

12 AUG 2013

HIA REF: 8

Witness Name: HIA 8

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 8

I, HIA 8 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] Only the five youngest were put in care - two boys and three girls - [REDACTED] HIA35 [REDACTED] HIA7 and myself. I was the third youngest. I was always a very sick child as I have celiac disease and my father was always looking after me. The reason we were put in care was because my mother had a boyfriend and my father found out about it and she walked out and left us. The welfare record states that my father abused us. He never laid a finger on us or abused us in any way. My mother arranged for us to be taken into care. We were put into care by Rose Black, a welfare officer from Derry County Borough.

St Joseph's Home, Termonbacca

2. I was placed in Termonbacca on 25th March 1969 when I was ten years old. I remained there until 1971. When we arrived the boys and girls were split up. My sisters and I were placed in the nursery end. We should have been sent to Nazareth House but because of my mother's insistence we all went to Termonbacca. My brothers and sisters and I were at the meeting with the welfare when my mother insisted we be put into Termonbacca. In the nursery there was one dormitory that had twenty four cots and the next dormitory had

eleven single beds in it for the girls. There was a separate single room which I got because I was the oldest child in the nursery. The next in age were my sisters and then the other children who ranged from six months up to five or six.

3. My sister [REDACTED] who was next to me in age wet the bed. The first time it happened I washed and changed her and put a new nightdress on her. I had left the washing for the morning. She got beaten in the morning by [REDACTED] SR3 [REDACTED] for wetting the bed. I also got beaten by her for cleaning it up. I was punched on the face and body, hit with a cherry brown leather strap that she kept at her waist, kicked, my hair pulled and anything she could get her hands on to beat us. [REDACTED] SR3 [REDACTED] was in charge of the nursery. From this incident I learned to get down on my hands and knees, get the bed changed and wash the sheets so the nuns would never know. From then on [REDACTED] SR3 [REDACTED] didn't find out that she wet the bed and so they stopped hitting her. Then she eventually stopped wetting the bed because she was no longer afraid of being hit for it.
4. I went to [REDACTED] Primary School when I first went into the home. Then I moved to [REDACTED] Secondary School when I was eleven. I used to walk my two sisters and brother to primary school first as they were younger than me. Afterwards I walked back through the town to my own school. One of the nuns from school told [REDACTED] SR3 [REDACTED] that I was coming into school late because I was taking my siblings to school. [REDACTED] SR3 [REDACTED] beat me for being late for school. I don't know the name of the nun from [REDACTED].
5. [REDACTED] SR3 [REDACTED] was very fond of beating me and my sisters and the younger children with a stick like a pointer. Some of the children were so small that they flew across the floor when she hit them with force. She loved to hit children. On one occasion I complained to my older sister [REDACTED] who was married that I had been getting hit in the home and [REDACTED] said she would go down and see about it. I asked her not to but she did. She went and spoke to the Mother Superior and then she brought me and [REDACTED] SR3 [REDACTED] to the room. [REDACTED] SR3 [REDACTED] denied it and made me say that I was lying which I did as I was frightened of the consequences if I didn't. After this [REDACTED] SR3 [REDACTED] gave me a wailing for telling my sister. She trapped me in the toilet cubicle which was small because they

were for young children. She beat with her strap, punched me and kicked me. I couldn't escape.

6. The next day I remember going to school with a black eye as a result of the beating in the cubicle. I was about eleven or twelve years old at the time. Everyone in the school knew I lived in Termonbacca and not one teacher asked any questions or phoned up the welfare to report it. No one cared about my education or my well being. The only thing that the teachers were interested in was that you turned up every day and you did exactly what you were told. Whether you learnt anything or not was irrelevant. My education was poor. The nuns would have preferred it if we didn't go to school because then we could work in the home. I didn't learn to read until I was married. I was taught by my ex husband. To this day I can only spell my christian name.
7. I had to get up just after 6am to change the nappies of the twenty four babies before I went to school. My two younger sisters helped me. I changed each baby's pyjamas and then one of my sisters held the bucket to put the dirty nappy in and the other one held the basket for the wet sheets from the cot. Then I had to go into the bathroom and rinse out all the dirty nappies, steep them in a bucket and put all the sheets in a pile ready for the laundry. I washed the mattresses in the cots and turned them over and placed the baby back in. I then got myself washed and dressed and ready for mass. That was my routine every day without fail, even at weekends. I wasn't getting a bite to eat until after my work. It was no wonder I came out of the home weighing about five stone. When we went to the home the welfare said 'oh they'll look after you and feed you'. That did not happen. I did not have any visits from any welfare officers in all my time in Termonbacca.
8. We went to mass every morning and then we had our breakfast about 7.30am. After breakfast we went to school. If we were off school on holidays it was our job to clean up after the young children. We had to brush the floors and wash down all the tables and put the chairs back up because they weren't allowed to be sitting on the floor when they weren't getting used. I had to brush down the stairs and then wash them with a cloth with disinfectant on my hands and knees.

My younger sisters had to do the dusting and stuff like that in the nun's sitting room in the convent because it saved the nuns from doing it. After all that was done we had to go in and watch the young children in the play room while the nuns got on with saying their prayers. If you refused to do what you were told you got a slap either from the civilian staff or [REDACTED] SR3

9. There were civilian workers who helped out as domestics in the nursery. I think one may have stayed over at night but I am not sure. There was a woman called [REDACTED] SND57 and she was the cook. She slapped me now and again. I think she has passed away. There was a woman called [REDACTED] SND58 who hit my sisters [REDACTED] HIA7 and [REDACTED]. She didn't hit me but she was a bully. She bossed us around and made us do her work. She shouted things like 'yous [REDACTED] do that work now'. She called us by our surname. She still lives in Derry. There was a lovely woman called [REDACTED] SND59 and she was very kind to us. She used to bring us gifts. I think she witnessed the abuse by [REDACTED] SR3 but didn't say anything.

[REDACTED]

There were also a couple of young girls that were brought in to look after the babies.

10. The food wasn't great in the home. My sister [REDACTED] HIA7 was a good eater and in the home I used to give her part of my dinner because I knew she was still hungry. If [REDACTED] SR3 saw me doing this I would have got battered for it because you weren't allowed to do that, you got your portion and that was all you were entitled to. My sisters and I all lost a lot of weight whilst in the home.
11. Most nights we were in bed before 7pm sometimes earlier in the winter. In the summer nights they closed the curtains in the babies half of the dormitory for them to go to sleep because they went to bed at 6pm. We weren't allowed to make a sound in that dormitory after the babies went to bed and if we did we got blamed for waking them by [REDACTED] SR3 and beaten. Also if we heard a baby whimpering and didn't get to it in time to comfort it and it started crying Sister [REDACTED] SR3 would have slapped us for being out of bed and the child got slapped for crying. There was no one else to comfort the children.

12. Anytime we were out of the home we were worried about coming back as there was a real likelihood we would be beaten. You called it a good day if you didn't get hit. If [REDACTED] SR3 [REDACTED] was hitting my younger sisters I would have interfered and she would give me a worse beating. I tried to protect my sisters. It was worse getting beat at night as I had nothing on but my nightdress. Equally I tried to protect other children from being beaten as I was the oldest. If she was in bad enough form she might have took her shoe off her foot and hit you over the head with it. It all depended on her mood. Sometimes she hit me so hard I peed myself. She was one evil bi**h. She shouldn't have been a nun. She should have been down with the devil.
13. There was a baby boy in the dormitory with piles. I think his name was [REDACTED]. He was squealing with pain. The nuns took him to the doctors and a civilian woman was told to put this cream on the piles and then push them back in. Every time that child had piles, no matter which member of staff was in the house, I had to clean him, put the cream on and push them in. After I got out of Termonbacca I was in the town one day and the boy was with his mother and he recognised me. He started squealing as he wanted to go with me. A couple of weeks later his mother came to my door and she said she phoned the home because he took piles again and the nuns told her to contact me. So I had to go and treat him and show his mother how to do it and take care of him.
14. In the evening we got about half an hour to do our homework and then we got our dinner. After dinner we still had our jobs to do such as clean the floors or wipe down the tables and put the chairs up. Once the floor was washed we set the tables for the next morning.
15. Afterwards my sisters and I had to give the babies their bottles and dummies. The babies were in bed by 6pm and usually sleeping five minutes later. We were then allowed downstairs for about half an hour but we usually spent this time cleaning up and making sure everything was put away nice and neat. After this we were told to get our supper and then we were put up to bed. We didn't get playing. Although I remember a couple of times my younger sisters and I

were allowed out for ten minutes in the garden of the nursery which had swings and a slide.

16. We were allowed to go and visit my sister [REDACTED] on a Sunday. My father came up a couple of times to see us in the home. He brought us sweets. We met in a small room with my father on one side of the table and me on the other. My younger sisters weren't allowed to go because the nuns said it was too upsetting for them to see our father. We would have seen my mother when we were going to school some mornings and she gave us money for sweets.
17. We were allowed out to town on a Saturday afternoon for about an hour and a half. We got pocket money and we would have bought broken biscuits. If I or one of my sisters was being punished for not cleaning something right or taking too long to do something we weren't allowed out on a Saturday. One day Sister [REDACTED] SR3 decided that Saturday was the day that all the beds were getting washed down. One of my sisters washed the frames and I would have dried them down. We also disinfected each mattress and washed the floors underneath the beds.
18. When we were given money as a present for example at Christmas from my mother or mother's boyfriend [REDACTED] the nuns took it off us and we never saw it again. As a result we learned to hide the money by bringing it into the home in our socks and then hiding it in the bathroom where the nuns would not look.
19. [REDACTED] SR3 [REDACTED] icked on us. I don't know what she had against us. I think it was because we were older than the other children and there would be no repercussions from treating us the way she did as she knew there was no one we could tell.
20. There was a room in the convent which was opposite the dining hall and it was full of toys. When it was your birthday you got to pick a toy for your age. The toy had to be given back to the nuns at 6pm and it was stored in a box in the play room. You could play with again the next day. You could only take a soft toy like a doll upstairs to the dormitory.

21. Eventually my two sisters were fostered out from the home at weekends. I didn't get out as not everybody wanted older girls. A couple wanted to adopt my two sisters but my mother objected. She knew if they were adopted there was no way they would come back and she would lose us too. Then my mother took us out of the home to her flat which she shared with her boyfriend. We left Termonbacca in 1971 when I was thirteen years old. When I was about sixteen I went to live with my father. I lived with him until I got married.

Life after care

22. I was married at eighteen but we separated twenty five years ago. My husband left me for another woman when I was pregnant. We had six children however one child died. My youngest child is twenty four and my oldest child is thirty four. I am close to my children and all my siblings and we have good relationships.

23. I suffered physical and mental abuse during my time in Termonbacca. I was never shown any affection and the nuns and workers left me without any confidence. They made me feel that I had no right to be loved and that I should never expect it. They suppressed me. They made me feel like dirt and that I was worthless.

24. My father died twenty one years ago. I loved him and we were very close. My mother is eighty eight and we still have contact. I am very close to my brothers and sisters and I see them regularly.

25. I have suffered from depression for over twenty years and I am on anti depressants. I have received counselling in the past.

26. I have never made a statement to the police.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed _____ HIA 8

Dated 7/8/13

No. on Register	Name	Date of Admission	Date of Discharge	Age on Discharge
994	[REDACTED] HIA 35	26 th March 1969	13 - 3 - 1971	14 yrs.
996.		26 " 1969.	13 - 3 - 1971	11 "
995	[REDACTED] HIA 8	26 " 1969.	13. 3. 1971	13 "
997.		26 " 1969	13. 3. 1971	10 "
998.	[REDACTED] HIA 7	26 " 1969.	13. 3. 1971	9 "

Taken by their Mother.

who is living in a flat [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

HIA 8

Date of Birth [REDACTED]

Date of Birth [REDACTED]

HIA 7

Date of Birth [REDACTED]

Date of Admission. 25/3/69. all three admitted same day. also two brothers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There are sixteen children in this family. But it was necessary that these children be taken into care. as the mother is co-habiting with other man and the father is constantly drinking and the children are being abused by him.

HIA 8

is attending St Joseph's convent school and also [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

HIA 7

September '69 HIA 8 was transferred to St Cecilia's School.

HIA 7

May '70 HIA 7 made her First Holy Communion.

June '70 [REDACTED] was confirmed.

all three girls visit their sister [REDACTED] every Sunday.

Bishop. If the Bishop visited there may have been a dinner for him but the children were not hidden away upstairs. The reason for the visit was for the Bishop to see the children. They may well have performed music or dancing for him. There were never parties of any sort where the children were not included and even then the parties were not lavish affairs as we did not have the money to do such a thing.

24. I did not hit this girl or any girl. Punishments may have involved a child being shouted at or deprived of a treat of some sort but the children were not beaten.

HIA 351

25. I do not remember HIA 351 at all. I know the name as I was interviewed a few years ago about these allegations. Even having been interviewed before I do not recall him.
26. I remember both SND 15 and SND 1. SND 15 was a general [redacted] and SND 1 did similar work but also drove the sisters around and may have driven a little bus with the kids sometimes.
27. I have never heard allegations of the sort made by HIA 351. I deny that he ever spoke to me or raised these, or any similar or in fact any complaints about SND 1. I do not remember HIA 351 but no child ever raised these sorts of matters with me. I was never aware of anything that would have raised any concerns for me. I did not witness any behaviour from SND 1 nor any reaction or change in behaviour from the children around him to cause me concern.
28. If any complaint of this nature, or any complaint of any sort of abuse of a child, had been raised with me I would have reported to the Superior. I have never felt that any superior I had was unapproachable and definitely not when the issues of the children were concerned.
29. while I cannot comment on Canon McCarthy as I have never met or spoken to him I would say the Superior while I was there in the early stage was SR 13. This man could well have spoken to her but she did not mention anything to me. I note the alleged abuse was around 1956/57 and was before I arrived in 1958.

HIA 8

30. I have already discussed of this material in the earlier section concerning HIA 7. HIA 7 I note HIA 8 is the sister of HIA 7 but her statement does not assist me in remembering either of them, nor any other member of their family.
31. I deny that I hit either of these girls and definitely would not have hit her for trying to help her sister if she had wet the bed. While the causes of bed wetting were not understood as clearly as they are now I would not have beaten a child for wetting the bed.

32. I did not give any child a black eye. I also do not accept that a child attending school with a black eye would not have created some sort of query. Even a brief mention to someone.
33. I was never involved in any meeting with a child and the Mother Superior concerning an allegation of any sort.
34. I was mainly responsible for the younger children. I would have been up most nights doing night feeds and nappy changes for a baby. Most of my time there included very young children and the whole process of feeding and changing. I did not ever have one of the children come in and do the babies changes in the morning or any other time. I may have had help from the older girls if they were free but this was not a job they were given or expected to do. Older girls did love the babies. The girls were also not responsible for putting the children to bed.
35. HIA 8 says she did all the changes, changing beds and washing nappies before Mass on a daily basis. I do not believe the children went to Mass on a daily basis. The sisters would go but the children did not. The children would have had "chores" to do but these would have been the sort of thing they would do at home. The reference to brushing or mopping floors and dusting does sound like the sort of chores they would have done.
36. I do not accept the description of me. I did not hit the children and I did not beat the girls at night for comforting another child.
37. I cannot comment on the issue of [REDACTED] as it does not sound familiar to me. I find it difficult to accept that this happened. I am sure any child in the city would have had access to medical treatment but I do not recall any incident like that described occurring in the home.
38. I do not recall pocket money being given to the children and that is probably because the babies, who I spent most time with, would not have had pocket money. I believe the description of not being allowed into town on a Saturday as a punishment sounds like the sort of thing that was done. Children lost privileges for misbehaviour. The children may have been given chores to do as part of that but I cannot comment on the incident alleged by HIA 8 as I cannot recall such an incident.
39. There was no room full of toys in the convent. This description is not something I accept or recognise.
40. I am upset that this girl and her sister feel they had a bad time or that I abused them. I do not accept their memories of their time as accurate and I do not recognise the place they describe. I always loved the children especially the babies and tried to shelter and protect them.

HOME OFFICE

Form R.H.M.

CONFIDENTIAL

School or Home

MEDICAL RECORD

Name HIA 8 Date of Admission 25/3/69
(Block capitals surname first)
Date of Birth [REDACTED] Sex F Register Number _____

PERSONAL HISTORY

Number in family 16
Place in family 13rd
Age of walking _____
Age of talking _____
Bowel control _____
Bladder control _____
(Age of the menarche) _____

Prophylaxis:

Diphtheria _____
Smallpox _____
Whooping Cough _____
Tetanus _____
Poliomyelitis _____
B.C.G. Vaccination _____
Other _____

PREVIOUS MEDICAL HISTORY

Whooping Cough no Tuberculosis no
Measles yes Rheumatism no
Diphtheria no Chorea no
Scarlet Fever no Fits no
Mumps _____ Bed wetting no
Chickenpox yes Other _____
German Measles _____

Operations _____
Injuries _____

SCHOOL HISTORY

(e.g. Absence through illness; attendance at a Special School; results of any mental test.)

FAMILY HISTORY (Important illnesses or defects)

Father _____
Mother _____
Siblings _____
Others _____

CONDITION ON ADMISSION

(e.g. General appearance; demeanour; cleanliness; any marks of injury or violence.)

Fair

Details of abnormal conditions should be noted on opposite page. The vision should be tested with Snellen's Type at 20 feet and the hearing for ordinary conversational voice at the same distance.

CLINICAL NOTES

Record of illnesses and treatment; immunizations; results of special examinations, e.g. ophthalmic; notes on medical inspections.

[illegible]

SND-2099

N.I. GENERAL H

Surname of Patient ~~Mr.~~
~~Mrs.~~
Miss

Christian Names

Address

Date

14/3/71

HIA 8

AGE
(if under 12
years)

☐

Rx

*Certified
healthy.*

Ramsay

Signature of Medical Practitioner

Chemist's Stamp

Code Numbers

Issued by or on behalf of

L.118
DR. R.H. RAMSAY,
5 Clarendon Street,
LONDONDERRY.

820

Form Number

87

LA/79/28/CA3 PRONI

NAME OF CHILD

DATE OF
BIRTH

REFERRED BY

PARENTS NAME AND ADDRESS

ACTION TAKEN

HIA 8

HIA 35

HIA 7

26.3.1969

Dr. Ramsey.
Mr. O'BrienChildren taken into
care and placed
in St. Joseph's Home,
Limerick.

PARENTS NAME AND ADDRESS

ACTION TAKEN

Mother. Deserted

26.3.1969

Children taken into
care and placed
in St. Joseph's Home,

Name;	HIA 8
Date of Birth;	
Baptised:	
Parents:	&
Occupation ;	
Recommended by;	Rose Black Children's officer Co Borough Welfare Derry
Admitted:	26 March 1969
Left:	13 March 1971
Observation:	Taken by mother

Written in observation book: Miss Rose Black recommended this family. The father is constantly drinking / he abuses the children. The mother has a history of co-habiting and at present is living in . There are children in this family. Admitted 26 March 1969

HIA REF:

Witness Name: SR 3

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF SR 3

1. I, SR 3, will say as follows –
2. This statement is provided by me in response to a request from the Inquiry and in response to the various complaints and allegations set out with that request.

Personal Background

3. I was born SR 3. I was the second eldest of seven siblings although two twin brothers died very young and my eldest sister died in her early twenties.

4.

Time in Derry Generally

5. I spent two periods in Termonbacca working with the older boys in the first period and then in the nursery unit in the second period.
6. The older boys unit was basically split into two groups. The juniors were aged about 7-11 and the seniors were about 12-16. The ages are approximate as I cannot remember exactly the age of the boys. In the time I spent with the older boys I remember there being two sisters in the older boys group. I was there for two years and remember Sr SR 37 (was only there for a very short time), SR 11 and SR 1. They have all died.

7. My recollection is that there were about 60 boys in total between the senior and junior sections. I do not recall there being any lay staff to help us at that time. There were two sisters for the 60 boys. I remember an elderly sister who did sewing and made and repaired clothes (I think her name was **SR 94** **SR 8** who worked in the kitchen) and **SR 13** the superior).
8. My second period in Termonbacca followed my training as a nursery nurse **[REDACTED]**. I am not sure exactly when I returned. In the nursery I looked after boys from newborn to about 5/6 years. Again I do not recall lay staff at the early part of my time there.
9. I was almost always with boys as Termonbacca did not take girls until the very latter years. We started taking family groups of boys and then took full families including girls at a later stage.
10. I do not have any memory of a child being abused in any way. Children may have been shouted at or deprived of some treat like tv if they were misbehaving but I do not recall any physical punishment at all. Boys being boys had their fights and rows and did misbehave. We did not resort to physical punishment and the removal of privileges was usually a severe enough punishment.
11. My own memories of Termonbacca are all of a happy time. I truly loved my time there and was heartbroken when I eventually left. I remember an incident when we had two twin girls left with us. I could not figure out how I would remember how to tell them apart the next day and so wrote their names on a piece of sticking plaster and stuck it to their wrists. They were adopted very soon after they came to us as newborns.

HIA 7

12. I have seen the statement from this lady. I do not remember her or her sister **HIA 8** (who has also provided a statement) at all. I have looked at the names of the other siblings and they do not bring back any memories for me of this girl or her family at all.
13. As far as her statement goes I did work in the younger end of the home and I did work with a lady called **SND 59** I am still in touch with her and we exchange Christmas cards every year.
14. I do not recall there being rugs or mats around. I definitely do not recall the children having to collect and beat them..
15. I do not know why **HIA 7** would say that I took money or anything else off her. I do not recall ever removing sweets, toys, clothes or money from a child. It is possible a child may have had sweets refused to them on an occasion as a punishment for misbehaviour as we used removal of privileges as a punishment. However the picture of habitually removing gifts when a child returned from a visit to a local family is not

something I accept. I must repeat that I do not remember this girl personally so this is a general statement about any child.

16. I do not recall there ever being a glass or similar hairbrush in the house. I have never struck a child with a hair brush of any kind and deny this allegation completely. The children would have brushed their own hair mainly as we would not have had the time to brush the hair of all the children in person.
17. I have never been inside any school in Derry. I was not inside the school in Bishop Street where the sisters worked and have never been in any other school. I did not remove any child from a school for a day trip nor would I remove a child from performing in a play. I did not do this. I definitely would not have beaten a child for wanting to be in a play and deny that this happened. It is unlikely that a child would have been at school if they were going on a day trip. the children would not have been on many trips and these would have been organised for periods when they were not in school.
18. I do recall a small room off the main dormitory. I do not recall this being specifically for families nor do I recall sisters being in the room. I do recall one occasion when a traveller family were placed with us for a short time and they were in that room. Other than that I cannot recall any incident such as that described. I was never aware of or informed about any situation such as that described.
19. It is possible that the older sister was in the smaller room and was then moved into the dormitory area as she got older to make room for younger girls. this is only a suggestion on my part as I have no memory of this happening.
20. I did work with a girl called **SND 58** She was a volunteer and her family were very good to the sisters and regularly helped us out. I recall them making gifts of blankets for the beds and cots. Her surname was not **SND 58** though. If this is the same girl I do not recognise the description of her. She was a generous and hard working girl nothing about her or her relationship to the children ever gave me a cause for concern.
21. I do not think the children all had social workers or that there were lots of social workers visiting at this time. I do recall Rose Black though.
22. The description of an incident in a bath where people seemed to be observing her and some condition with worms is something I cannot comment upon. It does not resemble any incident I was ever aware of in my time at Termonbacca or anywhere else.
23. I do not recognise the description of Christmas at all. The Christmas dinner was not what we think of now but the children all had a good dinner at Christmas and I recall Christmas pudding was served. We would have had visits from Saint Vincent de Paul (who were always very generous to the children at Christmas) and others such as the

Bishop. If the Bishop visited there may have been a dinner for him but the children were not hidden away upstairs. The reason for the visit was for the Bishop to see the children. They may well have performed music or dancing for him. There were never parties of any sort where the children were not included and even then the parties were not lavish affairs as we did not have the money to do such a thing.

24. I did not hit this girl or any girl. Punishments may have involved a child being shouted at or deprived of a treat of some sort but the children were not beaten.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

HIA 8

30. I have already discussed of this material in the earlier section concerning HIA 7 HIA 7 I note HIA 8 is the sister of HIA 7 but her statement does not assist me in remembering either of them, nor any other member of their family.

31. I deny that I hit either of these girls and definitely would not have hit her for trying to help her sister if she had wet the bed. While the causes of bed wetting were not understood as clearly as they are now I would not have beaten a child for wetting the bed.

32. I did not give any child a black eye. I also do not accept that a child attending school with a black eye would not have created some sort of query. Even a brief mention to someone.
33. I was never involved in any meeting with a child and the Mother Superior concerning an allegation of any sort.
34. I was mainly responsible for the younger children. I would have been up most nights doing night feeds and nappy changes for a baby. Most of my time there included very young children and the whole process of feeding and changing. I did not ever have one of the children come in and do the babies changes in the morning or any other time. I may have had help from the older girls if they were free but this was not a job they were given or expected to do. Older girls did love the babies. The girls were also not responsible for putting the children to bed.
35. HIA 8 says she did all the changes, changing beds and washing nappies before Mass on a daily basis. I do not believe the children went to Mass on a daily basis. The sisters would go but the children did not. The children would have had "chores" to do but these would have been the sort of thing they would do at home. The reference to brushing or mopping floors and dusting does sound like the sort of chores they would have done.
36. I do not accept the description of me. I did not hit the children and I did not beat the girls at night for comforting another child.
37. I cannot comment on the issue of [REDACTED] as it does not sound familiar to me. I find it difficult to accept that this happened. I am sure any child in the city would have had access to medical treatment but I do not recall any incident like that described occurring in the home.
38. I do not recall pocket money being given to the children and that is probably because the babies, who I spent most time with, would not have had pocket money. I believe the description of not being allowed into town on a Saturday as a punishment sounds like the sort of thing that was done. Children lost privileges for misbehaviour. The children may have been given chores to do as part of that but I cannot comment on the incident alleged by HIA 8 as I cannot recall such an incident.
39. There was no room full of toys in the convent. This description is not something I accept or recognise.
40. I am upset that this girl and her sister feel they had a bad time or that I abused them. I do not accept their memories of their time as accurate and I do not recognise the place they describe. I always loved the children especially the babies and tried to shelter and protect them.

HOME OFFICE

Form R.H.M.

CONFIDENTIAL

School or Home

MEDICAL RECORD

Name HIA 8 Date of Admission 25/3/69
(Block capitals surname first)
Date of Birth [REDACTED] Sex F Register Number _____

PERSONAL HISTORY

Number in family 16
Place in family 13rd
Age of walking _____
Age of talking _____
Bowel control _____
Bladder control _____
(Age of the menarche) _____

Prophylaxis:

Diphtheria _____
Smallpox _____
Whooping Cough _____
Tetanus _____
Poliomyelitis _____
B.C.G. Vaccination _____
Other _____

PREVIOUS MEDICAL HISTORY

Whooping Cough no Tuberculosis no
Measles yes Rheumatism no
Diphtheria no Chorea no
Scarlet Fever no Fits no
Mumps _____ Bed wetting no
Chickenpox yes Other _____
German Measles _____

Operations _____
Injuries _____

SCHOOL HISTORY

(e.g. Absence through illness; attendance at a Special School; results of any mental test.)

FAMILY HISTORY (Important illnesses or defects)

Father _____
Mother _____
Siblings _____
Others _____

CONDITION ON ADMISSION

(e.g. General appearance; demeanour; cleanliness; any marks of injury or violence.)

Fair

Details of abnormal conditions should be noted on opposite page. The vision should be tested with Snellen's Type at 20 feet and the hearing for ordinary conversational voice at the same distance.

CLINICAL NOTES

Record of illnesses and treatment; immunizations; results of special examinations, e.g. ophthalmic; notes on medical inspections.

[illegible]

SND-2099

N.I. GENERAL H

Surname of Patient ~~Mr.~~
~~Mrs.~~
Miss

Christian Names

Address

Date

14/3/71

HIA 8

AGE
(if under 12
years)

☐

Rx

*Certified
healthy.*

Code Numbers

Ramsay

Signature of Medical Practitioner

Issued by or on behalf of

Chemist's Stamp

L.118

820

DR. R.H. RAMSAY,
5 Clarendon Street,
LONDONDERRY.

Form Number

87

LA/79/28/CA3 PRONI

NAME OF CHILD

DATE OF
BIRTH

REFERRED BY

PARENTS NAME AND ADDRESS

ACTION TAKEN

HIA 8

HIA 35

HIA 7

26.3.1969

Dr. Ramsey.

Mr. O'Brien

Children taken into
care and placed
in St. Joseph's Home,
Limerick.