



### **KRW LAW Statement on Arthur Smyth**

We act on behalf of Arthur Smyth, a survivor of historic institutional abuse in late 1970s East Belfast.

Last month we issued pre action letters of claim against a number of institutions including The Business Services Organization, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Secretary of State, Chief Constable of PSNI and The Department of Health alleging negligence and breach of duty of care in relation to Arthur's time spent in Kincora and North Road Children's Home when he was a young boy.

We have today filed a summons which will issue in the High court on Tuesday 18/10/22. Central to the case are our client's allegations of abuse by the late Lord Louis Mountbatten.

Speaking on the announcement of the legal action solicitor Kevin Winters of KRW's Historic Abuse Redress Dept said,

"I commend Arthur's resilience in taking this case and indeed his bravery in going public for the first time.

Understandably many abuse survivors for reasons of obvious sensitivity choose to remain anonymous. Arthur's decision to reveal his identity must be set against this backdrop. It is borne out of anger at systemic State cover - up on abuse at these institutions.

He alleges to have been abused twice as an eleven-year-old by the deceased Royal. It's the first time that someone has stepped forward to take allegations against Lord Mountbatten into a court.

That decision hasn't been taken lightly. He understands only too well that it will be a deeply unpopular case with many people coming as it does within weeks of the passing of The Queen.

However litigation involving mental, physical and sex abuse isn't undertaken to deliberately offend sensitivities. It's taken for many reasons including exposing perpetrators and the institutions or other agencies which helped suppress the truth. The recent PONI report into Kincora despite a welcome finding on police investigative failures only scratches the surface of what really went on. The announcement of this case couldn't be more timely.

It has been an incredibly difficult journey for our client to reach this point in his life where he feels confident enough to make his case and to do so in a public forum.

He and his family will require much needed support on the next stages of their legal battle for some form of justice which to date has been denied to him.

I wish him well. He deserves closure."

- ENDS-



**KEVIN WINTERS**

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