

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 108

Witness Name HIA 108

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 108

HIA 108 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. There were seven girls and one boy in my family - [REDACTED] me [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. When my oldest sister [REDACTED] was ill with cancer around 1977 or 1978 my father increasingly lost his temper and my mother stayed in bed. My parents were alcoholics and were always upstairs. We learned to look after ourselves at a young age. My oldest sister died of cancer in 1982.
2. We knew to stay out of our father's way when he was in a foul mood. My younger sister [REDACTED] and I started sleeping in the local cemetery. When it got colder we went into the Chapel because it was warmer and it had light. We slept in the confession box. One night during the summer of 1980 we got caught by the caretaker and he brought us to the parochial house in [REDACTED]. We were taken into the kitchen. The parish priest, Father [REDACTED] was there along with another priest. The other priest was younger, about twenty five or thirty years old. His name was Father [REDACTED] SND 67. Father [REDACTED] SND 67 seemed really nice and friendly.
3. We had physical marks where my father had beaten us and Father [REDACTED] SND 67 said 'I can see that hurt'. He took me into a room on my own to see if I was

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okay. He asked me what had happened. I didn't tell him as I didn't want to get my father in trouble. Father SND 67 checked my face and arms and then pulled up my top. He told me not to be alarmed. He then removed my trousers and tried to remove my pants. I was standing in front of a chair looking into the wall and he was standing behind me. He groped me pretending to look for marks but his hands were over my chest and his breathing was heavy. I could smell alcohol and incense off him. He pushed me over the chair so I was bent over. I could feel the weight of his hand and I couldn't straighten up. I was crying and I could feel wet fluid on my leg. He ejaculated over my leg. After this he told me to get dressed and talked as if he had just looked at my bruises. He gave me a hanky to dry my tears. He wasn't a nice priest after that. He had me in the room for about twenty minutes. It was probably 11pm or 12am. He then took me and my sister home. My father thanked the priest for bringing us home.

4. My mother and father continued to drink and were physically abusing us. We used to have to run away from the house. We would all split up and go to different places. My older sisters would go to my aunt's house and I would go somewhere else with my younger sisters. On one occasion my father heard me talking with my sister [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] about where we were going to run away to. They asked me if I was going to go to the confession box. My father went mad. He gave us all an awful beating with my brother's belt. It was a big belt with an eagle buckle and rows of studs. He left us in a terrible way. We had marks from the eagle and studs on our bodies and we were cut and bleeding. We were crying and my brother came in and asked what had happened. We told him and my father and brother started fighting. My father fell and hit his head on the fireplace. We were all brought to our GP but I can't remember by whom. The doctor noted the bruises.
5. I can't remember how the welfare got involved with my family but it might have been through the doctor. [REDACTED] and I were put into care. We were the three eldest. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were hidden in a wardrobe with a double bed pushed against it. We were admitted into care on 22nd September 1980. We were taken to Termonbacca.

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St Joseph's Home, Termonbacca (22/9/1980 – 26/9/1980)

6. I was 10 years old when we were placed in Termonbacca on 22nd September 1980. The first night was lovely. There was a lovely nun and she gave us clean clothes and nice food. We helped set the table for breakfast. On our first morning we got up early and went downstairs. We couldn't sleep with the excitement of a proper breakfast. We got up when it was still dark. I think we might have only been in bed a few hours. There was sugar puffs on the table which I had never seen before. We poured out cereal and we ate breakfast and thought this was heaven. An elderly nun who seemed to be the head nun saw us and she was very cross. She was of slim build, tall, with wrinkled skin and grey hair. She grabbed us by the roots of the hair and beat us with a weapon she carried on her tunic. She classed me as the ring leader. She locked me in a broom cupboard and I spent most of the day there. We didn't know that we were supposed to go to mass in the morning before breakfast on an empty stomach. She thought we were wicked and stupid. When the nun let me out of the broom cupboard she told us to clean as a punishment.
7. The priest from [REDACTED] that abused me, Father [REDACTED] SND 67 visited the home. At that time priests visited homes to test children on their knowledge of the Bible. When he saw me he gave me a smile. He talked to me and my sisters and suggested that if we had any problems to let him know.
8. The following day the head nun called me and asked me to follow her and brought me to a room where Father [REDACTED] SND 67 was waiting. The room had plush furniture and had a smell of furniture polish. I had never seen anything so plush. He asked if I remembered him. I said no and I couldn't look into his eyes. He said that my sisters and I were being delinquents at home and our parents had lost control of us and we were running wild. He said that God forgave me for being bad to my parents. He then grabbed my arm and pulled me up from the chair I was sitting in so that I was standing. I was wearing a thick wool buttoned cardigan. He pulled my clothes off in a few seconds and left me in just my vest. I crossed my legs to hide my bodily parts. He tried to place his foot

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between my calves to force my legs open. He was standing behind me and holding my right arm. I was using my left hand to pull my vest down over my vagina. He pushed me over the arm of the chair so my chest rested in the side arm. He stood behind me. He pushed his hand between my legs and pulled my right arm up to the back of my neck. I was crying hysterically and asking him to stop. He had his penis between my legs. He used his foot to force my legs open and he did not release his grip on me. He used his body weight to keep me in the same position. He placed his finger in my anus. I felt wet on my leg. When I turned around his trousers were still at waist level and his penis was exposed. He then got dressed and told me to behave and to stop crying. I couldn't stop crying. He told me to be good and said that he would show me how to be good and he told me to say an act of contrition. He left the room and then the head nun came in and grabbed me by the arm and said that I was in trouble again. She put me in the broom cupboard for a few hours. I remember the smell of disinfectant.

9. I was in Termonbacca for four days. During that time Father SND 67 visited three or four times and he sexually abused me on each visit. When he visited the home I was sent for. On the third time I was abused by him he was in the home for about an hour before I was sent for by the head nun. I was in the washrooms next door to the bedrooms where I was scrubbing the floor. I was wearing a shirt, jumper and checked trousers with an elasticated waist. I was lead into the room by the nun and the nun told me to sit down and then she left. Father SND 67 asked about my home life. He blamed our parent's drinking on us. For the first fifteen minutes he appeared genuine. He then got up and he walked behind me to the window. He asked what he was going to do with me. He asked me to stand up. I wouldn't and he grabbed my right arm. I wouldn't answer him. He seemed to get pleasure out of me crying so I didn't cry this time and that seemed to annoy him. He had me by the arm and he gave me a shake. He then lifted my arm upright and pulled my arm out of my jumper. My eyes filled with tears. He told me to take my jumper off. I looked at him and he told me again to take my jumper off. I pulled it off defiantly and threw it on the floor. He grabbed my plaits and he tried to pull my trousers off. The trousers didn't come down so he told me to take them off. The elastic at the side of the trousers

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was tied and I pretended I couldn't undo the knot. He got into a very bad mood and he tugged the trousers down and the elastic opened.

10. I was standing facing the chair and he prised my legs apart with his foot. He held my hair by my plait and then pulled my head back so I was looking at the ceiling. His penis was not exposed but he rubbed his penis against my body. He took my pants down to my knee with his right hand. He then forced me over by pushing my head forward and he prised my legs apart wider. By this time he had exposed his penis as I could feel it against my lower back region. He then bent down and placed his penis between my thighs. He did not insert his penis into my vagina. He always placed his finger into my anus. He then masturbated by placing his feet outside of mine and forcing my thighs closed. This time he did not ejaculate. He then came to the front of me and praised me for being a good girl. He still maintained his grip of my hair and he forced me to the ground on to my knees. He then told me as I had been good he would teach me the right way and started to quote the Bible. He pulled my hair towards his penis and he told me his penis was like a lollipop. He held his penis. I struggled. I remember a sweet body odour, it was a sickly sweet smell. He pushed my head into his penis and I felt as if I was being suffocated. His penis was at my mouth. He was masturbating himself and simultaneously pushing my head into his penis. He kept telling me I was doing good. I felt sick. He was smiling. He ejaculated to the side of my face. The abuse lasted about 30 minutes or so. I kept vomiting. He was in a bad mood because I did.

11. He got me dressed but didn't put on my pants. The pants were left in the room. There was vomit on the floor. I remained in the room and the priest left the room. The head nun came in and she got a mop and a bucket and was shouting at me for being sick. I had to clean up the mess and then she put me back in the cupboard. I was there for a long time while everyone else was in bed.

12. Two days later Father **SND 67** returned to Termonbacca. I think it was the weekend. He arrived about 1.30pm with another man. There was a girl in the home called **SND 199** **SND 199** was tall and we called her 'big bird'. She was told she was wanted, I think, by either Father **SND 67** or the other man.

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When she returned she looked at me. She had a look about her. We both understood what had happened. Even though we were young we knew what was right and what was wrong. We were in this cycle and none of us had any control over ourselves. Our lives were controlled by the welfare and the priests. About half an hour later the other man left.

13. A bell rang and we were all going upstairs. When I got to the top of the first flight the head nun called me and told me that Father **SND 67** wanted me. She hit me so hard that there is still ringing in my right ear. I did go to see a doctor about it when I was younger but I have learned to accept it. I had to go back to the same room. The nun left the room and I was alone with Father **SND 67**. He abused me almost in the same way as before only this time he immediately forced me to my knees for oral sex. I didn't throw up. After the abuse I met my sister **SND 199** in the yard. I was crying and I told her I wanted to go home. She seemed to like the place and she was surprised I wanted to go home.
14. **SND 199** wasn't laughing and joking as much as she used to because of what was being done to her by the priest and she started cutting her wrists. She told me it made her feel better. I tried it and it didn't make me feel much better. It was quite sore.
15. Everyone had jobs to do in the home. I was frightened of the old nun who was in charge. At meal times I was last to the table because I tried to avoid her. When I was last she gave me a beating. She said I was a very wicked girl and I needed to be punished. I had long hair which was plaited and the nun grabbed me by the hair so I couldn't get away from her. She beat me harder than my father.
16. The nun had a black thing on her side, it was thick. When she beat me with it, it stung my legs and any part of my body it touched. The nuns beat me for no reason. There was nowhere to run to as I didn't know where I was and it was surrounded by fields.

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17. My sisters [REDACTED] and I tried to work out how to get out of the home. When a social worker visited us we told her everything was great at home in order to get back home.
18. We stayed in Termonbacca until 26th September 1980. We were sent home to our parents. When we were at home everything was okay for a while but then things went wrong again. In school we pretended to the teachers that everything was great but the teachers knew it wasn't. They saw the marks on us. We learned to lie and to have fake smiles. I went to St. Anne's primary school. It was a Roman Catholic school and priests would come in to visit at different times of year which frightened me. I played up in St. Anne's so I was moved to Derry Road Presbyterian School. I was supposed to go to Derry Road High School but on the day I was due to start secondary school my mother was drunk and the only uniform she had was one of my sister's from Our Lady of Mercy so I had to go there instead.
19. One of the nuns at school [REDACTED] knew something was wrong when we didn't have dinner money. She was so nice. She brought us into the back kitchen and she gave us scones and tea because she knew we had no dinner. She gave us bags of clothes and sent us home with extra bottles of milk. The nuns who were my primary school teachers were lovely. They hugged us and were loving and caring.
20. On one occasion we got a severe beating from my father and me and two of my sisters ran away and stayed with relatives. I was placed in care on 11th October 1980 because my parents were drunk and incapable of looking after us. I was admitted to Harberton House under a court order for care and protection. However the welfare decided that Fort James was a more suitable placement and I moved there.

Fort James (03/11/1980 – 1/12/1980)

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21. I was admitted to Fort James from Harberton House on 3rd November 1980 when I was 11 years old. I was discharged from Fort James on 1st December 1980 into my parent's care.
22. The home was badly run and there was a very aggressive, noisy atmosphere.
23. I was given pocket money in a small brown envelope. The key workers from Fort James brought us to the shops and we were allowed to spend our money. When I was there about week we were walking back to the home from the shops when we met Father **SND 67**. He was walking towards us. I froze with fear. He put his hand on my head and gave it a shake. The key worker told me that Father **SND 67** had been asking about me and that he was a lovely man. I was very upset and angry as I thought the worker had told him where I was. I threw my sweets away. When we got to the home she reported my bad behaviour.
24. About four or five days later Father **SND 67** arrived at Fort James. I was told I had a visitor. I was lead down into a small meeting room and Father **SND 67** was sitting in the room. I don't think the door was locked. It was a room on a corridor of rooms. He didn't abuse me on this occasion. Everyone really loved Father **SND 67**. He was always given tea when he visited and he prayed with the adults. He was very placid and softly spoken. He held people by the hand and knew everyone's name.
25. Father **SND 67** visited Fort James on a number of occasions. I had nowhere to run. He would be waiting for me in the front office when I arrived home from school. When I arrived back a member of staff would call me and tell me that Father **SND 67** had arrived. I kicked up a fuss a couple of times and a male staff member called **FJ 1** who was in his mid thirties, grabbed me by the arms and put me in the quiet room. I think their view was that this lovely priest was coming to see me and I was being disrespectful. I knew I had to see him so it was either kick up a fuss with **FJ 1** twisting my arms and putting me in the quiet room or go and see Father **SND 67**. Eventually I agreed to see him. He would always see me in the same room. He inserted his fingers into my anus

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and groped my vagina. He ejaculated over my legs and into my face. He placed his penis in my mouth.

26. Father **SND 67** abused me two to three times a week while I was in Fort James. On one occasion I bled from the anus and he told me that the blood was the demons leaving my body.
27. I told my key worker **SND 501** who was based in Harberton, that the priest came to see me and she said to me that it was nice of the priest to call and see if I was okay. I nodded when she was speaking as if to agree with her because the welfare didn't understand or care and I didn't tell her what he was doing to me.
28. I was discharged from Fort James on 1st December 1980 and I went home.
29. When I was released from care I saw Father **SND 67** a few times in **[REDACTED]** but I was never abused by him again.

Outside institutions

30. Social services were involved when I left Fort James and social workers visited my home at least once a week. I think it was around 1981 when a social worker called **SND 68** was introduced to our family. I think he was between 35 and 40 years old. He was slightly overweight with dark hair. He looked untidy. He acted as a counsellor to my family. We had to sit in the living room and discuss how we felt about each other, our parents and school and things like that.
31. **SND 68** arrived on several occasions when my parents were drunk. I thought he would have put us into care but he didn't. He continued with the therapy. After this he arrived with a half bottle of Bushmills Whiskey which he gave to my mother and father. My parents looked forward to him coming. We all liked him.

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32. [REDACTED] SND 68 would arrive late in the evening and we would be wearing our night gowns ready for bed. We never wore our underwear to bed. After the fourth or fifth visit [REDACTED] SND 68 had one of my sisters on his knee and he was tickling her. No one felt threatened or uncomfortable. When he lifted me on to his knee he tickled me but from behind he slid his hand over my bottom and between my legs. I froze. He had one hand on my vagina and the other he was using to tickle me. I cried and said I had a head ache. My mother said that I was a 'huffy b*tch' and she sent me to bed. The others came to bed about 10 to 15 minutes later.

33. [REDACTED] SND 68 came to visit the following week. I said I was going to band practice to get out of the house before he arrived. I actually went behind a local shop and practiced the accordion. About three or four weeks later he arrived at the house. I wasn't expecting him to call that particular day. We were all sitting at the fire ready for bed. [REDACTED] SND 68 gave my mother and father whiskey. They had already been drinking. He brought a parcel and we all played 'pass the parcel'. He lifted me and placed me on his knee sideways. He then placed [REDACTED] between himself and the arm of the chair. He was chatting to us and my mother and father were drunk on the whiskey. He placed his hand under my bottom and under my leg into the vagina area of my body. He continued to talk to [REDACTED]. I got up and went to the toilet. When I came back [REDACTED] was on his knee and he had [REDACTED] standing beside his right hand side. He then left. If I knew he was coming I always made sure I was out of the house. He was eventually replaced by another social worker called [REDACTED].

34. One evening around 10pm I was in the house with my friend [REDACTED] and my three sisters. At this time my parents were pretending to be separated. My father lived with us and my mother lived in the house next door. We lived between both houses. I was cooking in my mother's house when my father came and banged the door. I wouldn't let him in. He went away and came back about five minutes later with an axe. He started to chop the door. I had no key for the back door so [REDACTED] my sisters and I escaped through the window. Everyone was screaming. We went out the back and ran three miles to my aunt's house.

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35. I thought that the welfare would come and I would be placed back in care and be abused. I couldn't accept that so I took an overdose of over forty sleeping tablets. They belonged to my mother. I woke up in Altnagelvin on 4th March 1986. On 5th March 1986 I was admitted to Gransha psychiatric hospital. The doctors wanted to place me in Fort James. I refused to go. Even though Gransha was terrible it was a lot better than Fort James. I stayed in Gransha for five weeks.

Harberton House (08/04/1986 – 21/05/1986)

36. On 8th April 1986 I was placed in Harberton House from Gransha following my overdose.

37. Harberton was the only institution I was in which was good. However, I did hear some of the workers saying out loud 'she's only out of Gransha isn't that a mental institution'. These comments upset and annoyed me.

38. I was discharged from Harberton into my parent's care on 21st May 1986 when I was sixteen years old.

Life after care

39. I have never trusted social workers and never fully trusted priests. Being in these institutions made me feel like I was being punished for sin. It made me feel as though I had no control in my life.

40. I married a man who was abusive to me and my children. When he started abusing the children I got a court order and moved to Belfast. I have five children - [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The youngest is 14 and the eldest is 26. I have never told them about the abuse I suffered in care. We are all very close and I also have two grandchildren [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

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41. I attempted suicide about 8 years ago. One morning, I saw Father **SND 67** picture in a newspaper and it brought it all back to me. There was nobody I could talk to as nobody knew about the abuse. I couldn't cope any longer. On top of that, my mother was dying at the time and I think she was trying to reach out to me but I couldn't deal with it. I waited until everyone had gone to bed, then I got up and took an overdose. All I remember is going to sleep. I woke up a few days later in hospital on life support.
42. I have attended counselling but I didn't find it very useful.
43. I have never told anyone about the abuse and I had never reported it to the police until the Inquiry.
44. I have learned from the police that Father **SND 67** is now living in **SND 68** and **SND 68** is dead. I believe the police brought Father **SND 67** over for questioning during the summer of 2013.

Statement of Truth

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

HIA 108
Signature **SND 67**

Dated 3-12-13

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1968

(Section 99)

AUTHORITY TO REMOVE TO PLACE OF SAFETY

Petty Sessions District of

County of

County Borough of

Before a Justice of the Peace acting for the said Petty

Sessions District and County

To **TL 19** of *W. H. S. S. B.*

By virtue of the provisions of Section 99 of the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968, you are hereby authorised to take to *Maebacken*
House, L'Derry a place of safety **HIA 108**

of a child (or young person under the age of seventeen years) in respect of whom an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968 has been or is believed to have been committed, that is to say (state particulars of offence)

In need of care & protection.

ON THE *11th* DAY OF *Oct.* 19*80.*

in accordance with the provisions of Section (94) (96) (97) of the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968).

The said child (or young person) may be detained in the said place of safety for a period of not longer than

(specify period not in any case to exceed that specified in Section 100 (2) of the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968) before being brought before the Court.

Dated this *11th* Day of *Oct.* 19*80.*

By virtue of the provisions of Section 99 of the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968, you are hereby authorised to take to of a child (or young person under the age of seventeen years) in respect of whom an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968 has been or is believed to have been committed, that is to say (state particulars of offence)

J. D. H. P.
 Justice of the Peace

Christian Name	Where Born	Date of Birth	Where Baptised	Parents' Names	Occupation	Recommend
[REDACTED]						Derry Social Se
HIA 108	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				

Recommended by	Received	Died	Left	Observations	No.
Derry Social Services	22-9-1980		26-9-1980	Returned to Parents.	1795
-	22-9-1980		23-9-1980	-	1796
-	22-9-1980		26-9-1980	-	1797

HIA REF: []

NAME: []

DATE: []

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of Fr. **SND 67**I, **SND 67** will say as follows:-

1. I was born on the [] and during my childhood resided at [] Derry. This was my family home until my mother's death in 1992. I was educated at St. Columb's College, Bishops Street, Derry and on leaving school I entered ministry and was ordained a priest on []. After a few months I was appointed in or about [] as a Curate in [] parish where I remained until []. In [] I was appointed to the parish of [] in [] where I remained a Curate until []. I was then transferred to the parish of [] in the [] area of the [] but after a year, in [] I transferred to the [] parish in [] where I continued in ministry until []. My next appointment was to [] parish but after a brief period of time, in [] I transferred to [] in the country end of [] Parish. In [] I moved to the town end of [] parish where I served as a Curate until []. I took leave of absence in [] and have not been in active ministry since then. I currently live in [].
2. I regularly visited schools in the various parishes in which I served. However I was never given the responsibility or tasked to visit any residential children's institutions in a pastoral, spiritual or other capacity. This was the case even if I was serving in a particular parish in which a residential children's institution was located
3. The allegations made against me by **HIA 108** refer specifically to St. Josephs, Termonbacca and Fort James Children's Home. To the best of my knowledge, I was in Termonbacca only once when I was a student priest, and a group of us put on a pantomime for the children and staff. I had no contact with any child and on this one occasion when I did visit, I would only have had limited contact with nuns and other members of staff. As this visit took place some time before I was ordained in [] I could not have met **HIA 108** in Termonbacca as according to her statement she was placed in this institution on 22nd September 1980 for four days. St. Joseph's, Termonbacca is located in the Creggan area of Derry and during the time she alleges I visited her, I had only just been appointed to [] parish. I know of no reason why I would have gone to a Children's Residential Home located in another parish around that time.
4. My understanding is that a Chaplain would have been appointed by the Bishop to the Nazareth Sisters in Bishops Street, Derry and the Chaplain was also responsible for Termonbacca. It is possible priests from the St. Columb's College Staff would have said morning mass there but I am unaware priests serving in other parishes would have been expected to visit Termonbacca to test children or their knowledge of the Bible or for any other purpose.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

SND 67Dated: 20th January, 2014

HIA REF: []

NAME: []

DATE: []

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of Fr. **SND 67**

5. It has also been alleged by **HIA 108** visited and abused her at Fort James Children's Home, which I understand is located in [] just outside Derry City. In her statement, she alleged she was admitted to Fort James on 3rd November 1980 and was discharged on 1st December 1980 into her parents' care.
6. She alleges that she first saw me when I was walking towards her in close proximity to the Fort James Home. I totally deny this. I have no connection to the [] area and there is no reason I would have been walking in that area, at that particular time.
7. According to her statement, I visited her 2-3 times per week during the four week period she was in the Home. This would mean I was in Fort James between 8-12 times during the course of one month. I reject this as being completely untrue. As stated above in relation to priests visiting Termonbacca, I also know of no reason why a Parish Curate would visit children in residential care at Fort James.
8. In the course of my ministry over the years, I would of course have visited many people in diverse places and with the passage of time, it is not possible for me to recall every place and every person I would have visited in a pastoral, spiritual or other capacity. All I can say is I have no recollection of ever visiting Fort James in any capacity whatsoever and I certainly did not visit on numerous occasions in the space of one month as alleged by her.
9. I have been asked to comment on the specific allegations made by **HIA 108**. The first thing I want to state is that I have no particular recollection of her or her family. It is alleged by her that she first had contact with me during the summer of 1980 in the parochial house in []. I do not believe this was possible. I was not aware I was going to be transferred to [] Parish until I received my letter of appointment from Bishop Daly. This letter is dated []. A copy is attached to my statement (Appendix 1). The letter of appointment makes it clear that while I would have had some duties in the Parish from [] I would only expected to have taken up residence in the parochial house on or before []. There is therefore no reason for me to have been in the parochial house during the summer of 1980 as alleged by **HIA 108**. Following on from this, there would have been no reason for me to subsequently visit her at Termonbacca during the period 22nd to 26th September 1980 as alleged by her.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

SND 67Dated: 20th January, 2014.

HIA REF: []

NAME: []

DATE: []

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of Fr. **SND 67**

10. I have already stated I have no recollection of visiting Fort James or that there would be any reason for me to go there when I had recently been appointed Curate in [] parish. This was a very busy parish and I would have had plenty of pastoral and spiritual duties to keep me occupied and I did not travel to Fort James in the [] area either to go for a walk or visit **HIA 108** as many as 8-12 occasions in one month.

HIA 108 as stated after she was released from care at Fort James on 1st December 1980 she saw me a few times in []. I would not challenge this. Whilst I have no recollection of her, it could well be the case that she saw me from time to time in []. I would also have visited the homes of parishioners in [] as part of my pastoral duties and it is not possible for me to recall the names of all the parishioners I visited. I just have no recollection of visiting **HIA 108** or her family.

11. In her statement when she describes an incident in the parochial house in [] during the summer of 1980, she claims she met me in the kitchen of the parochial house and that the parish priest, [] was in the kitchen alongside me. Apart from the fact, as I have already stated, my appointment to [] parish took effect in [] and not beforehand, I can also confirm the parish priest in [] then was []. The other Curate in the parish was []. I replaced a Curate called []. I do not believe there was any priest known as [] in [] parish at that time. I enclose an extract from a published book, by Daly and Devlin, entitled "The Clergy of the Diocese of Derry: An Index" which refers to the appointments of a number of priests, including myself. This also confirms [] was a Curate in [] Parish between 1977 and 1982. A copy is attached to my statement (Appendix 2).

12. I totally reject the allegations made by **HIA 108** against me. I did not abuse her and I am certain each and every one of these allegations is without any justification whatsoever.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed:

SND 67Dated: 20 January, 2014.

CONFIDENTIAL

WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT (N.I.) 1968
NOTIFICATION OF CHILD'S DISCHARGE FROM CARE

W.C.10/11

(For information about Notifications in relation to Child Boarded-Out in a Foster Home, see Foster Care Section).

TO: _____
 FROM: Mr. P. McLaughlin, Social Worker, County Building, Barrack Street, Strabane.

1. Surname: **HIA 108** 2. Forename(s) **HIA 108**
 3. D.o.B. _____ 4. Place of Birth _____
 5. In Care Address FORT JAMES CHILDREN'S HOME,
LONDONDERRY.
 6. Child Benefit Number _____
 7. Discharged to (name(s), address and relationship to Child) _____
 8. (a) Section of Children and Young Persons Act (N.I.) 1968 under which discharged from care Section 103
 (b) Reason for discharge from care Parents resuming responsibility for care
 9. Date of discharge from care 1st December, 1980.
 10. Name and address of G.P. with whom Child is to register (if changed on discharge from care) _____
 11. School attended while in care Dungiven Road, Primary School, Waterside, Londonderry.
 12. School which Child will attend on discharge from care (if different from (11) above) _____
 Date 2nd December, 1980. Signed [Signature]
 Senior Social Worker / Social Worker

DISTRIBUTION LIST (Notification as per above should always be sent to those listed from 1 - 6 below and where appropriate, to those listed from 7 - 9 below)

1. District Records Officer * **HIA 108** will be attending _____
 2. Accounts Department.
 3. District Administrative Nursing Officer.
 4. Principal Social Worker/Assistant Principal Social Worker/Senior Social Worker responsible for Residential and Day Care Services.
 5. Identified member of Clerical Staff responsible for the maintenance of the District Register of Children in Care.
 6. Child Benefit Office.
 7. Department of Health and Social Services, if person (parent, guardian etc.) to whom Child is discharged is in receipt of Supplementary Benefit, Unemployment Benefit, Sickness Benefit, Invalidity Benefit, or any other Statutory Benefit.
 8. School transfer certificate and short birth certificate should be obtained from "In Care" school, and forwarded to Principal of school which Child will attend, following discharge from care, if different from school attended while in care.
 9. If appropriate, the Education Welfare Officer should also be notified.

CONFIDENTIAL

W.C./10/1

WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT (N.I.) 1968****1 - INFORMATION RELATING TO CHILD ON HIS/HER ADMISSION TO CARE**

- (a) Surname **HIA 108** (b) Forename(s) **HIA 108**
- (c) Home Address **[REDACTED]**
- (d) Sex (M/F) **Female** (e) D.o.B. **[REDACTED]** (f) Place of Birth **[REDACTED]**
- (g) Legitimate/Ilegitimate **Legitimate** (h) Religious Denomination **R.C.**
- (i) Date and Place of Baptism **[REDACTED]**
- (j) Address before Admission (if different from (c) above) **Gransha Hospital**
- (k) School attended before Admission **[REDACTED]**
- (l) Name and Address of Family Doctor **Dr. Friel, Health Centre, [REDACTED]**
- (m) Date of Admission **8.4.86**
- (n) Estimated period of time child will remain in care (less than 6 months/6 months plus) **6 months plus**
- (o) Placed in/with (Full Name(s) and Address of Residential Unit or Foster Parents must be stated) **Harberton House, Assessment Unit, Derry**

NOTE: The following Documents should be obtained:--

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | Consent of Parent(s) or Guardian to Child in Care having any necessary Medical and Dental Treatment and Authorisation for the District Social Services Officer to sign Hospital Consent Forms. | } From
Parent(s)
or
Guardian |
| 2. | Consent of Parent(s) or Guardian to Immunisation and/or Vaccination | |
| 3. | Medical Card | |
| 4. | Birth Certificate | |
| 5. | Certificate of Health of Child on Admission to Care - from doctor who examined child. | |
| 6. | School Transfer Certificate - from principal of school attended before admission. | |

WESTERN AREA HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
LONDONDERRY, LIMA VADY AND STRABANE DISTRICT

GRANSHA HOSPITAL

CLOONEY ROAD, LONDONDERRY BT47 1TF

Telephone: CAMPSIE 860261

Mr Colm McCourt
Social Worker
Strabane Social Services
Meeting House Street
STRABANE
Co Tyrone

21 May 1986

Dear Colm

Re: **HIA 108**

I understand from our telephone conversation today, that you have not yet received a psychiatric report on the above girl. I saw Dr O'Donnell this morning and he has promised to do the report this week. However, in case there is any further delay, the following is a very close account of the verbal report given to me on 4 April 1986.

HIA 108 was admitted to Gransha Hospital following an overdose which was thought to be a serious cry for help, probably precipitated by home circumstances. Her parents seem to be irresponsible, forcing her to look after children, as well as maintaining the household. The fact of her shoplifting, in which she appeared to wish to get caught, would lend evidence to this cry for help notion.

Prior to admission, **HIA 108** was living with her uncle. He was being pressurised by her father to return her to her home. Her parents also objected to her seeing her boyfriend.

We think that this is a normal 16 year-old of average or above average intelligence who sees the only way out of her dilemma by pretending to harm herself.

She is a determined individual and, under no circumstances, will she return to her home situation of her own accord. It is our opinion that she may do some other anti-social act to, again, draw attention to her predicament. We feel that it is in her best interest to be admitted to care".

At the time of the CET, when I spoke with Dr O'Donnell, he felt that **HIA 108** was not suffering any psychiatric illness.

WESTERN AREA HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
LONDONDERRY, LIMA VADY AND STRABANE DISTRICT

GRANSHA HOSPITAL

CLOONEY ROAD, LONDONDERRY BT47 1TF

Telephone: CAMPSIE 860261

-2-

21 May 1986

Mr Colm McCourt

One additional piece of information was that, while HIA 108 scored a normal IQ, the Psychologist in his report gave the opinion that she is something of an under-achiever and that, given the right opportunity and encouragement, she could score higher and could do well in education.

Hopefully, the report will reach you in time for the CET. However, as a second best, this may be of use.

Yours sincerely

A. Kennedy.

ALAN KENNEDY
Social Worker

WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

Londonderry Limavady & Strabane Unit of Management

Please use this reference in your reply

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date 22nd May 1986

HARBERTON HOUSE
ASSESSMENT CENTRE
106 IRISH STREET
LONDONDERRY
BT 47 1JB N. IRELAND
TEL: 48490

INTERNAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

SUBJECT:

HIA 108

DATE OF BIRTH:

10th October 1969

SOCIAL WORKER:

COLIN McCOURT

HIA 108 was admitted to Harberton House on the 8th April 1986, having been discharged from Gransha Psychiatric Hospital, where she had been a patient from 5th March 1986. She had taken an amount of sleeping tablets and the results could have been very serious had she not been found in time. The resident Psychiatrist felt she was not suffering from any clinical mental illness but to return her home at that time could have proven detrimental to her physical and mental well-being. A referral was made by Colin McCourt, Social Worker, for **HIA 108** admission to Harberton House for a period of assessment.

The [REDACTED] family have been known to Social Services since 1978, mainly in relation to the Home Help services. They had seven young children to care for and a daughter [REDACTED] who was being treated for a brain tumour. [REDACTED] died as a result of her illness. During 1979 a Referral was made to the Department from relatives of Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] stating that they both had a drink problem and generally expressing concern for the children. Mr McLaughlin, Social Worker, spent approximately one year working with the family in an effort to help them resolve their difficulties - but this work proved fruitless. During this period several of the children were admitted to care. **HIA 108** was referred to Harberton House for Assessment. She was returned home at this time and the case was closed in January 1981.

Areas to be looked at during the Assessment were:

1. The reasons for **HIA 108** unhappiness with the home;
2. To assess her individual needs and where best they can be met in the future.

HIA 108 is a tall, thin girl who is quite attractive. She is self-conscious and is inclined to have a nervous disposition. On admission she was reluctant to go out and had several 'panic attacks' when she was in a crowded situation.

Continued/.....

She has improved greatly over the weeks and is now capable of going out on her own. She has a healthy appetite and has no physical defects.

The family have kept 'in touch' with HIA 108 but were not prepared to have any formal discussion about their daughter. HIA 108 was equally reluctant to sit down with them, so the overall picture of this family remains somewhat confused.

HIA 108 states that her parents are invariably drunk and would go on a 'binge' lasting for as long as a week. Colin McCourt, S.W. has visited the homes - as they are separated and live in adjoining houses. He has found the remaining children well cared for and the homes of a high material standard. There is no doubt that the parents drink - but they maintain that they take it in turns - always having an adult capable of looking after the children. HIA 108 attitude to her father is one of indulgence, in that she can get money and gifts from him after he has been drinking. He obviously is made to feel guilty for his actions by HIA 108 and HIA 108 have never had a good relationship.

HIA 108 mother would maintain that HIA 108 has always been 'difficult' and likes to behave as the only adult in the home. Recently HIA 108 has been known to be mixing with suspect company and was arrested for shoplifting on 13th February 1986. The police were to prepare a report with a view to prosecution, but nothing further to date has come of this incident.

HIA 108 reasons for the overdose remain vague in that she uses the parents drinking habits as the total problem. Everything she has said during her stay here has focused entirely on this. She doesn't talk about herself and if pressed to open up she withdraws completely. She is quite an intelligent girl and is capable of manipulating situations to suit herself. In the Unit, she has been exceptionally helpful and caring. She will offer assistance without being asked but tends to feel martyred after having done so. When directly asked to do something, she becomes very assertive and will not co-operate.

Initially HIA 108 behaviour could have been interpreted as being slightly bizarre. She would talk at length and aloud to her dead sister. She maintained that she needed no one else and has often said she would prefer to be with her dead sister, [REDACTED]. Throughout her time here she has phoned home and always felt that her mother was avoiding talking to her. Her father visited here, under the influence of alcohol. However, HIA 108 felt secure enough in his company to go over the town with him to buy plants and to have some refreshments in a local bar. Once again HIA 108 actions belied her words.

She went for an interview at a local factory and was given a job on the proviso that she got a wart removed from her hand. This was done and she is optimistic that they will keep their word.

Continued/.....