 up on your screen there, you can follow. Okay? Douglas
28 and Doreen say:
29

1 "Our connection with MAH is that we are relatives. Our
2 son P128 was a patient in MAH. The relevant time
3 period that we can speak about is 1999 to 2008.
4

5 P128 was born in 1971 and is currently 52 years old. 14:03
6 P128 grew up... "
7

8 And you say where it is.
9

10 "... at home with us and his brother, who is two years 14:04
11 younger than him. In P128's early years it took a long
12 time for people to say that something was wrong. We
13 noticed that he had very limited speech for a long
14 time. We found things hard going" --

15 14:04

16 CHAIRPERSON: Just hold on for a second, because the
17 witness is a bit lost. I wonder if the secretary can
18 assist where we are, just so the witness can follow.
19 We're on the third line of the third paragraph: "We
20 noticed that." So we're just reading through the 14:04
21 statement, so if you just try and follow it.

22 6 Q. MS. BRIGGS: "We found things hard going, but he was
23 our first child and we did not fully understand its
24 potential significance."
25

26 14:04

27 And if you turn over the page, we're at paragraph 4 on
28 the next page:

29 "Around the birth of our second son we took P128 to the

1 GP in our local health centre, as by comparison, we
2 noticed a difference in their development. P128 was
3 seen by the doctor, who did an assessment and labelled
4 him mentally retarded. We did not know what this
5 meant.

14:05

6
7 P128 has severe learning disabilities, autism and
8 epilepsy. P128 has speech and is verbal. His speech
9 is normally limited to a single word or is sporadic,
10 but he can communicate with people and our family can
11 understand him and recognise what he wants.

14:05

12
13 P128 went to school in a town, which was a special
14 school, and was looked after at home. When he was
15 older, he attended an adult centre. The bus would pick
16 him up from home in the morning and would return him
17 that afternoon. On one occasion P128's social worker,
18 whose name I cannot remember, and GP, suggested that he
19 spend a week at a care home to give our family a break.
20 This was a care home catering for younger people with
21 learning disabilities. P128 could not dress himself
22 and he needed one to one supervision. Then in 1999,
23 P128 went to stay in a respite place for respite.
24 These bungalows provided supported living. At this
25 stage he would have been in his 20s.

14:05

14:06

14:06

26
27 P128 was becoming unmanageable at home due to his
28 behaviour and medications. P128 stayed in the respite
29 place for over a year, until the staff informed us they

1 could no longer manage his behaviour, which included
2 nipping people. As a result, we understand that the
3 social worker and P128's doctors made the decision that
4 he should be admitted to MAH. We think that P128 was
5 admitted as a detained patient, but we cannot be sure. 14:07
6 We have never had anyone tell us whether P128 was
7 detained, nor explain the meaning and implications of
8 P128 being detained. We were never told about, or
9 shown, a care plan or a treatment plan throughout
10 P128's time in MAH. 14:07

11
12 P128 was admitted to Movilla B. He was later moved to
13 Movilla A, which was a more controlled and total lockup
14 unit, because Movilla B said they could not deal with
15 him. They also said that they needed to move P128 to 14:07
16 accommodate another patient. We objected to P128 being
17 placed in a lockup unit and after a few days he was
18 moved back to Movilla B, before being finally moved to
19 M4.

20 14:07
21 We visited P128 regularly in MAH. We would have gone
22 every week and sometimes twice a week. Occasionally we
23 would have brought him home, although he would not have
24 stayed overnight.

25 14:08
26 We had serious concerns about the care provided to P128
27 in MAH, but at the time we still trusted the staff. We
28 would have found it difficult to believe that health
29 care workers could abuse our son in a hospital.

1 The ward was like a prison camp. It was a big open
2 space, there were bars on the windows and P128's bed
3 was like a bed in a cell, there was nothing personal
4 about it.

5
6 Before P128 went into MAH he was a good healthy weight.
7 After he went into MAH this changed. His weight
8 dropped dramatically. P128's weight dropped to around
9 six stone. We would visit him in MAH and he would be
10 sitting curled up on the sofa. We could see him

14:08

11 changing, as if something was going on. He went into
12 himself. We were very concerned about this, but we did
13 not know what was going on. We trusted the staff and
14 did not know what to do. The weight loss issue
15 continued throughout P128's time in MAH and did not
16 improve until P128 was discharged and placed in
17 resettlement location.

14:08

18
19 Over the years, P128 would have said words. When he
20 was admitted to MAH, his speech totally disappeared, he
21 was not talking to anybody. We now believe that this
22 was because of the things that were happening, that he
23 could not tell us about, so he went into himself.

14:09

24
25 For the first part of P128's time in MAH he was in
26 Movilla B. It was a ward that he shared with a lot of
27 other patients. It was not locked and we did not have
28 to contact MAH to say that we were coming, we just
29 walked on in.

14:09

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One night I, Douglas, walked into Movilla B and saw a member of staff called H564 with his arm around P128's throat. I went to the senior staff on duty, H270, and asked what was going on. H270 said 'Dougie, to tell you the truth, I don't know what happened, but that staff member is very good with these boys.' I felt I had no option to believe him. I trusted him and did not, therefore, submit a complaint about this incident.

14:10

14:10

On another occasion in Movilla B, I, Douglas saw P128 trying to walk past a staff member called H228 in the corridor, who blocked him. P128 tried to go to the left and he blocked him again. He tried to go to the right and he blocked him again. I went down the corridor and saw the staff member block P128 three times and asked him what he was doing. H228 said that he did not know where P128 was going. I spoke with the senior staff member on duty, H13, about it. H13 said that the staff member had only arrived, he was not fit for Movilla B and would be moved tomorrow morning.

14:10

14:10

As a result of incidents like these, we wondered what was going on the rest of the time. We would have told our worries to a staff member, H270, in MAH - he was good at giving the family information - but we never got any satisfaction.

14:11

On one occasion P128's arm was fractured, but no-one in

1 MAH could say how he sustained the injury. This
2 happened in Movilla B, but we cannot recall the date.
3 We were informed when P128 was brought to the hospital.
4 I, Doreen, went to the hospital and the x-rays showed
5 the fracture.

14:11

6
7 The hospital did not put a full cast on P128's arm. He
8 picked at it overnight and it came off. If anyone had
9 been checking on P128 they would have noticed that he
10 had picked his cast off. After this, nothing more was
11 said or done to discover how P128's arm was fractured.
12 Staff failed to address the issue at all. We felt like
13 we were up against a brick wall as to how this
14 happened.

14:11

15
16 On one occasion after P128's arm had been fractured
17 whilst he was in Movilla B and he had been moved back
18 to M4, we learnt that P128's privates were bruised so
19 badly that they turned black. We are not sure whether
20 we were called by MAH first or whether we discovered
21 the injury during a visit when P128 pulled down his
22 trousers to show us. We were horrified. His privates
23 were so badly bruised.

14:12

24
25 H270 was the senior staff of M4 at that time. He was
26 the same senior staff in charge of Movilla B when the
27 member of staff called H564 put his arm around P128's
28 throat and had assured us that he was a good member of
29 staff. This is the reason we had not made a complaint.

14:12

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We spoke to H565 about the bruising to P128's privates. H565 asked whether P128 could have walked into something sharp or a bench to hurt his privates like that. We were very disappointed in H565 making such a suggestion and I, Doreen, told him that to his face. To this day, I remember saying to H565 in his office, 'I am not pointing the finger, but do you think P128 did this to himself or someone else did it? Tell me the truth now.' H565 said that someone did it to him. 14:13

The police were called out to M4 to investigate."

I'm not going to read the next line, Douglas, okay? Because the police officer's named. Picking up at the third sentence: 14:13

"Nothing ever came of the police investigation and we were not told why. But P128 privates were completely black. The evidence was there to see that someone had really hurt him. 14:13

I, Doreen, took photographs of P128 privates at the time to record this injury. A few years ago, I felt I had to get rid of them, because it was too distressing to keep them. We now regret getting rid of the photographs. 14:13

We think that the social worker could have done more in

1 relation to this injury, but nothing ever came of it.
2 We also spoke to H270. At the start we thought H270
3 was friendly towards us and P128, but as time went on,
4 we could see a difference in him.

5
6 P128 has epilepsy and would sometimes have seizures.
7 During one seizure, he fell and broke his front teeth
8 and several had to be removed by the dentist.

9
10 P128 is dependent upon his carers to attend to his
11 personal hygiene. In his resettlement place, P128 gets
12 a shower every morning. This was not the case in MAH.
13 It was not clear how often P128 was washed in MAH.
14 When the staff were asked, they would simply claim that
15 he was washed regularly, but they provided no detail
16 about frequency or what type of wash. It was clear his
17 hygiene standard was not good at MAH, and this improved
18 again after he moved out. We are convinced that the
19 reason for P128's poor hygiene had nothing do with
20 P128's behaviour, as became clear when he moved out.
21 No issues have been raised in the resettlement place
22 about washing and showering and his personal hygiene
23 has improved significantly.

24
25 P128 was prescribed a lot of medication in MAH, but we
26 were not told what it was for. We have no memory of
27 being informed about any reduction or changes to P128's
28 medication. We do know that P128 seemed to be taking a
29 lot more medication when he was in MAH, but do not know

1 how or why it was changed. We believe that P128's
2 medical notes and records should show this.

3
4 P128 is terrified of water, so much so that he cannot
5 even walk past a swimming pool. There was a swimming 14:15
6 pool in MAH, but P128 never went to it. So far as we
7 are concerned, there were no activities at MAH that
8 were suitable for P128. There was nothing really for
9 P128 to do throughout the day.

10 14:16

11 Hardly a week went past without us bringing P128's
12 clothes. We had money and we were determined that P128
13 would not go without. We found that he went through
14 clothes so quickly. We had no idea where the clothes
15 all went. When we visited P128 at MAH, he would have 14:16
16 often had other people's clothes on him. This broke
17 my, Doreen's, heart. We would have brought P128 new
18 clothes and then the next week at MAH he would have
19 been wearing someone else's clothes again. No answer
20 was ever provided when the staff were asked about 14:16
21 P128's clothes. They would provide excuses like 'it
22 was the only thing clean' and 'would not happen again',
23 but it still did. P128 had many clothes provided, so
24 that washing turnaround was not an issue. However,
25 this did not stop the wrong clothes being put on him. 14:17
26 All his clothing was named, so there should have been
27 no confusion.

28
29 Northern Health and Social Care Trust took care of

1 P128's finances and we were never informed of P128's
2 financial situation or what he had. As far as we knew,
3 P128 did not receive any money while in MAH. If he
4 did, we were not aware of how much or how it was spent.

14:17

5
6 We knew that things were not good in MAH, but we could
7 not question him. P128 sometimes said 'bad boy' to us,
8 but we did not know what or who that was in relation
9 to. There were 13 or 14 people on the ward, with
10 different conditions and challenging behaviours. We
11 would question how a ward such as this could be
12 staffed. We did not like what we saw on the ward
13 sometimes. In our view, all the patients in MAH were
14 someone's children and deserved to be looked after.

14:17

15
16 H566 was P128's consultant in MAH. She drew our
17 attention to a resettlement location."

14:18

18
19 And you say where that is.

20 14:18

21 "She told us to go for it. This happened around 2008.
22 We don't remember any meetings in relation to the
23 proposed move.

24
25 MAH staff would have taken P128 to the resettlement
26 location at first and they would maybe have stayed
27 overnight to help him get used to the place.

14:18

28
29 Another staff member in MAH whose name we cannot recall

1 told us not to let P128 go to the resettlement place.
2 Thankfully, it has been the best decision to move P128.
3 He has been there for about 16 years. He is very happy
4 and the staff are very good to him. He is always
5 supervised. P128 resides in a three-bedroom bungalow. 14:18
6 There are three clients in every bungalow. There is a
7 communal lounge, a dining area and a kitchen. P128 has
8 his own bedroom and wardrobe. If we do not label
9 P128's things, the staff at the resettlement location
10 label them. His drawers are always tidy. If he needs 14:19
11 anything, they will buy him things and keep the
12 receipts. We are kept informed. We never got anything
13 like that from MAH.

14
15 It took P128 about two years to settle. It was hard 14:19
16 for him. He had been through so much in life. When
17 P128 left MAH, he was so skinny the staff in the
18 resettlement location could not believe it. In MAH
19 P128 lived on Fortisip. He had a poor appetite and he
20 had no solids for a long, long time. In the 14:19
21 resettlement location staff gave P128 encouragement and
22 it got better and better. P128 now gets fresh, lovely
23 food all the time.

24
25 If P128 has even a wee nick on his knee, now we hear on 14:20
26 the telephone straight away. There was nothing like
27 this from MAH. We did ring every day, or every other
28 day, but the way staff spoke to us was like something
29 repetitive. They would say, 'he's eating well, he's

1 sleeping well'. They were never telling us anything.

2

3 We are happy with the care that P128 gets now in the
4 resettlement location. We feel very fortunate that
5 P128 is happy where he is.

14:20

6

7 All we have are bad memories of MAH. At the time we
8 trusted the staff. We now wish that we had written
9 everything down. We wish we had not destroyed the
10 photographs that we had taken. I refer to photographs
11 at exhibit 1 of P128 before he was admitted to MAH and
12 P128 after he was discharged from MAH.

14:20

13

14 We do not know the truth of everything that went on in
15 MAH and it is upsetting for us to think about it. It
16 is totally for us to look back and think about what
17 happened when we were not there and did not know what
18 was going on.

14:21

19

20 P128 could not have told us anything that was done to
21 him. And he was so vulnerable there. We have to live
22 with this regret.

14:21

23

24 We have now found what we were looking for in the
25 resettlement place. P128 is happy there. He looks at
26 his town as his home. If there are any issues, we can
27 lift the phone to the resettlement place. P128's
28 weight is back up, he is sleeping well, he loves his
29 wee drives out with us on a Sunday to Benone or

14:21

1 Castlerock. We visit him every Sunday and on a
2 Wednesday night as well. "

3

4 Okay. And over the page then, Douglas, you signed the
5 statement there, okay? And the statement's dated. All 14:21
6 right? And after that, there's some photographs. And
7 we're not going to show those on the screen today,
8 okay?

9

10 So, Douglas, if you can hear me okay? Can you hear me 14:22
11 okay?

12 A. Sorry?

13 7 Q. Can you hear me?

14 A. Go ahead.

15 8 Q. You can, you can hear me? 14:22
16 A. Yeah.

17 9 Q. Okay. I want to ask you whether you're happy with the
18 contents of that statement?

19 A. Mhm-mhm.

20 10 Q. You are. And you're content to adopt the contents of 14:22
21 that statement as your evidence to the Inquiry?

22 A. Mhm-mhm.

23 11 Q. You need to say yes or no.

24 A. Yeah.

25 12 Q. Yeas. Okay, all right. 14:22
26 CHAIRPERSON: I think also, because Douglas's wife also
27 made the statement together and appears in the
28 statement, could she just confirm that she's content
29 with her part of it?

1 MS. BRIGGS: We might need her sworn first, Chair, if
2 she's going to do that.

3 CHAIRPERSON: Well, she wasn't sworn, but she could be
4 now. Would you mind doing that? It is just that she
5 speaks directly in the statement and so strictly, we 14:23
6 ought to have them both covered.

7

8 (P128'S MOTHER WAS THEN SWORN)

9

10 SECRETARY: And if you just confirm that you're happy 14:23
11 with the statement then.

12 WITNESS: Yes, I'm happy with the statement.

13 CHAIRPERSON: Lovely. Thank you very much.

14 13 Q. MS. BRIGGS: Okay, Douglas, I'm going to ask you some
15 questions, okay, about the statement? 14:23

16 A. That's Doreen or me?

17 14 Q. I'm going to ask them to you, okay?

18 A. Okay.

19 15 Q. So I want to ask you, first of all, about your son,
20 okay? And I want you to tell the Panel a little bit 14:23
21 about what he's like as a person. What is his
22 personality like?

23 A. You mean early on in life or just...

24 16 Q. What's he like now?

25 A. Now? 14:24

26 17 Q. Yeah.

27 A. He's as well now as he's ever been.

28 18 Q. Okay.

29 A. In fact he's better now than he's ever been.

1 19 Q. He's ever been.

2 A. That even was going back a long time ago. where he's
3 at now, it's brilliant.

4 20 Q. And -- go ahead.

5 A. Sundays, we take him out and take him for ice cream, 14:24
6 take him back again. He has no bother going back. In
7 other places over the years it was funny taking him
8 back; he didn't want to go back. But now there's no
9 problem. He calls, where he's at now he calls his
10 home. And if we're sat down on the beach too long on a 14:24
11 Sunday, the next thing, after he gets his ice cream and
12 a drive round, he'll say 'home, home', and back we go
13 to where he lives at, and that's it.

14 21 Q. And what was he like when he was in Muckamore?

15 A. Pardon? 14:24

16 22 Q. what was he like when he was in Muckamore?

17 A. It's hard to say. He wasn't happy going back, so he
18 wasn't. He was unhappy going back. It was a different
19 atmosphere completely to where he's at now, so it was.
20 The personality in Muckamore changed a wee bit too. 14:25
21 There was a play room, I used to go down into it and he
22 used to come down, but there was nothing for P128 to do
23 in it. He never was happy, I never seen him happy in
24 Muckamore.

25 23 Q. Can we pause the feed for a moment? I think there was a 14:25
26 slip there.

27 CHAIRPERSON: Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't hear it, I missed
28 it. Was there a name?

29 MS. BRIGGS: Chair, I also have to admit that I missed

1 it as well, but I think the secretary has raised it.
2 CHAIRPERSON: okay, well spotted.
3 MS. BRIGGS: we're going to pause the feed for a
4 moment.
5 CHAIRPERSON: okay. 14:25
6 24 Q. MS. BRIGGS: okay. Can you tell us a wee bit about his
7 personality, your son? what's he like as a person, what
8 does he like to do, what does he not like to do?
9 A. Was he what?
10 25 Q. what's his personality like? Can you hear me? 14:26
11 A. I'm not really getting what you mean.
12 26 Q. Okay. what does he like to do? what's he like as a
13 person?
14 A. what does he like to do?
15 27 Q. Mhm-mhm. 14:26
16 A. P128 never done that much. For he couldn't do too
17 much.
18 28 Q. Okay, we're going to stop the feed again. We're trying
19 to -- just bear with me one wee moment and we'll stop
20 the feed. 14:26
21 A. Sorry.
22 29 Q. My fault.
23 A. Personality at home, when he was home, he was very hard
24 to work with, so he was. Very hard to work with. Hard
25 to get him out in the morning. At the time whenever he 14:27
26 was at home, I had to stay at home and put him on the
27 bus to the health centre, for Doreen couldn't do it,
28 couldn't get him on the bus. And that was his
29 personality. Sometimes good, sometimes bad.

1 30 Q. Okay, all right.

2 A. And that was just P128's personality.

3 31 Q. We're just going to stop again. Just bear with me a
4 wee minute, okay? We're going to call him "my son P128"
5 or "my son", all right? 14:27

6 A. Sorry.

7 32 Q. So he was in his late 20s when he went to Muckamore,
8 isn't that right?

9 A. Yeah.

10 33 Q. And I'm going to ask you a little bit about back then 14:28
11 when he went to Muckamore, okay? How did you and Doreen
12 feel when he went into Muckamore back when he was in
13 his late 20s?

14 A. Well, at the time he went to Muckamore from where he
15 come from, that was... 128, we could do nothing about 14:28
16 it. His personality changed, just he was a whole lot
17 quieter, he didn't seem to focus on nothing.

18 34 Q. And did you know anything about Muckamore before he
19 went there? Had you heard of the place before?

20 A. Sorry? 14:28

21 35 Q. Had you heard about Muckamore before he went there?

22 A. No. Never heard tell of it, no.

23 36 Q. And you say in your statement that you think he went in
24 as a detained patient, okay, he was detained, but you
25 aren't sure about that, because no-one ever told you, 14:28
26 okay? What made you think that he was detained?

27 A. Was what?

28 37 Q. Detained.

29 A. We honestly don't know. We don't know. And that's

1 telling you, we didn't know.

2 38 Q. Is there any reason why you think he was detained?

3 A. Not really. His behaviour, 128's behaviour, where he

4 was at, they said they couldn't look after him any

5 longer. 14:29

6 39 Q. Okay.

7 A. And at that time he was put into MAH.

8 40 Q. And you've said in your statement that you were never

9 told about, or shown, a care plan or a treatment plan

10 while P128 was in Muckamore? 14:29

11 A. No.

12 41 Q. Were you ever told about any treatment he might get

13 while he was there?

14 A. No. Actually, the only thing, when he was in MAH, any

15 time 128 had to go to the hospital or anything to get 14:29

16 anything done, say from the Royal, I always went with

17 him, for normally whenever he went to these places he

18 was very awkward to deal with. And the staff knew

19 this. And I went with him any time to the Royal or to

20 any other hospital the time he was in MAH. I normally 14:30

21 went with him, because they thought that I could keep

22 him that bit calmer.

23 42 Q. Okay.

24 A. Sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn't work.

25 43 Q. And that's about going to hospital, I assume when he's 14:30

26 hurt himself or he needs to be seen the Royal for

27 reasons like that. What about therapy or getting seen

28 by doctors in Muckamore, did he ever have any therapy

29 or treatment like that while he was in Muckamore that

1 you know about?

2 A. Not that I know of, no.

3 44 Q. Okay. And I'm going to ask you a little bit about
4 staff who cared for him, okay? And without using any
5 names, were you aware of a doctor who was in charge of 14:30
6 him or nurses who were in charge of him and had
7 particular responsibility for him?

8 A. Sorry, say that again.

9 45 Q. So I'm asking you about staff in Muckamore.

10 A. Right, go ahead. 14:31

11 46 Q. Okay? And I'm asking you not to use any names.

12 A. Okay.

13 47 Q. But I'm asking whether there was a particular doctor or
14 a particular nurse or particular individual staff in
15 Muckamore that you knew were responsible for him, they 14:31
16 took responsibility for his care overall?

17 A. What do you mean, responsible for doing something to
18 him or...

19 48 Q. For looking after him.

20 A. Well, whenever I went visiting, whenever we went 14:31
21 visiting, mostly it was me, and the staff was there,
22 but 128 and me just went to the room -- sorry, P128 and
23 me went to the room --

24 49 Q. That's okay, we'll stop a wee moment there. Just bear
25 with me, we'll stop a wee moment. You're doing very 14:31
26 well. So we'll keep going there and we'll let you
27 finish your answer and just say your son.

28 A. Okay now?

29 50 Q. Yeah, go ahead.

1 A. Well, when I went visiting, P128 and me went into the
2 visitors room and we just sat there, talked.

3 51 Q. So you were --

4 A. Somebody else, some staff member might've come in and
5 P128 would sort of kick a wee bit until they had left a 14:32
6 bit and that was it.

7 52 Q. Okay, we'll stop again. Okay, I'm going to ask you to
8 repeat what you just said, and "P128" or "my son",
9 okay? So what were you telling us there? Go back to
10 what you were saying there. 14:32

11 A. About...

12 53 Q. About visiting him.

13 A. Aye, visiting. Well, we would've went into the
14 visitors room and that's where we sat at, P128 and me,
15 and we talked. An odd night P128 would want to go to 14:32
16 the toilet and I'd have took him to the toilet.

17 54 Q. Okay. And --

18 A. And other nights P128 might've wanted to go on his own
19 to the toilet. That was the night that the staff
20 member stopped him in the corridor, I saw him. Other 14:33
21 than that, there was nothing for him to do and that was
22 just it. I visited him - on a Sunday, probably, visit,
23 Doreen would've been there too and odd time and we'd
24 have took him out for a drive.

25 55 Q. And there wouldn't have been one particular staff 14:33
26 member who would come up to you and say 'ach, Douglas,
27 we're doing this at the moment for P128', or 'P128, you
28 know, this is what we're doing with him' or 'this is
29 how we're treating him', there wouldn't have been

1 anything like that?

2 A. Not really. The only thing that I see here is, if I
3 had anything to report, it would've been H270 I'd have
4 reported to, or else H13.

5 56 Q. And they would've spoken to you about P128? 14:33

6 A. Yeah. Mhm-mhm.

7 57 Q. Okay. And would they tell you what kind of treatment
8 he was getting or anything like that?

9 A. Nothing like that, no.

10 58 Q. Okay. I want to ask you about the different wards he 14:34
11 was on. Because he moved about, okay? And you said
12 that in your statement, he was on different wards,
13 okay? He went into Movilla B first of all, isn't that
14 right, in 2008, he went to Movilla B ward?

15 A. When did he move into B or A? 14:34

16 59 Q. He went into B first, you say in your statement.

17 A. Mhm-mhm.

18 60 Q. Yeah. And then he moved to Movilla A?

19 A. They moved him, 128, into Movilla A.

20 61 Q. And, sorry, he moved in in 1998; how long was he in 14:34
21 Movilla B for when he first...

22 A. Oh, honestly, I don't know how long he would. But he
23 was there longer, he was in Movilla B longer than he
24 was anywhere else during the time 128 was in Muckamore.

25 62 Q. Okay. And he was in Movilla A for a very short time, a 14:34
26 number of days, isn't that right?

27 A. A very short time.

28 63 Q. Okay.

29 A. We thought ourselves that he should haven't been in

1 there.

2 64 Q. Okay.

3 A. And I think 128 was only there maybe a night or two

4 nights and he went back in again to Movilla B.

5 65 Q. Movilla B. And then he eventually moved to M4? 14:35

6 A. After that, 128 ended up in M4, where that, the worst

7 thing that happened to him in Muckamore happened, I

8 thought anyway.

9 66 Q. Happened where? You said the worst thing happened to

10 him in Muckamore? 14:35

11 A. Happened in M4.

12 67 Q. Happened in M4?

13 A. Yeah.

14 68 Q. Okay. How long was he on M4, can you remember --

15 A. Pardon? 14:35

16 69 Q. How long he was on M4?

17 A. I honestly don't remember.

18 70 Q. You don't remember. Okay.

19 A. I don't think it was a long period either.

20 71 Q. Okay. I want to ask you about P128's weight, okay? You 14:35

21 said that he lost a lot of weight when he went to

22 Muckamore?

23 A. Mhm-mhm.

24 72 Q. At what point after he went to Muckamore did you

25 realise 'he's losing weight'? How quickly did that 14:35

26 happen?

27 A. Oh, that's a good question. 128, whenever he got in,

28 he wasn't too bad, but he was down, I would say he was

29 down to about six stone weight. On the period that he

1 was in, he lost his weight.

2 73 Q. And did that happen over a period of months?

3 A. It happened --

4 74 Q. Or years or weeks?

5 A. In Muckamore that happened. 14:36

6 75 Q. In Muckamore? And he went down to six stone. And did
7 that take a few weeks, a few months, a few years?

8 A. Well, over a period of time. But...

9 76 Q. Can you say what that period of time was? Can you
10 recall? 14:36

11 A. We did not know what to think, we thought maybe -- we
12 just didn't know.

13 CHAIRPERSON: From what weight was he? He went down to
14 six stone. What was he before? Do you want to try on
15 my behalf? 14:36

16 77 Q. MS. BRIGGS: So you say he went down to six stone,
17 okay? Can you say what weight he was when he went into
18 Muckamore?

19 A. No.

20 78 Q. You can't say? 14:37

21 A. All I can say was that he was a good bit heavier.

22 79 Q. A good bit heavier. And how long did it take for him
23 to get down to six stone?

24 A. I honestly don't know. Just, the weight went off him,
25 that's all I can say. 14:37

26 80 Q. That's okay. All right, and you've said in your
27 statement that his weight loss didn't improve at all
28 for the nine or ten years he was there.

29 A. Hmm.

1 81 Q. Were you ever aware of him having any contact with a
2 dietician or having a meal plan or anything like that?
3 A. No, not in my time anyway.

4 82 Q. In your statement you also give evidence about P128's
5 personal hygiene, okay? And you said in your statement 14:37
6 it was clear that his hygiene wasn't good when he was
7 at Muckamore. Why do you say that? What was it about
8 his hygiene that you noticed?
9 A. About what?

10 83 Q. About his hygiene, about how clean he was. 14:38
11 A. About his cleanliness?

12 84 Q. Yeah, what did you notice about that?
13 A. Well, just talking about... He never, to me he never
14 was wearing nothing that would really suit him, he was
15 always, he was very badly dressed all the time. And we 14:38
16 were taking him plenty of clothes and stuff, things
17 like that.

18 85 Q. But you also mention about showering and getting
19 washed, yeah? Do you remember -- you've written that in
20 your statement. Do you remember seeing anything about 14:38
21 how he looked in terms of being washed and how he
22 looked in terms of his personal care?
23 A. It's very hard to say. It's like this: Now 128, where
24 he's at, whenever you see him now, he's sitting clean
25 and tidy, everything on him. Whenever he was in 14:38
26 Muckamore, he could've had a slipper on him, he
27 could've had nothing on his feet. And that's just the
28 way he was, everything was throughother; his trousers
29 might've been too short, they might've been too long.

1 And that's just, most of the time that's the way it
2 was.

3 86 Q. And you say "most of the time"; was it the same across
4 the different wards he was in?

5 A. That was nearly most of time he was there. There was 14:39
6 never nothing...

7 87 Q. And in your statement you talk about P128 losing his
8 speech when he went into Muckamore?

9 A. Yeah, his speech went a wee bit too, it definitely did.
10 He never had much speech anyway, but it went that he 14:39
11 spoke very little, if anything, you know?

12 88 Q. And did he get that back over time?

13 A. He's still limited speech, limited speech would be even
14 where he's at now. 128 is -- you know, Sunday, he
15 didn't maybe know it's Sunday, but he knows we'll visit 14:39
16 - 'is Dougie coming, Dougie coming, Dougie coming'?
17 Sorry, I shouldn't have mentioned the name maybe.

18 89 Q. We'll just stop there. That's okay. You're fine, it's
19 absolutely fine, it happens all the time.

20 A. And he'll say, right, I'll put it this way, he says 'is 14:40
21 daddy coming', but he doesn't say 'is daddy coming', he
22 mentions my name.

23 90 Q. Yeah. We can use your name.

24 A. That's what he's doing now.

25 91 Q. Yeah, we can use you name, okay? 14:40
26 A. Mhm-mhm. Sorry, I --

27 92 Q. Yeah, your name is fine, okay?

28 A. I can use my name?

29 93 Q. Yeah.

1 A. That's okay. well, 128 now, he'll be sitting on a
2 Sunday and he'll be well dressed and he'll be fit to
3 say 'is Dougie coming today, Dougie coming today,
4 Dougie coming today?' And on a Wednesday even if we go
5 down, it's something similar and he says his mother's 14:40
6 name too, you know? But down there, he could never do
7 that, never at no time.

8 94 Q. Did his speech improve while he was in Muckamore or was
9 it later on when he moved out of Muckamore?

10 A. Not really. what I'm trying to say is he hasn't got a 14:40
11 good figure of speech. You know, he can't come in here
12 and say hello to you or hello to me. You know, he has
13 limited speech. But it was more limited, to me, in
14 Muckamore and he was more quieter than what it was
15 where he's at now. 14:41

16 95 Q. where he's at now. Okay. I want to ask you a little
17 bit about his medication, okay? You say in your
18 statement that he seemed to be taking a lot more
19 medication when he was in Muckamore compared to where
20 he is now. why do you say that? 14:41

21 A. well, I think it's because 128, he was just worse off
22 then than what he is now. That's only my opinion. And
23 they were feeding him -- he wasn't really eating much,
24 they were feeding him, I don't know, Fortisip or
25 something in Muckamore, they fed him that. And maybe, 14:41
26 I didn't know, that was his weight went down or what,
27 you know?

28 96 Q. But what about his medication? Okay, so, you know,
29 tablets and the like that he's given?

1 A. In Muckamore?

2 97 Q. You've said in your statement that you think he got a
3 lot more medication when he was in Muckamore compared
4 to where he is now.

5 A. That's correct. But, like, I don't know really what he 14:42
6 was getting, now, honestly.

7 98 Q. Okay. But do you think he was getting more in
8 Muckamore because of the way he presented himself to
9 you, or what you made you think he was getting more
10 medication there than he is now? 14:42

11 A. He was getting more in Muckamore.

12 99 Q. You've said in your statement that you think --

13 A. Yeah.

14 100 Q. Yourself and Doreen have said that you think he was
15 getting more medication in Muckamore than he is now, 14:42
16 and I was asking you why do you think that?

17 A. Why do I think that?

18 101 Q. Or why do you know that? And if you don't know, you
19 don't know, that's okay.

20 A. I'm not really sure. But he was on a lot of medication 14:42
21 when he was at Muckamore. But I just don't know
22 what -- now, where he's at now, we know what he's on
23 today, tomorrow, the next day. And Muckamore, we were
24 never told really what he was on.

25 102 Q. Okay. 14:43

26 A. We never got the same advice as what we're getting now.

27 103 Q. Did they tell you anything about what he was on in
28 Muckamore? Did the Muckamore staff tell you anything
29 about the medication he was getting?

1 A. Not really that much, no.

2 104 Q. I'm going to move on, because in your statement you
3 talk about different incidents and different injuries
4 that P128 got when he was in Muckamore. You can hear
5 me okay? 14:43

6 A. Go ahead there.

7 105 Q. I'm going to ask you about different incidents and
8 injuries that P128 got when he was in Muckamore that
9 you've written about in your statement, okay? You say
10 that one night you walked into Movilla B and you saw a 14:43
11 staff member - and you've got your list - H564...

12 A. Mhm-mhm.

13 106 Q. ... with his arm around your son's throat?

14 A. That's correct.

15 107 Q. And you went to see another staff member, who was H270, 14:44
16 about it?

17 A. Yeah.

18 108 Q. After that incident, did you see H564 looking after
19 P128?

20 A. Did I see him again? Yes, he was still there. 14:44

21 109 Q. Still there. And was he looking after P128?

22 A. Oh, aye. Yes, he was still there.

23 110 Q. Sorry, I missed that. Go ahead. I missed you there.
24 what did you say? Repeat what you just said.

25 A. H564? 14:44

26 111 Q. Yes. Did you see him?

27 A. You asked me if he's still there?

28 112 Q. Did you see him with P128 after this happened? Did you
29 see him again looking after P128?

1 A. Did I see him?
2 113 Q. After the incident where he grabbed the throat?
3 A. Well, he was still on duty that night.
4 114 Q. But what about in the months and days after that?
5 A. Oh, he was still there, mhm-mhm. 14:44
6 115 Q. Still there. Okay.
7 A. I get you now, yeah.
8 116 Q. Okay. There's another staff member, H228, who you saw
9 blocking P128?
10 A. Oh -- right, go ahead. 14:45
11 117 Q. You saw him blocking your son's path --
12 A. Yeah, mhm-mhm.
13 118 Q. -- in the corridor?
14 A. One of the nights 128, he went to go to the toilet on
15 his own, and he stopped him three times. In the 14:45
16 visitors room there's a pane of glass, you're fit to
17 see right down to the bottom corridor where the toilets
18 were at. H124 -- or 128 went down, he walked that way
19 and the staff member walked over and blocked him there
20 and 128 went to go that way and he walked over and 14:45
21 blocked him there again, and then he blocked him in the
22 middle. And I got up and I went down to him and I
23 said, I asked him, I asked H228 what was going on, why
24 he'd blocked 128, and he says 'I didn't know where he
25 was going'. So I told him he was going to the toilet. 14:45
26 And he says 'I didn't know that'. So that was it.
27 119 Q. And you've said in your statement that you spoke to H13
28 about it?
29 A. Yes, I spoke to --

1 120 Q. Yes. To H13?
2 A. Mhm-mhm.
3 121 Q. And H13 said that H --
4 A. That's correct, I spoke to H113.
5 122 Q. H13 said -- 14:46
6 A. 13, yeah.
7 123 Q. -- that H228 would be moved tomorrow morning, he told
8 you that that staff member would be moved?
9 A. H13 told me that he was only brought from another ward
10 because they were short on staff and wasn't suitable 14:46
11 from Movilla B and he was going out the next day or the
12 day after.
13 124 Q. And id he get -- was he moved the next day? Did you see
14 him again?
15 A. As far as I know, he was moved, yes. 14:46
16 125 Q. And you also, in your statement, described when P128
17 broke his arm when he's in Movilla B, your son broke
18 his arm when he was in Movilla B?
19 A. Sorry?
20 126 Q. Your son broke his arm when he was in Movilla B? 14:46
21 A. Yeah.
22 127 Q. And staff couldn't say how he broke his arm?
23 A. Well, fractured arm or whatever, yeah. That's correct.
24 128 Q. Without naming any names, what staff -- how many staff
25 did you speak to about the broken arm? 14:47
26 A. Well, they were going to put a heavy cast on it and I
27 think it was maybe me said something about the heavy
28 cast, that it wouldn't suit P128. But they decided
29 then to put a softer --

1 129 Q. We'll just stop there.

2 A. A --

3 130 Q. Sorry, we'll stop you there one wee minute, okay?

4 A. I know.

5 131 Q. That's absolutely fine, you can pick up... 14:47

6 A. Go now?

7 132 Q. Yeah.

8 A. They were going to put a heavy cast on 128 and I

9 thought it wouldn't work out with P128 -- sorry, 128.

10 133 Q. We're just stopping again. You're good to go again. 14:48

11 A. So instead, on P128, to put a lighter cast on him.

12 During the night P128 picked --

13 134 Q. We'll just stop you again.

14 A. Ach, no --

15 135 Q. No, no, you're okay, it happens all the time. Just 14:48

16 take a minute, okay?

17 A. So, on 128, to put a light cast on, which 128 picked

18 off in the night.

19 136 Q. Go ahead.

20 A. And after that, there was nothing more; whatever the 14:48

21 fracture on 128 was, it was just left until it mended

22 itself, that was it.

23 137 Q. And what about how he fractured his arm? Because you

24 say in your statement that no-one in Muckamore could

25 explain how he came to break his arm. 14:49

26 A. No, nobody. We never had no explanation about 128's

27 arm, how it happened.

28 138 Q. Without naming any names, did you speak to one

29 particular member of staff about this or other members

1 of staff?

2 A. I wouldn't say there was one particular one, no.

3 139 Q. Okay, all right.

4 A. Whoever was on at the time, we probably spoke to two or
5 three of them. But there was never no comeback. 14:49

6 140 Q. How would you describe the communication of Muckamore
7 staff generally, how they told you about things and how
8 they spoke to you and your wife? would you say it was
9 good, not good, somewhere in between?

10 A. Spoke to us? 14:50

11 141 Q. Yeah, told you about P128 and things like when he broke
12 his arm. would you describe it as they kept you
13 informed about things or they didn't or...

14 A. I never found nothing really with any of them. well,
15 they were okay with me. Other than the questions we 14:50
16 asked, we never got no definite answers, so we didn't.
17 And now, whenever we think back on it - I know it's
18 maybe different - we maybe should've inquired more.

19 142 Q. Okay. were you ever told, yourself and your wife,
20 about advocacy groups or groups like the Patient Client 14:50
21 Council, who can represent families and help them make
22 complaints or help them in the process of having a
23 family member in Muckamore?

24 A. I'm not getting you. Just, I'm hearing you, but I just
25 don't know what you mean. 14:51

26 143 Q. Were you ever aware of any support groups that could
27 help you with looking after your son while he's in
28 Muckamore, making complaints about Muckamore or
29 anything like that?

1 A. No.

2 144 Q. No? You never heard of the likes of the Patient Client
3 Council or anything like that?

4 A. No.

5 145 Q. No? Okay. And when you went to staff with your 14:51
6 concerns, when you went to them and were concerned
7 about things like that you had seen in terms of
8 injuries to P128, did any staff member tell you about
9 writing your complaint down and doing a formal
10 complaint? 14:51

11 A. Did they what?

12 146 Q. So when you went to staff members and you were
13 concerned about things that you saw --

14 A. Yeah, go ahead.

15 147 Q. -- did any staff member say to you 'you can write this 14:51
16 down and submit a written complaint'? Did anyone say
17 anything like that?

18 A. Not really, no.

19 148 Q. No? Okay, all right. I just want to, very briefly, ask 14:52
20 you about where he is now. Because you've already told
21 us a wee bit about what he's like now where he is,
22 okay? When he first went to his new place - okay, it's
23 not new any more, because he's been there for quite a
24 while, okay - can you remember were there any other
25 places that were discussed for him or was it always 14:52
26 just that place that he's in now? When they moved him
27 out of Muckamore?

28 A. When he moved to...

29 149 Q. To the place he's in now.

1 A. He's at now?

2 150 Q. Was there any discussion about any other places for
3 him? Did they ever say he might go to a different
4 place, or 'there's other places available', or was it
5 always that one place that he was going to go to? 14:52

6 A. No, it was just that one place.

7 151 Q. That one place. Okay. And very briefly, can you tell
8 the Panel how he's doing there now, what's it like for
9 him, compared to what Muckamore was like?

10 A. Pardon? 14:52

11 152 Q. Can you tell the Panel what it's like for him in his
12 new place - it's not new, but he's been there for a
13 good while, okay? But how does it compare to Muckamore?

14 A. For 128?

15 153 Q. Yes. 14:53

16 A. Where he's at now?

17 154 Q. Yes.

18 A. Brilliant.

19 155 Q. Why do you say that? Why do you say that?

20 A. Because he's in such good form. 14:53

21 156 Q. Okay.

22 A. Better.

23 157 Q. All right.

24 A. No matter what happens, if it's -- if he had a pimple,
25 they would lift a phone and tell you he had it. 14:53

26 158 Q. Okay.

27 A. And it's the best of treatment.

28 159 Q. Okay.

29 A. He's still difficult at times, but not that bad. He's

1 really transformed. But if there is any serious
2 problems with him, if I can say this - well, maybe I --
3 well, it's not -- 128 had a partial hip replacement.
4 Can I say that?

5 160 Q. Yes, you can say that. 14:53

6 A. That?

7 161 Q. That's fine.

8 A. Up in Altnagelvin Hospital, where he's at now, and they
9 sent a member of staff to stay with him every night
10 when he was in hospital and I stayed most nights with 14:54
11 him too. And that's a big difference. And they
12 brought him back again and looked after him the whole
13 of the time.

14 162 Q. Okay. Before I give the Panel a chance to ask you some
15 questions, I want to give you a chance to say anything 14:54
16 you'd like to say about P128 and his time in Muckamore.
17 Is there anything that you'd like to tell the Panel?

18 A. It's hard, hard, hard. I think from my point of view,
19 knowing what I know now, if there had've been anywhere
20 else, he wouldn't have been in Muckamore. That's all I 14:54
21 can say. I don't know if I'm saying it right properly.
22 If I had've knew what was going on, 128...

23 163 Q. It's okay, absolutely fine, we'll just take a wee
24 pause.

25 A. ... would never have been there. 14:55

26 164 Q. No, just bear with me one wee minute. You're okay, you
27 can go ahead now.

28 A. Okay.

29 165 Q. Yeah?

1 A. Well, that's what I think. On behalf of me and the
2 wife, I think if we had've knew then what we know now,
3 P128 would never have been in Muckamore.

4 166 Q. Sorry, we'll just stop again. It's very difficult.
5 You're okay to go on. 14:55

6 A. If we had've knew what we know now, 128 never would
7 have been in Muckamore.

8 MS. BRIGGS: All right, I'm going to hand over to the
9 Panel now. They might ask you some questions, okay?

10 CHAIRPERSON: No, I've asked my colleagues, we don't 14:55
11 have any questions for you. So you're all done, all
12 right? So thank you very much, both of you, for coming
13 to help us. And that is the end of your evidence. So
14 thank you for telling us about your son. All right?
15 would you like to go with Jaclyn? Thank you very much. 14:56
16 And Jaclyn, if you could just repeat those thanks in
17 the room.

18 A. Thank you very much.

19 CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

20 A. Thank you very much. 14:56

21 CHAIRPERSON: All right. And well done, Ms. Briggs.

22 MS. BRIGGS: Thank you, Chair. I apologise to everyone
23 who had to listen to my shrill tones for the afternoon.

24 CHAIRPERSON: All right. So tomorrow we have got a
25 rather fuller day, starting at 10 o'clock. 14:56

26 MS. BRIGGS: I think it's P8's mother at 10 o'clock.

27 CHAIRPERSON: Yes, all right. Thank you very much
28 indeed thank you everybody.

29 MS. BRIGGS: Thank you.

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THE INQUIRY WAS THEN ADJOURNED UNTIL TUESDAY, 26TH
SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 11:00