

THE TRIBUNAL OF INQUIRY INTO CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO
THE COMPLAINTS PROCESSES IN THE DEFENCE FORCES AND THE
CULTURE SURROUNDING THE MAKING OF complaints AS
ESTABLISHED ON 20TH DAY OF JUNE 2024 BY S.I.304/2024

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TRIBUNAL OF INQUIRY BEFORE
THE SOLE MEMBER, MS. JUSTICE ANN POWER,
AT THE INFINITY BUILDING, THIRD FLOOR,
GEORGE'S COURT, GEORGE'S LANE, SMITHFIELD, DUBLIN 7
ON FRIDAY, 10TH JULY 2026 - DAY 22

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1 THE TRIBUNAL RESUMED AS FOLLOWS ON FRIDAY, 10TH JULY
2 2026:

3
4 SOLE MEMBER: Good morning. Mr. McGovern.

5 MR. McGOVERN: Good morning, Judge. The next witness 10:30
6 is Mr. Thomas Anthony Wall. I can see Mr. Wall's
7 picture. Good morning, Mr. Wall. Can you hear us?

8 THE WITNESS: I can, yes.

9 MR. McGOVERN: Thank you very much. Good morning to
10 you and thank you for joining us and for engaging with 10:30
11 the Tribunal. I think the Registrar will swear you in
12 first before we proceed.

13
14 MR. THOMAS ANTHONY WALL, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS
15 EXAMINED BY MR. McGOVERN, AS FOLLOWS: 10:30

16
17 1 Q. MR. McGOVERN: Good morning, Mr. Wall. Can I, firstly,
18 say that, as you may be aware, the Tribunal is
19 investigating the effectiveness of the complaints
20 processes and the culture within the Defence Forces in 10:31
21 relation to complaints of abuse. The Tribunal is not
22 permitted to make findings in relation to the
23 well-foundedness of complaints of abuse. For that
24 reason, you are required to refrain from disclosing the
25 names of any alleged perpetrators in your evidence 10:31
26 today.

27
28 where it is necessary to refer to such individuals, you
29 must do so by using their rank or the pseudonym given

1 to them by the Tribunal. Do you understand that?

2 A. I do.

3 2 Q. Thank you very much. Now, Mr. Wall, because your
4 interview is remote, I am going to say the good news is
5 hopefully I won't be too long; secondly, I am going to 10:31
6 take my time. If you don't hear something or you want
7 to pause for anything, please tell us, all right?

8 A. Okay.

9 3 Q. Now, just over the last six weeks, the Tribunal has
10 been hearing evidence from a number of former 10:32
11 apprentices in the Army Apprentice School in Devoy
12 Barracks in Naas. There are certain things that I have
13 to put to you for the record, all right? Some of them
14 may have occurred before you were appointed, some may
15 have occurred afterwards, and there may be others that 10:32
16 occurred within your reign, if I may put it that way,
17 of which you may be unaware. So I am putting the
18 things -- these facts to you to give you a chance to
19 comment on them, okay?

20 A. Okay. 10:32

21 4 Q. Now, to start by way of introduction, I think you
22 enlisted in the Defence Forces as a cadet in January
23 1953?

24 A. Correct.

25 5 Q. And I think you were commissioned in December '54? 10:32

26 A. Correct.

27 6 Q. And you, ultimately, retired I think in 1996 when you
28 were a major general?

29 A. Correct.

1 7 Q. And if my maths is correct, that's a career of some 43
2 years?

3 A. Correct.

4 8 Q. In January 1991, you were promoted to Brigadier
5 General. And on your promotion -- 10:33

6 A. No, it was in April.

7 9 Q. In April. Sorry, I wasn't sure of the time. It was in
8 April, thank you for clarifying that. So in April '91,
9 you were promoted to Brigadier General, and you took
10 over as GOC in the Curragh Command, is that correct? 10:33

11 A. Correct.

12 10 Q. So was your office based in The Curragh itself?

13 A. Yes.

14 11 Q. But under your command, included in the Curragh
15 Command, was, as I understand it, the Army Apprentice 10:33
16 School at Devoy barracks in Naas?

17 A. Correct.

18 12 Q. Now, the first event or series of events I want to ask
19 you about, just to give you a chance to comment,
20 Mr. Wall, is that between November '89 and May 1990, 10:34
21 there were eight allegations of abuse against
22 2nd Lt. B. They involved -- it was over a seven-month
23 period, involving five different apprentices. Did you
24 know anything about that? I presume you didn't. If
25 you were appointed GOC in April '91, that would have 10:34
26 been before your appointment, am I correct in that?

27 A. Correct.

28 13 Q. All right. We also know, and I think this is common
29 case because the 2nd Lieutenant himself admits it,

1 that, in October 1980, he was paraded by the then GOC.
2 October '90, am I correct that that again was before
3 your appointment?
4 A. Correct.
5 14 Q. On 11th May of 1991 - that was just about a month after 10:34
6 your appointment - Aptce. Damien Traynor had a
7 breakdown, and he subsequently applied for a discharge
8 by purchase. During that process, he made certain
9 allegations, four allegations against 2nd Lt. B. That
10 resulted in the Officer Commanding, OC Hayes, 10:35
11 appointing Cpt. O'Keeffe to conduct an inquiry. Did
12 you know anything about that inquiry at that time?
13 A. No.
14 15 Q. Ultimately, Cpt. O'Keeffe furnished a report, which is
15 dated 16th May of 1991, and that was sent to OC Hayes. 10:35
16 Did you know anything about that report?
17 A. No.
18 16 Q. On the same day, that's the 16th May of 1991, OC Hayes
19 sent a report to the GOC in The Curragh, and it's
20 headed "Application for Discharge", and that was an 10:35
21 application for discharge of Aptce. Traynor. Can I ask
22 you, Mr. Wall, an application by an apprentice for
23 discharge from his post as an apprentice, if that --
24 was that something that you would deal with personally
25 in your office? 10:36
26 A. I think so, yes.
27 17 Q. All right. Have you any recollection at this stage of
28 an application by Mr. Traynor for his discharge in May
29 of '91?

1 A. No.

2 18 Q. The report, it's said you -- as I said, in fairness,
3 it's headed -- it's at page, Judge, 2719 for the
4 record. Because we're remote, I don't propose to open
5 documents unless it's absolutely necessary, but for the 10:36
6 record I will refer to them. It's headed "Application
7 for Discharge by Purchase". It's about a four or
8 five-page document and in the course --

9 A. I've seen it.

10 19 Q. You've seen it. In the course of that document, it 10:37
11 refers to allegations that were made by Mr. Traynor,
12 and it states that they appear to be made for the
13 purpose of justifying his application for discharge to
14 his parents. That was on 16th May in 1991. Were you a
15 party to any discussions that took place or may have 10:37
16 taken place after Mr. Traynor's breakdown and
17 application for discharge in relation to removal or
18 reappointment of 2nd Lt. B?

19 A. I have no recollection of it.

20 20 Q. On Thursday, 20th June of 1991, there was an incident 10:37
21 in Kilbride Firing Range and also afterwards in Devoy
22 Barracks. And two days later, on Saturday, 22nd June,
23 Aptce. Oliver Mullaney died. How did you come to hear
24 about that, Mr. Wall?

25 A. My recollection is that when I went to Naas -- or, 10:38
26 sorry, when I went to The Curragh on the following
27 Monday, that I was told by -- about it.

28 21 Q. So that would have been Monday, 24th June?

29 A. I'm not sure, but that's my recollection, that it was

1 when I went back to The Curragh, after the weekend.

2 22 Q. Okay. You attended, I think, for interview with the
3 Tribunal, do you recall that, with myself? And, again,
4 that was remote.

5 A. Yeah. 10:38

6 23 Q. Yeah. Just at page 3696 - I just refer to this - you
7 say:
8
9 "I was only new to The Curragh and I was new to the
10 Apprentice School and I didn't know the background to 10:38
11 2nd Lt. B at all. I first heard of 2nd Lt. B after the
12 suicide of Mr. Mullaney."
13
14 Is that correct, that's your recollection of --

15 A. That's my recollection, yeah. 10:39

16 24 Q. Fine. You said when you heard about that - this is at
17 paragraph 5 and going into paragraph 6 of your
18 statement at page 3691 - you said that you immediately
19 had the 2nd Lieutenant called before you or brought to
20 your office, is that correct? 10:39

21 A. Well, that's my recollection, yeah.

22 25 Q. Yeah. And --

23 A. I have a definite recollection of having Lt. Hayes in
24 my office.

25 26 Q. All right. 10:39

26 A. Sorry, Lt. B.

27 27 Q. Your office was in The Curragh, is that correct?

28 A. Yes.

29 28 Q. Rather than in Devoy.

1 A. No, it was in The Curragh.

2 29 Q. In The Curragh. So you had the 2nd Lieutenant brought
3 to you in The Curragh, is that correct?

4 A. Well, I don't remember how I brought him in, but
5 there's a document there saying that he applied for an 10:40
6 interview with me.

7 30 Q. Yeah.

8 A. So, one way or the other, I'm not too sure how it came
9 about, but I had -- I have a definite recollection of
10 having Lt. Hayes in my office. 10:40

11 31 Q. This is -- you're referring to 2nd Lt. B, is it?

12 A. Sorry, Lt. B, Lt. B.

13 32 Q. Yes, all right. In your office in The Curragh?

14 A. That's correct.

15 33 Q. You said that you asked him about the events of the 10:40
16 previous Thursday and Saturday, and that he sought to
17 explain them by saying that he had learned these
18 training methods in the Military College. What was
19 your reaction to that, Mr. Wall?

20 A. I just didn't believe it. 10:40

21 34 Q. Can you expand on that? I mean, how did you feel about
22 this explanation?

23 A. I thought it was terrible, I thought that it was never
24 -- I thought that it was wrong.

25 35 Q. Okay. In your statement at paragraph 5, you say: 10:41
26
27 "I was very much not inclined to believe this. I told
28 him such behaviour was completely unacceptable and that
29 I was very concerned and annoyed."

1 October of 1991. Do you have any recollection of
2 receiving that report?

3 A. I don't.

4 45 Q. And that report is at 4455, Judge.

5 SOLE MEMBER: Thank you. 10:43

6 A. Yeah, I've read it.

7 46 Q. MR. McGOVERN: Yes. Can I refer you to a document at
8 -- I think it's 4432. Yes, you say in your statement,
9 Mr. Wall, that shortly after the Oliver Mullaney
10 incident, that you left your post as GOC in The 10:43
11 Curragh, you were promoted to Major General, and you
12 moved, I think, to headquarters in Dublin. Do you know
13 when that was?

14 A. It was in April '92. April '92.

15 47 Q. April '92. Thank you. 10:44

16 A. I spent nearly a year in The Curragh.

17 48 Q. All right. There's a document which is dated 7th
18 November of 1991, and it's at page 4432. I will just
19 quote it to you, if I may. It's signed by you,
20 Brigadier General Command Curragh, addressed to the 10:44
21 Adjutant General, and it relates to "Devoy Barracks
22 Naas apprentice training, ill-treatment of
23 subordinates", and at paragraph 2 it says, and I will
24 just read it:

25 10:44

26 "The Military Police report dated 14th August 1991
27 contains certain allegations of ill-treatment of
28 subordinates. These allegations concern two junior
29 officers outlined at paragraph 3(a) and 4. The

1 follow-up action being taken in relation to these
2 allegations..."

3
4 -- and if I may skip down to subparagraph (a) of 3:

5
6 "The two officers against whom the allegations were
7 made have been removed and replaced."

8
9 And then paragraph 4 below says:

10
11 "Contemplated action: I have initiated action against
12 the two junior officers who were the subject of the
13 allegations of ill-treatment, with a view to the
14 application of paragraph 97A, DFR A7 - Admonition."

15
16 Do you recall initiating admonition proceedings against
17 two officers arising out of the Oliver Mullaney
18 incident?

19 A. I don't.

20 49 Q. You don't recall?

21 A. But when I saw that document, it was definitely my
22 signature.

23 50 Q. Yes. So you accept that that's what you would have
24 done?

25 A. Oh, that's what I said -- that's what I told the
26 Adjutant General, definitely. Because --

27 51 Q. And have you -- sorry?

28 A. That's definitely my signature on the document up to
29 the Adjutant General.

1 52 Q. Have you any knowledge of what became of those
2 admonition proceedings subsequently?
3 A. No, I can't remember.
4 53 Q. At paragraph 3(b) of that document, the same document,
5 it says: 10:46
6
7 "I paraded OC AAS..."
8
9 -- "OC AAS", is that the Officer Commanding of the
10 Apprentice School in Devoy Barracks in Naas? 10:46
11 A. Yes.
12 54 Q. And that would have been Mr. Hayes, is that correct, at
13 the time?
14 A. Correct, but I don't remember doing it.
15 55 Q. All right. It's just that: 10:46
16
17 "I paraded OC AAS and impressed upon him the need to
18 ensure that proper treatment be given to apprentices
19 and indicated some particular areas where this might be
20 put into effect." 10:46
21
22 Have you any knowledge at this stage of the parading of
23 OC Hayes?
24 A. No.
25 56 Q. Finally, can I ask you just a question, if I may, 10:46
26 Mr. Wall, that where a member of the Defence Forces
27 dies in service, is there a procedure for holding a
28 court of inquiry?
29 A. I forget.

1 57 Q. You forget, all right. So at this remove, would you
2 know whether such a requirement was mandatory or
3 optional?
4 A. No.

5 58 Q. No. And do you know or can you recall whether such an 10:47
6 inquiry was held?
7 A. I don't.

8 59 Q. All right. Thank you very much, Mr. Wall. My Friends
9 may have some questions for you. Thank you, indeed.
10 SOLE MEMBER: Thank you. Mr. Lehane. 10:47
11 MR. LEHANE: Thank you very much. Good morning, Sole
12 Member.
13

14 MR. WALL WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. LEHANE, AS FOLLOWS:
15 10:47

16 60 Q. MR. LEHANE: Mr. Wall, can you hear me?
17 A. Yes.

18 61 Q. Darren Lehane is my name, and we've met, and I'm going
19 to ask you some questions now, if I may. I won't be
20 too long. Just, again, you were appointed the General 10:48
21 Officer Commanding of The Curragh Command on 22nd April
22 1991, I think?
23 A. Correct.

24 62 Q. And Mr. McGovern referred you to the application for
25 discharge by purchase of Damien Traynor to the General 10:48
26 Officer Commanding of The Curragh Command dated 16th
27 May 1991; you have seen that document, yes?
28 A. Yes.

29 63 Q. You have no recollection of the application for

1 discharge by Damien Traynor, though?

2 A. No, I have no recollection of it, but I have seen the
3 document afterwards in the folders I got.

4 64 Q. And just in relation to the events of June 1991, you
5 have told Counsel to the Tribunal that you became aware 10:48
6 of the death of Oliver Mullaney on the Monday following
7 -- or the Monday in June following the incident, yes.

8 A. Yes.

9 65 Q. Okay. And you have been referred to the letter from
10 2nd Lt. B requesting a transfer from the AAS and 10:49
11 requesting an interview with you to discuss his
12 concerns. That's the letter dated 28th June 1991?

13 A. I don't remember it, but it's there, I've seen it.

14 66 Q. You've seen it in the context of the documents that you
15 have been provided with for this? 10:49

16 A. I have seen it in the documentation.

17 67 Q. Yes. And I think you were adamant that while you can't
18 remember when it happened precisely, but you are
19 adamant that you did have a meeting with 2 Lt. B?

20 A. I did. 10:49

21 68 Q. Yes. The reason I am asking are you adamant is 2 Lt. B
22 said in his evidence to the Tribunal that he didn't get
23 an interview with you -- that's on Day 17, the answer
24 to Q. 306, Sole Member, on page 63. So you are adamant
25 that you did meet him, General? 10:49

26 A. I'm adamant that I had him in my office. I remember it
27 well.

28 69 Q. Yes. Again, in the documents that you have been
29 provided with, I think you have seen a letter to you

1 from the Assistant Provost Marshal attaching a Military
2 Police report dated 14th August 1991?

3 A. I've seen that and I don't remember it.

4 70 Q. Yes. And I think you have also seen a letter dated
5 21st October 1991 from the Adjutant seeking 10:50
6 explanations from Lt. A and 2nd Lt. B on behalf of you?

7 A. Yeah, I don't remember that but it's there in the
8 documentation.

9 71 Q. And, Sole Member, that's at 4426 and 4427, those
10 letters. 10:50

11

12 In terms of the documentation as well, I think you have
13 seen a letter from Col. Hayes dated 25th October 1991
14 to you attaching, as requested, the Military Police
15 report dated 14th August 1991. You have seen that in 10:50
16 preparation for the hearing today, yes, General?

17 A. I have seen it, yeah.

18 72 Q. Again, but you don't have any recollection of getting
19 it at the time?

20 A. No, I don't remember -- I may have forgotten. 10:51

21 73 Q. Okay, well, I just might pause there and ask you a
22 question. Am I correct in understanding that your
23 memory -- sorry, you're 90 -- or what age are you now?

24 A. 92.

25 74 Q. So you're 92 years of age. Am I correct in 10:51
26 understanding your memory of these events of over 30
27 years ago is fairly limited, is that right?

28 A. Like, I've written down there what I remember. I
29 remember distinctly having Lt. B in my office --

1 75 Q. But you're not -- sorry, General.
2 A. And I remember distinctly having Lt. Ryan -- after I
3 interviewed Lt. B, I asked my adjutant for the best
4 officer available in The Curragh to send him to Naas
5 and that was -- that turned out to be Lt. Ryan. And I 10:52
6 sent Lt. Ryan up to Naas and, from what I seen in the
7 documentation, they arrived -- he arrived just in time
8 for the passing out parade of the 33rd Platoon.
9 76 Q. Yes, General. And the Sole Member has had the evidence
10 of General -- of now Gen. Ryan in terms of his arrival. 10:52
11
12 But just in terms of the letters, you are confirming to
13 the Tribunal that when you received the documentation
14 and you saw your signature on documents, you are not
15 disputing that any of these are your documents. And, 10:52
16 similarly, where you are listed as an addressee of the
17 documents, you are not disputing that you received any
18 of those documents, I think that's a fair assessment?
19 A. No, I'm not, no.
20 77 Q. Yeah, thank you. And I think, again, in the documents 10:52
21 you have seen the letter that Mr. McGovern from the
22 Tribunal referred you to dated 7th November 1991 from
23 you to the Adjutant General providing a summary of the
24 corrective actions taken and the reference to the
25 admonition proceedings, yes? 10:53
26 A. That was my signature, definitely.
27 78 Q. Yes. Can you just again, because you were the first
28 senior officer who was there at the time, just tell the
29 Sole Member what the role of the Adjutant General in

1 the Defence Forces was at that time?

2 A. The Adjutant General, there was three -- the Army was a
3 kind of a three-headed system. There was the Chief of
4 Staff, the Adjutant General and the Quartermaster
5 General. And the Adjutant General definitely dealt 10:53
6 with personnel; the Chief of Staff dealt with
7 operations; and the Quartermaster General dealt with,
8 well, quartermastering stuff.

9 79 Q. And again you were the Adjutant General, so just in
10 terms of -- why would the Adjutant General have been 10:54
11 receiving correspondence from you in relation to
12 corrective action taken against -- or corrective action
13 taken and references to admonition proceedings?

14 A. Well, as I understood it, the Adjutant General was the
15 arbiter of those things. 10:54

16 80 Q. And again in the documentation, you have been referred
17 to the letter of 23rd December 1991 where the GOC is
18 seeking permission from the Adjutant General in
19 relation to admonition, and I think that was at 4437,
20 Sole Member. 10:54

21 SOLE MEMBER: Thank you.

22 81 Q. MR. LEHANE: And I think there is also, I noticed in
23 the papers on page 4430, a handwritten letter to you
24 from the Office of the Deputy Judge Advocate general
25 stating: 10:54

26

27 "Since you consider his explanation to be
28 unsatisfactory, it is open to you to recommend that he
29 be awarded admonition."

1 That's at 4430, Sole Member. Do you recall that,
2 seeing that in the papers?

3 A. I don't, but I've seen the document and I recognise the
4 handwriting of the Deputy Judge Advocate General
5 because he was there when I was Adjutant General and he 10:55
6 wrote a whole load of opinions for me on the same type
7 of script.

8 82 Q. And, sorry, just again, what is the role of a deputy
9 judge advocate general?

10 A. A deputy -- oh, he's the top legal man. He's the -- 10:55
11 he's the adviser to the general staff of anything
12 legal.

13 83 Q. Thank you, General. And I think you were promoted to
14 the rank of Major General on 15th April 1992 and you
15 took on the role of Adjutant General of the Defence 10:55
16 Forces?

17 A. Yes.

18 84 Q. And again in the papers, there's a letter dated 7th
19 December 1992 from the then GOC of The Curragh Command
20 to yourself, as Adjutant General, advising that 10:56
21 following a review of 2 Lt. B's performance, the
22 admonition should not proceed. You've seen that at
23 4437?

24 A. I have seen that, yes.

25 85 Q. And the letter of 29th January 1993 from the Officer 10:56
26 Records Section, Adjutant General's Branch to the GOC,
27 Curragh Command, advising of the approval of the
28 Adjutant General to the recommendation in the letter
29 above at 4431. You see that?

1 A. I have seen that, yes.

2 MR. LEHANE: Sole Member, there were other issues dealt

3 with in the interviews and statements that haven't been

4 dealt with by Mr. McGovern, so I am not going to ask

5 any questions in relation to that. 10:56

6 SOLE MEMBER: Thank you, Mr. Lehane.

7 MR. LEHANE: Thank you very much, General.

8 MR. LYONS: I don't have any questions.

9 SOLE MEMBER. No questions, thank you. Good morning,

10 Mr. Compton. 10:56

11

12 MR. WALL WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. COMPTON, AS FOLLOWS

13

14 86 Q. MR. COMPTON: Good morning, Mr. Wall. My name is Gary

15 Compton. I am representing a number of past 10:56

16 apprentices of the 34th Platoon, and I just have a

17 short number of questions for you.

18

19 Can you explain to the Sole Member that if a recruit or

20 an apprentice is willing to pay the required discharge 10:57

21 fee, under what circumstances would you refuse the

22 application for discharge?

23 A. I can't think of any reason why I wouldn't.

24 87 Q. So, in the case -- I am representing Mr. Traynor, and

25 I'm not -- I understand you weren't aware or you can't 10:57

26 recall, and I may just come back to that, but you

27 certainly can't recall the circumstances of Mr.

28 Traynor. But the evidence has, I think, established

29 that he did have a breakdown in May 1991. He did cause

1 damage to the poolroom in the Army Apprentice School.
2 He was confined to the Guardroom and his belt and laces
3 were removed. Now, can I first ask, were you aware of
4 that, or does that -- can you recall any of that?

5 A. I am completely unaware of that. 10:58

6 88 Q. Because I just -- to me, it suggests -- or it sounds
7 like quite an extraordinary incident and I'm just
8 hoping it may jog your memory, but, if it doesn't, it
9 doesn't. But in those circumstances, where somebody
10 like Damien Traynor, against -- and I am asking this in 10:58
11 a general context given you can't remember the
12 specifics -- but given that context, an application to
13 discharge where Mr. Traynor was willing to pay the
14 money, it was very unlikely that that application would
15 be refused, isn't that reasonable? 10:58

16 A. Well, I've read that. I don't remember at the time,
17 but I've read that application and I've studied it and
18 I can think of no reason why I would have refused it.

19 89 Q. And indeed, from your first answer, even if it wasn't
20 as detailed as it turned out to be, and I know you have 10:59
21 seen it now, given that Mr. Traynor was willing to pay
22 the purchase fee, it was likely he was going to be
23 granted his request, isn't that a fair assumption?

24 A. Absolutely, yeah.

25 90 Q. Indeed. So, again, I'd ask you to comment -- if you 10:59
26 can't recall, that is absolutely fine -- was the
27 discharge application on behalf of Mr. Traynor or the
28 document you now have read dated 16th May 1991 from
29 Col. Hayes, did that strike you as being unusual in the

1 level of detail that it contained, in circumstances
2 where it was very likely, if not inevitable, that the
3 application would be granted?

4 A. well, it was the only application I ever got.

5 91 Q. In your career, or is that just in respect of the Army 10:59
6 Apprentice School?

7 A. well, I knew from my time in Army Headquarters that
8 apprentices needed to buy themselves out if they left
9 before the allotted time, and I thought it was a matter
10 of kind of -- a usual event. But it was the first time 11:00
11 that I ever had to deal with the actual application.

12 92 Q. And I think I -- I think I do know the answer, but I
13 just want to give you the opportunity -- you do recall
14 considering the removal of 2 Lt. B after the death of
15 Oliver Mullaney. Do you recall at any time prior to 11:00
16 the death of Oliver Mullaney considering the removal of
17 2 Lt. B?

18 A. No, I was completely unaware of him until I heard about
19 the death of Oliver Mullaney.

20 93 Q. Can I just finish with a general question, again 11:01
21 conscious that specific recollection may not be
22 available. But, in general terms, given your
23 experience, if there is an investigation into serious
24 allegations, would you expect or have expected that, as
25 part of that investigation, both the complainant and 11:01
26 the accused would have been interviewed?

27 A. Yeah. Yes.

28 94 Q. Thank you. No further questions.

29 SOLE MEMBER: Thank you, Mr. Compton. Mr. McGuinness.

1
2 MR. WALL WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. McGUINNESS, AS
3 FOLLOWS:
4

5 95 Q. MR. McGUINNESS: Good morning, Mr. wall, can you hear 11:01
6 me?

7 A. Good morning. Yes.

8 96 Q. I'm appearing for the Minister for Defence in this
9 matter - my name is Diarmaid McGuinness - and I have
10 just a couple of questions. Can I ask you to just 11:01
11 clarify for me, when did you cease to be GOC of The
12 Curragh Command?

13 A. In April '92.

14 97 Q. In April '92. You had earlier, obviously, sought that
15 Lt. B would be admonished. And did you ever receive a 11:02
16 decision on that while you were still in your position?

17 A. Well, I don't remember it, but there it is in writing,
18 I got it in writing -- I got it in writing from the
19 Officer Records -- that's the Adjutant General had
20 approved of it. 11:02

21 98 Q. You got that in writing?

22 A. Well, I saw the document there somewhere.

23 99 Q. Yes. It's just there is a later document, I think, in
24 February, I think, 1992 -- '93, I beg your pardon,
25 which appears to record that you had sought the 11:02
26 admonition, no instruction had been given to proceed
27 with it, and the GOC then of The Curragh Command, who
28 was not you, I understand, sought a report from the
29 officer commanding Lt. B at that time and, on the basis

1 of that, decided to discontinue the admonition. Did
2 you -- were you aware of that at the time or is that
3 something --

4 A. No, I wasn't.

5 100 Q. You weren't? 11:03

6 A. Well, my understanding is that DFR A7 was amended some
7 time around that time to exclude admonitions, and all
8 admonitions were deleted from the records of any
9 officer.

10 101 Q. Yes. After a period of five years, I think? 11:03

11 A. No, immediately.

12 102 Q. Is that right, immediately?

13 A. Yes, immediately. It happened -- it happened some time
14 at the beginning of '92.

15 103 Q. All right. Is that your understanding of why the 11:04
16 admonition process wasn't authorised, as it were, by
17 the Adjutant General at that time?

18 A. No, it's not. I have no real recollection of that, but
19 I have -- I have been informed afterwards by a
20 colleague of mine that he, from Officer Records, issued 11:04
21 instructions to the -- to the Army to delete all
22 references to admonitions of everybody.

23 104 Q. Okay. Thank you for that. Can I ask you just about
24 one other matter? You paid a visit to the father of an
25 apprentice after having got a request from the Adjutant 11:04
26 General to go and see the apprentice's father, do you
27 remember that?

28 A. I do, yes.

29 105 Q. And I think you hadn't been given a letter, but had you

1 been told that a letter had come expressing concern
2 from an apprentice's father about his son and the
3 safety of his son and the apprentices, and that you
4 were to visit the father?

5 A. The Adjutant General rang me up -- 11:05

6 106 Q. Yes.

7 A. -- and told me that he had got a complaint from Alan
8 Dukes that there was abuse of something -- of
9 Mr. Murphy's son. Now, I wasn't given details of it,
10 but he told me to go down and see Mr. Murphy, the 11:06
11 father, and I did go down to see him. And I -- my
12 recollection of the meeting was that he was concerned
13 about a statement that his son had made to the Military
14 Police and he didn't want to get in trouble for it,
15 that's my recollection of it. And, anyway, there was 11:06
16 no -- like, the meeting I had with him was pleasant and
17 I assured him that everything would be okay, I think.

18 107 Q. Yes.

19 A. And I went back then.

20 108 Q. But did you understand from the Adjutant General that 11:06
21 Mr. Murphy's father had given a letter to the Minister?

22 A. No. No. I didn't -- he didn't mention a letter. My
23 recollection is that he didn't mention a letter.

24 109 Q. Okay.

25 A. He told me that he had been talking to Alan Dukes. 11:07

26 110 Q. Yes. And I think you told the Tribunal in interview
27 that they seemed reassured by your visit, so you must
28 have been able to - I suggest, perhaps - inform them of
29 something, of some action you were going to take or

1 maybe you had taken. Can you recollect how you
2 reassured them?

3 A. I can't remember the timelines, but --

4 111 Q. Yes.

5 A. -- the minute I met -- the day I met Lt. B, I moved him 11:07
6 immediately. And I suspect at this stage that I was
7 able to tell Mr. Murphy that Lt. B had been moved. I
8 expect that now, but the timelines were -- the
9 timelines, I don't remember the timelines exactly. I
10 can't remember whether I had moved Lt. B before I met 11:08
11 Mr. Murphy.

12 112 Q. Yes, but you think it's probable that you did, as I
13 understand from what you're saying there?

14 A. Yes, I do, I think it's possible -- it's probable.

15 MR. MCGUINNESS: Okay, thank you. 11:08

16 SOLE MEMBER: Thank you, Mr. McGuinness.

17

18 MR. WALL WAS QUESTIONED BY THE SOLE MEMBER, AS FOLLOWS:

19

20 113 Q. SOLE MEMBER: Good morning, Mr. Wall. 11:08

21 A. Good morning.

22 114 Q. My name is Ann Power and I am the Sole Member of the
23 Tribunal. As you are aware, I am charged with
24 conducting an investigation into the complaints
25 processes that were available to members of the Defence 11:08
26 Forces in relation to complaints of abuse. Part of the
27 remit of the Tribunal is to investigate and report on
28 whether there was a culture within the Defence Forces
29 that discouraged the making of complaints of abuse or

1 actively deterred the making of complaints of abuse.
2 And the Tribunal has heard evidence from former members
3 of the Army Apprentice School in Naas of abuse that
4 they suffered, and there was a wide range of evidence
5 was given to the Tribunal.

11:09

6
7 Mr. Traynor, in particular, who was the subject of the
8 application for discharge that you were dealing with,
9 he has told the Tribunal of the pressure he was under
10 from the methods that were being used, if I can put it
11 that way; that he was broken, he was suicidal, and he
12 wanted the pain to stop by the time he suffered this
13 psychological breakdown; and had been self-harming, was
14 found in a state where he had cut his arms.

11:09

15
16 Now, yesterday, Officer Commanding Hayes was taken
17 through the investigation that was conducted following
18 allegations which Mr. Traynor made on the day he was
19 leaving the Army Apprentice School. You might recall
20 his parents had paid a significant sum of money at the
21 time to remove him from the school. His mother gave
22 evidence of her concern for her son when she saw him.
23 And, yesterday, Officer Commanding Hayes was taken
24 through what might be described as some deficiencies in
25 the investigation that was conducted into the
26 allegations which Aptce. Traynor had made, and you have
27 heard of some of them today, the failure to interview
28 the person who was alleged to have committed the abuse,
29 the failure to interview Mr. Traynor when he had

11:09

11:10

11:10

1 recovered or when he was in some state to give evidence
2 and so forth.

3
4 You have given very clear evidence of your
5 recollection. I think the word you used was you were 11:10
6 "adamant" that you had 2nd Lt. B in your office and
7 that you had told him that the methods described or the
8 methods discussed with you were unacceptable, isn't
9 that right?

10 A. Correct. 11:11

11 115 Q. And, yesterday, Officer Commanding Hayes gave evidence
12 to the Tribunal that when he was presenting the
13 application for discharge to you, he said:

14
15 "We had to build up a picture for the GOC. I didn't 11:11
16 want the GOC to write back and say, 'Don't allow this,
17 he's a top class soldier'."

18
19 That was the evidence given by Officer Commanding
20 Hayes. Had you been aware of the allegations that had 11:11
21 been made - and I think you are aware of them now that
22 you have seen them - had you been aware of the
23 allegations that had been made, not just by Aptce.
24 Traynor, but by other apprentices in the Army
25 Apprentice School, what would your reaction have been, 11:12
26 can you tell me, if you had been aware of that at the
27 time?

28 A. Well, all through my career, I bent over backwards to
29 treat subordinates evenly and properly, and that was my

1 ethos. That's the way I behaved, I think. I was known
2 as a bit gruff, all right, on the phone particularly,
3 but in my dealings with people, I certainly always
4 treated them properly and I would be -- I would have --
5 actually, I'd have been appalled, I think, at the 11:12
6 thought of what went on, absolutely... I couldn't...
7 My recollection of my own time in the Cadet School was
8 a tough old thing, but, no, there was no abuse, there
9 was nobody shouting. It was civilised. And the whole
10 class went through it without a problem -- well, there 11:13
11 was one particular poor old devil, but anyway...
12
13 That was my recollection and that was my -- and I still
14 have spoken to some people that went through the
15 college at different times and their recollection was 11:13
16 the very same thing, that there was nothing in the
17 Cadet School about abuse. So I'd have been appalled at
18 abuse that would take place in the -- that the alleged
19 abuse would take place.
20 116 Q. And would it have affected how you processed or dealt 11:13
21 with the application for discharge?
22 A. Well, as I -- I don't remember the application, but now
23 that -- I read it afterwards, and my opinion is that it
24 bent over backwards to paint Traynor in a bad light and
25 to absolve... 11:14
26 117 Q. 2nd Lt. B, I think?
27 A. 2nd Lt. B. That's my recollection, now, of the letter.
28 118 Q. Yes. But is it your opinion today that, looking at it,
29 it, "bent over backwards to paint Mr. Traynor in a bad

1 light"?

2 A. I think so, yes.

3 119 Q. Thank you. And one final question I have for you, 11:14

4 Mr. Wall: You told the Tribunal of the immediate

5 action that you took after you had 2nd Lt. B in your 11:14

6 office and you told him that his methods or the methods

7 used were unacceptable. Do you think it would have

8 been the right thing to do, to direct Officer

9 Commanding Hayes to contact the apprentices who had

10 made allegations of abuse - and, in particular, in this 11:15

11 case, since the allegations of Mr. Traynor were before

12 you - and to advise them of the outcome of your

13 immediate response, the outcome of your decision?

14 A. You are probably correct, but I didn't think of it at

15 that time. 11:15

16 120 Q. Do you think it may have helped the apprentices to know

17 that somebody so high up in the Defence Forces had

18 responded in that way when he heard of the training

19 methods that were used?

20 A. I'd say it probably did, yes, it probably would have. 11:15

21 But I didn't -- I didn't think of it at the time.

22 SOLE MEMBER: Of course. Thank you very much, indeed,

23 Mr. Wall. I appreciate your assistance. Thank you.

24 The Tribunal will now rise and we will meet together --

25 we will meet on Tuesday at -- or on Monday, yes, we are 11:16

26 meeting on Monday next week, thank you, at 10:30.

27

28 THE TRIBUNAL THEN ADJOURNED UNTIL MONDAY, 13TH JULY,

29 2026 AT 10:30 A.M.

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