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**DPA**

## Beechwood Observation & Assessment Centre

Kenneth Rigby

**DPA**

Fri, Jan 2, 2015 at 10:29 A

To: sarah.macdonald

**DPA**

For the Attention of:  
Sarah Macdonald

2nd January 2015

Dear Sarah,

First of all I trust you enjoyed the festive season and I will take this opportunity to wish you and your colleagues a Happy New Year.

I refer to your letter dated 9th December 2014 received 22nd December 2014, our telephone conversation same date and your subsequent email.

It is now 40 years since I arrived in Nottingham to take up the position of Deputy Superintendent at Beechwood Observation & Assessment Centre in February 1975 and a period of over 22 years has lapsed since my leaving this establishment. I am sure you will understand that for me to give you information, recollections I may be able to recall about anyone of the approximately 60 members of staff working at Beechwood at any given time is difficult without being given a specific name.

During the 18 years I was in post at Beechwood, hundreds of children/young people passed through the 3 operational units (The Lindens, Redcot, Enderleigh) some staying for only a short period of time, others much longer periods. This all depended on what order/authority and for what purpose the young person was being placed in a residential establishment. Therefore, for me to offer any observations or comments I may recall on any particular individual, I would need to be given a name or/and specific incident you may have been made aware of, so that I could reflect on to see if I can remember anything that can be of assistance to your enquiry.

I can assure you of my full co-operation over whatever period of time your enquiries may take and will endeavour to supply you with whatever information I may possess - I have nothing to hide.

When I am officially informed of the specific allegations of physical abuse you have already alluded to, I will most certainly vigorously respond to what I deem to be these spurious allegations.

I am not in the least surprised that some former residents of Beechwood are now looking to 'cash in' by making (false) accusations of physical abuse in the hope of securing a large compensation payout. I believe it was 18months - 2 years ago a former neighbour friend of mine still living in the Nottingham area sent me 2 articles which had appeared in the Nottingham Evening Post.

One article showed a photograph of a young girl standing in front of the former Lindens Unit, which incidentally never housed female residents. Redcot was named over sexual abuse allegations having taken place in the mid 1990's - 2000 which occurred after I was no longer working at Beechwood - I am sure you must be aware of the article to which I am referring. The other article showed a Solicitor sitting at a desk with name and company supplied, I believe he is based in the West Bridgford area. The accompanied written article left nothing to the imagination stating that he was 'representing children from Nottinghamshire Care Homes' in abuse cases and the article certainly left me with the impression that he was out 'trawling' for clients - no doubt on a no fee no win basis. I am sure that I shall be expanding on this at a later date and what I have written above is obviously my own opinion.

I am presently working on trying to piece together the inception of Beechwood Observation & Assessment Centre and will forward it to you in due course.

Regards,

**DPA**