



**PRESS RELEASE ON BEHALF OF COLIN WALLACE,  
FORMER PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS OFFICER AT BRITISH ARMY HQ  
NORTHERN IRELAND: OPONI FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE KINCORA BOYS'  
HOME COMPLAINT**

**17 October 2022**

**Statement of Colin Wallace**

"Five years after I was first approached by the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (OPONI) in 2017 to provide it with information about my possible awareness of sexual abuses at the Kincora Boys' Home OPONI concluded last week that the evidence I supplied 'fell outside the legislative remit of the office' and could not, therefore, be investigated. No specific justification or explanation has been given for that remarkable decision, or for the excessive delay in reaching it. OPONI did not challenge the authenticity or veracity of the material I had submitted.

This decision by OPONI is contrary to the assurances given in Parliament by Government Ministers. For example, On 7 July 2014, Prime Minister David Cameron in *The Daily Telegraph*: "I am absolutely determined that we are going to get to the bottom of these (child sex abuse) allegations and we're going to leave no stone unturned to find out the truth about what happened." On 17 July 2014, Home Secretary, Theresa May, told Parliament she wanted: "No stone unturned in getting to the truth of what happened and ensuring that we learn the necessary lessons to protect children. Child abuse is an abhorrent crime that can scar people for life, and the Government are determined to stamp it out. Three months later, in October 2014, Mrs. May wrote to the then Northern Ireland First Minister, Peter Robinson, saying: "I am determined that everything possible is done to uncover the truth about what happened, and that appropriate action is taken".

Despite those clear assurances, it is now clear that Government agencies did their utmost to prevent such meaningful investigations from taking place. The latter issue formed a significant part of my complaint to the OPONI

It has taken the OPONI five years to decide that my complaint fell outside its legislative remit and could not be investigated by it. That response is absurd. It is also an affront to all those who were abused at the home. *What is the OPONI's legislative remit and how could it possibly exclude my evidence?*

In a judgment of the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal regarding a victim of historic institutional sexual abuse, Morgan LCJ said:

"This society has been rocked to its core by the shocking disclosure of the abuse of children in this community over many years. Just as shocking has been the manner in which the institutions to which some of the abusers belonged sought to protect the institution rather than the children. There is a suggestion in this case that children in Kincora were abused and prostituted in order to satisfy the interests of national security. If that is true it must be exposed. As a society we must not repeat the errors of the institutions and should remember our obligations to the children. If the suggestion is not true, the rumour and suspicion surrounding this should be allayed."

I consider OPONI's failure to accept and investigate my complaint is contrary with the spirit of Lord Chief Justice's judgment and is detrimental to all those victims who were abused at the Kincora Boys' Home and similar institutions." **ENDS**

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