

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 352

Witness Name: HIA 352

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 352

I, HIA 352 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED]
2. My mother was a single parent, having previously split up with my father. I lived with her and my two older brothers, [REDACTED] and HIA 69. My mother met another man and had two more children, SND 309 and [REDACTED]. I was five years old when [REDACTED] was born and not long after that we were all taken into care. I think we were taken into care because my mother was an alcoholic. I never met my father as a child. I only met him in 1991 when he came home from England to die.

St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca [REDACTED]

3. I was taken into Termonbacca with [REDACTED] HIA 69 [REDACTED] and SND 309 when I was four years old. I don't remember seeing my brothers [REDACTED] and HIA 69 there. I remember being taken to the nursery, put into a bath and scrubbed with a deck brush by Sister SR 3 who was laughing at another member of staff but was then cross with me saying 'you dirty wee bitch, you dirty wee bitch, look at the state of you'.

PRIVATE

4. I remember there was one family there called the [REDACTED] family. Sister **SR 3** used to pull at the eldest girl's bra strap and call her a harlot and a tramp. Sister **SR 3** loved my youngest sister [REDACTED] because she was blonde but they referred to me as a 'wee gypsy' with hair like 'rats tails'.
5. The only other nuns I recall who were there at the time were Sister **SR 17** who took over the nursery when Sister **SR 3** left and Sister **SR 14** who was the nun in charge of St Gerard's group for 6-17 year olds. I was moved to that group when I left the nursery. Sister **SR 14** did not like me at all.
6. One worker was called **SND 58** [REDACTED] and I have never liked or got on well with her. She always called me a fishwife and slapped me across the head. One day she slapped me and knocked my head off a cement wall. It caused a bump to my head but no open wound so I did not receive any medical treatment. She was wicked. She told me to shut up and stop crying.
7. Another "live-in" civilian employee called **SND 59** was a very strict woman but I never saw her hit anyone. **SND 59** worked in the nursery. She made me feel like a diseased person when she told me not to touch the younger boys because of the warts on my hands. I think **SND 59** had a drink problem. I recall on one occasion we stayed near a bar in Shrove, Co-Down called The Drunken Duck. We were staying in an old school house nearby and **SND 59** not drunk. As we were travelling home she was trying to open the car door whilst the car was moving and the nun driving, I think it was Sister **SR 3** or Sister **SR 27** had to tell her to close the door. Her behaviour really scared us at the time.
8. There was a befriending scheme in the home where you were introduced to families and taken out for ice cream or on day trips or holidays. I was introduced to a family called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] used to visit me. They took me on two summer holidays with them to [REDACTED] I also spent every second weekend with them at their home during holiday periods more than term time. My visits had to stop when [REDACTED] went

PRIVATE

back to work. She had been a stay at home mother when I stayed with them. When they stopped visiting **SND 58** could tell me they didn't want me and I was 'good for nothing'. This was not true as they were a very genuine couple and they even found me in later years when I was staying at Fort James.

9. At dinner time **SND 58** held my mouth open and forced me to eat carrots. I thought she was going to bruise or break my jaw.

10. I was often blamed for things going missing in the home. I was blamed one day for stealing £12 and no-one believed me that I didn't take it. I found out the identity of the person responsible in later years and told him years later that I had been blamed wrongly for these thefts.

11. When I was aged seven or eight years old I was moved with my brother **SND 309** from the nursery to St Gerard's group. Sister **SR 14** was in charge of St Gerard's and it was mostly made up of boys. I thought she was lovely at first but then she started to single me out along with another girl called **SND 404**. **SND 404** She would accuse us of stealing sweets and money. She used to make us stand up before we went to sleep and said to everyone 'Just to let you know that **SND 404** and **HIA 352** have been stealing again'. I remember an incident when we were made to stand outside Sister **SR 14** room until we admitted stealing. That lasted for three days. We eventually decided to admit it just to get it over with, even though it wasn't true. Sister **SR 14** would tell the cleaners to lock up their handbags because **HIA 352** had been stealing. Sister **SR 14** was always very fond of my brother **HIA 69** because he was bright and passed his 11+ exam but I have no idea why she always picked on me.

12. When I was seven or eight years old I had to change the babies' nappies. On one occasion Sister **SR 3** slapped a young boy, who was probably only one and a half years old, on the head. A lay worker, **SND 58** told her to stop. I was often hit or slapped on the back of the head by **SND 58** or

PRIVATE

Sister **SR 3** if the younger children weren't fed or changed quickly enough. It was like a conveyor belt but I got quite good at changing nappies.

13. The older boys would pin me down and put their hands down my pants. They said it was to check if I was a teenager yet. Looking back I think this was boyish horseplay rather than sexual abuse but I told Sister **SR 14** about this at the time and she said I was a little prostitute anyway and that I was probably 'asking for it'.

14. I spoke to my brother **SND 309** about Termonbacca and he remembers the beatings and having to hide the sheets after wetting the bed. **SND 58** would have beaten and whipped **SND 309** for wetting the bed on a regular basis. I never wet the bed myself but I watched Sister **SR 3** beat a lot of other kids for wetting the bed. Sister **SR 6** came to the home after Sister **SR 14** and she hit **SND 309** with a stick for wetting the bed. Sister **SR 14** did not hit him for this but she did subject him to mental abuse. I also witnessed **SND 58** hit **SND 309** regularly.

15. When I was ten years old I was responsible for taking six or seven younger children into town. Sister **SR 14** threatened me that if anything happened to them I was going to get it. If you were sick the staff members, not the nuns, were really good to you and brought you up drinks of orange and ice cream. I was bitten one day in the nursery and I refused to get it washed as it was infected and sore. **SND 58** slapped me to get me into the bath. Sister **SR 3** scrubbed my infected hand with a nailbrush.

16. I was taken by a nun to the dentist for a check-up regularly.

17. When I was eleven or twelve I was fostered out to a family in **[REDACTED]** called the **[REDACTED]** family. They had one daughter **[REDACTED]** who was fifteen. I always felt like an outsider in their home. Once I overheard the foster mother telling **[REDACTED]** off because I wasn't allowed into my foster mother's bedroom. I recall they rang Social Services and organised for me to be taken on holiday with a scheme called Holiday Projects in Holland whilst they went as a family to Benidorm. They didn't take me anywhere and I always felt very isolated. I

PRIVATE

hated my foster family because they did not treat me like one of the family. My social worker was Jan Simpson when I was there but I didn't see her at any stage while I was in Termonbacca or staying with a family.

18. One day I heard that my brother **HIA 69** had gone missing and I was very upset. I was in Primary 5 at the time and **HIA 69** was about nine or ten. He had run away to my mother's house but he was found and brought back. The incident was reported in the **[REDACTED]** I heard that Sister **SR 6** had tried to strangle him and he had bruises on his neck. She hated **HIA 69** and called him a queer boy. Some of the older boys who were aged seventeen and upwards used to visit on a Saturday and Sunday and call him 'queer boy **HIA 69**' and 'nancy boy **HIA 69**'. I do not recall the names of any of these older boys. They all teased him and called him names.

19. My mother used to arrive drunk to visit me in Termonbacca. She probably got quite cheeky with the nuns and when she left we were punished for her behaviour. I was told 'your drunken mother, the state of her, you're just going to be like her'. I remember Sister **SR 6** giving me money to get my hair done. I was ten or eleven then and I went into a dark hall to look at myself in the mirror there. Sister **SR 109** came up behind me and slapped me in the face. I was so scared I wet myself and she said 'oh you dirty wee bitch' and she pulled my hair. I told a staff worker **SND 57** her married name is **SND 57** but she said I didn't get it for nothing.

20. The nuns never educated us about sexuality but Sister **SR 6** would warn us 'to be aware of the boys'. She hated men. Sister **SR 14** said I was encouraging the boys to touch me. She made my life hell by singling me out for stealing. When I told her the boys touched me she said 'what do you expect'. We never did homework at Termonbacca, we just polished our shoes and put our uniform away.

21. There was a social worker called **SND 332** who had his own office in the hall. We were actually encouraged to go and talk to him but all he wanted to do was talk about football to the boys. You learnt to keep quiet and nobody

PRIVATE

ever asked me if anything bad was going on. Life was just about cleaning shoes, doing dishes and hoovering. At Christmas time the company Du Pont sent a big bag of presents with a man dressed as Santa. You always got a doll and if there were bikes everyone shared them but I was allowed to keep my doll.

22. Staff workers would have overseen our meal times but the nuns never sat and ate meals with us. The food was lovely although I remember a day I found a maggot in my Weetabix and I got slapped on the head for saying so but they took the plates away quickly. I remember going on trips and on one of these trips Sister **SR 6** called my brother **HIA 69** queer in front of a girl who liked him. This happened on a trip to Shrove in Donegal. Some older boys who were ex-residents came on the trip with us to help out and they would have been responsible for a group of us. They were between seventeen and nineteen years old. **HIA 69** started to throw bricks and stones at them for calling him names and he ended up in the river. I recall three of these ex-residents were **SND 122** **SND 24** and **HIA 98**

23. I used to see my brothers **[REDACTED]** and **HIA 69** on the school bus. One morning **[REDACTED]** wasn't there. I found out years later he had moved to De La Salle. **HIA 69** is now a social worker in Galway, **SND 309** lives in Derry and **[REDACTED]** stayed with her foster parents.

Harberton House **[REDACTED]**

24. I got a call from my brother **HIA 69** one day to say he was in Harberton House and that it was brilliant. I decided to run away and I was then put into Harberton House too which was what I wanted. There was only one incident there. A staff member called **HH 22** snapped one day at a young boy called **[REDACTED]** and hit him on the mouth. She wore a ring on every finger and you could hear the crack of his teeth. She seemed sorry after she had done it.

PRIVATE

25. A man called **HH 5** was the officer in charge at the time. He used to hold a meeting with the residents every Tuesday evening where we could air our grievances. He always attended these meetings himself. We would often argue and fight during these meetings as children often do and we would tell stories about our time in Termonbacca. He was horrified at some of the stories we told about Termonbacca. He asked me had Sister **SR 5** ever hit me in Termonbacca. He said he had been told by boys who had been moved from Termonbacca to Harberton House that she used to whip the boys with curtain wire and left their legs stinging. He suggested that if we wanted to take the matter further or to initiate court proceedings due to the treatment we had received there then he was happy to assist if we wanted him to. He told us that we could speak to a solicitor because the treatment we were describing at Termonbacca was unacceptable. I still see **HH 5** when I am out and about the town centre at times. I attended his retirement party a couple of years ago.

Fort James

26. I was moved to Fort James for a short time when I was [REDACTED] years old. When I was around [REDACTED] and a half I was told I had to leave.

Life After Care

27. When I left Fort James I was put into my own flat. I couldn't cook and had no money. I was living on benefits. I didn't know if I was coming or going. I had lots of friends but there was no aftercare. Having been in an institution all my life I could have done with some extra support.

28. In those institutions I was simply a number. I have always had very low self-esteem. I am a recovering alcoholic. My problems with alcohol began in my twenties. I sought help from AA in my late twenties. [REDACTED]

PRIVATE

29. A friend of mine [DL 48] spoke to me about Termonbacca the day before he committed suicide. Up until 1995 he was made to feel you shouldn't talk about things [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] HH 5 told me that DL 48 revealed to him one day that he was anally raped at Rubane House, Kircubbin. I think DL 48 may have been a resident at Fort James for a period of time when HH 5 was employed there prior to him taking up employment at Harberton House.

30. I have never reported the abuse I suffered to the police and I have never taken any legal action regarding my time in care.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

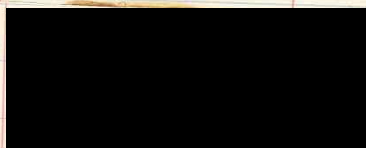
HIA 352

Dated

3rd Nov 2013

unknown.

Welfare.



Mother not married
re-admitted (see no. 1349)

1374.

1484

SW
21

HIA REF:

Witness Name: **SND 136**

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF **SND 136**

1. I, **SND 136** will say as follows –
2. This statement is provided by me voluntarily having been contacted by the police in Northern Ireland through my local police force and after a number of attempts to speak directly to the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry. I made contact with the Sisters of Nazareth and want to give information to the Inquiry based on my time in the care of the Sisters of Nazareth.

Personal Background

3. I was born in [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] I was then removed from my Mother because I was [REDACTED] and the birth was out of wedlock. After sometime at the hospital I now understand that I was then transferred to Lissue Children's unit in Lisburn (or some other children's home near Lisburn/Dromore Co Down). I believe, having talked with my mother, that because she would visit the home and see me, I was (within months of birth) transferred to St Joseph's Home Termonbacca, where I remained prior to its closure in the early eighties. During the process of closure I was fostered out. I think the inference was that whoever made the decisions did not want my mother having contact with me. Whether this was because I was born out of wedlock or because I was half caste, or both I think will never be known.
4. I recall a number of the boys and girls that were in Termonbacca: **SND 132** The **SND 241** Family **SND 241** **SND 211** **SND 210** [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] **HIA 69** & **HIA 352** **SND 139** **SND 150** & **SND 148** [REDACTED] **SND 23**

DL 153 and [redacted] SND 137 and SND 133
 HIA 60 HIA 11 SND 24 HIA 98
 SND 76 SND 113 DL 48 SND 154
 and [redacted]

5. I recall a number of the people who worked in Termonbacca as well. I remember a Sr SR 3 [redacted] who was a carer and worked with the sisters and a [redacted] who also helped out with the children. They would have been with the younger children in the nursery area.
6. At about 5 years old you moved up to the older unit which was a large dormitory. I remember SR 2 [redacted] who was with the younger group and SR 6 [redacted] who was with the older group. An older boy worked in the kitchen, HIA 144 [redacted] There were a number of carers. I recall SND 145 [redacted] (I think that was her name), SND 194 [redacted] SND 214 [redacted] and [redacted] (I can't remember her surname. SND 152 [redacted] and SND 23 [redacted] were former home boys who helped out in the grounds.
7. I would describe the atmosphere in the home as mixed. I had other friends to play with, mainly SND 132 [redacted] (long term in the home), SND 241 [redacted] and SND 23 [redacted] We would play Soldiers outside and in. We had a hobby room with toys and games, such as monopoly. A football pitch to play football and handball alley. We also had two dogs called Roger & Rover, and of all things I remember a donkey for a period of time. I also think that with the changes and comings and goings of some children and Sisters, this proved to be a greater challenge to the overall atmosphere. It was a constant feeling of change which could be unsettling..
8. The food consisted of a full breakfast or cereal in the morning. I could always ask for more. Sometimes If I didn't eat all of my greens I was made to sit at the table until I had. I have never seen anyone being force fed. Sometimes we would have to wait for the food to come up from the kitchen, which it did in a heated proof container so it was always hot. We also got a cooked lunch at the school and in the evening would get another cooked meal and dessert. We also got supper at night. The Sisters would eat in a separate area and time to the main home. Sometimes they would have sandwiches or biscuits for guests and if this wasn't eaten, then we could have it for late night supper. I wouldn't say the Sisters had different food, although their plates were a little more grand.
9. I would say our clothes were more than adequate and did not vary much from those I saw at school. As I was half caste my clothes were not really a matter of comment from other kids. I do not think the clothes actual varied much from the other kids so I don't think marked out the Termonbacca boys from those not in the home. Our

clothes were regularly laundered and were clean. I was never made to present my underwear for inspection and did not see any other child being required to do this either.

10. I recall Jeyes fluid or some other sort of disinfectant powder in the home. These were used as cleaning agents. I recall an incident when I was in the cleaning room and tried to clear out a bucket with some of this powder. The powder blew back into my face and, as I am sure you can imagine, it was very painful. I ran screaming for a carer and received attention. I cannot recall who it was helped me but I was helped.
11. I do not recall bathing in disinfectant of any sort. I remember a large bar of soap in the shower and bath areas. I recall these as they would have been used for other chores such as cleaning the skirting boards, the baths, the hallways and so on. The chores were done on a sort of rota and so you changed chores. It was part of the routine and the house was always kept clean.
12. I remember an incident when a family came in and they had to be washed and their clothes were all taken to be cleaned. They had lice and if they were not cleaned these would have spread very fast in the home environment.
13. I was never made to stand in a line naked for a bath or a shower. In fact, my memory is of wearing swimming pants when you went for a shower. I never saw any child standing in a line for a bath and definitely never naked.
14. I do recall an incident when **SND 23** came into my shower while I was in it. He asked me to take my swimming trunks down and I refused and told him to get out. He backed off and went away. I know that the older boys who had left were not allowed in the showers. I spoke to my friend **SND 132** about what happened that night and he said I should report it. I reported it to **SR 1** and she told me I had done the right thing reporting it to her. I do not know what, if anything was done but **SND 23** continued to help around the home and especially on the farm. I recall an incident, not long after the shower incident, where he was driving the tractor and **SND 132** and I were on the back of the tractor and he was driving. There was some comment including us calling **SND 23** names and both **SND 132** and I left the job. We were afraid we would be in trouble but nothing happened. I got the feeling **SND 23** was being monitored more closely but he continued to work around the home. I had no more issues with him.
15. Looking back this is an incident which I think should have been dealt with more seriously but it didn't really bother me too much at the time.
16. I never had an issue with bed wetting myself but it was an issue in the home. I recall children who had wet the bed having to strip their beds in the morning and bring the sheets to the laundry. I never saw a child humiliated or being made to stand with sheets on their heads or any other sort of treatment like that. The children who had wet the bed were made to wash and might have been a bit late down for breakfast. I

recall sitting beside a boy in school who smelt of urine but he was not one of the home boys. I know this is why the boys had to wash before they went to school if they wet the bed.

17. I know chastisement is the correct word but it sounds very harsh. If you had done something wrong you were told off or had some form of punishment. There was a threat of physical punishment but it was not something I received often. I do recall being sent to the kitchen to peel spuds as a punishment once. I can't remember what I did but I know I had done something wrong and just accepted that the peeling duty was a punishment and accepted it. I also remember getting 100 lines of "I should not speak back to **SR 2** I remember this clearly as I was clearly pressing down harder when I wrote **SR 2** and when she saw this she laughed and gave me a hug. I have no issues with that incident.
18. I would say corporal punishment was much more regular in both primary and secondary school. I was slapped and caned in both schools.
19. I recall an incident when **SR 2** slapped me across the face. I had been in the playground and had fallen onto a piece of glass which had embedded into my arm. I was bleeding heavily and was shocked and scared. I was screaming and wouldn't let anyone touch me or look at the wound. **SR 2** slapped me across the cheek with an open hand and this stunned me out of the hysteria. She was able to then calm me down. Because of this she was able to keep me calm and deal with the wound. This slap remains in my memory for a few reasons. It was totally out of character for **SR 2** to act like that but also it was a strange incident where the shock of the slap calmed me down.
20. I recall my clothes having my name on them for the laundry. I never remember having numbers on my clothes or ever being called by a number or any child talking about numbers being used instead of names. I remember **SR 2** we called her **SR 2** trying to implement a system where we each had plates and cups and that each piece had a number on them. It was probably for hygiene reasons but the children and carers did not like it and it was very difficult to implement and manage. It never really took off and was not a success.
21. There were regular outings and trips to keep us entertained. I have very fond memories of going to the US Army base to see movies on the big screen and going to a Dana concert after she won the Eurovision Song Contest. During the summer holidays we had trips to Greencastle I remember days fishing and swimming at the beach at Sharroove..
23. St Vincent de Paul would have hired buses to take us on day trips usually to the beach. I remember singing songs on the buses and even singing in the minibus taking us to school. I remember going on trips to Buncrana and going Christmas shopping in

Strabane. I have a very clear memory of rolling down the hill next to the home inside a huge wheel. I remember this clearly as there was snow falling and the field was completely white. This would probably not be allowed now because of the health and safety aspect.

24. I recall receiving gifts at my birthday and also at Christmas. We all had our own lockers in our bedroom area and also in the main living room. There was an outside area with table tennis, pool table and more storage lockers. We had to tidy up every evening to keep the place tidy and to prevent the toys being broken. I do recall coming back from [REDACTED] house on one occasion and she had given me a bottle of orange cordial. She gave me treats all the time. I hid the orange and mixed up bottles and bottles of diluted orange for myself and hid them. They were found and were placed on the dinner tables and all the kids had some. I recall this lesson in sharing very well. I do also remember coming back from a Christmas placement outing and my presents had been kept for me. It was great to still receive these and very exciting to play with them and to see and play with the toys the other boys had received.
25. I remember birthday parties and all the children enjoyed them.
26. Life after leaving the home was a new adventure. My peers and older ones from the home generally left and moved to the flats in The Creggan where I kept in touch with them. Some of the boys would be sniffing glue or getting drunk and some had moved away. As the home was closing down, I was hastily put into foster care around the age of 14/15 years. It didn't work (not that they were bad, it just didn't work out). I

27. [REDACTED]

28. I remember both **SR 2** and **SR 1** as loving, caring and compassionate people. More so **SR 2** than **SR 1** but both were very caring people who took on a mother role for me. When **SR 2** was moved on from Termonbacca I found this a very unsettling feeling. **SR 2** I recall as more authoritarian and not as loving a person. When I look back now at the period of change from the loving and caring feelings from **SR 2** and **SR 1** I may have been rebelling a bit and so maybe **SR 2** was being stricter with me as a result.
29. Almost as a rule, apart from the incident earlier, I would say the lay staffs were good caring people. I have no complaints about them other than the issue above.
30. There were incidents of bullying in the home as there were in school and outside. These actions were always away from the sight of the sisters as they would not have allowed any behaviour like that. I recall an incident when an older boy, I can't recall his name, made me stand against a wall and then shot at me from a slingshot. I was in my pyjamas at the time. I also recall being made to fight my best friend, **SND 132** for the amusement of **SR 2** and **SND 113**. I did not suffer a lot of bullying and it was not a standard thing. The bullies in the home actually looked out for you at school.
31. In some ways I was quite lucky. I got weekends away and some holiday time away with **SR 2** and stayed with her family. I even got to calling her parents Ma and Da. The sisters encouraged visits like this and fully supported it. I also recall staying with a family in **SR 2** and I believe this was the sisters trying to get us to experience life in a non-home family environment.
32. We were always encouraged to take part in activities outside the house as well. There were running clubs football, karate, Irish dancing and bands. **SR 2** There was also a local youth club we would have attended.
33. The sisters arranged extra tuition for me before the 11+ exam with **SND 388** of the Christian Brothers. They hoped I would get into St Josephs. This didn't happen so I went to **SR 2**.
34. I also got to go to Holland three years in a row to stay with a family there for part of the holidays. I remember **SR 2** cooking me a big breakfast before driving from Greencastle to Derry before my trip. I remember **SR 2** and their three children. It really was an adventure.
35. The home was not a bad place but was very regimented in many ways. We all had chores to do such as cleaning cupboards, dusting and even doing dishes. I do recall going to the farm to pick spuds. I recall someone saying we were to get paid for doing this but that didn't happen. **SND 132** and I acquired a big bag of spuds, split it into small

bags and sold them to the carers. One of the carers, I can't recall who, thought this showed great innovation.

36. I was able to get a copy of my birth certificate and after a couple of phone calls tracked down my mother. This was not a difficult task. Looking back I feel there was a major miscarriage of justice here. I was taken from my mother and, because she visited me, was then moved to Derry away from her. She has since told me she had wanted to return for me but this did not happen and she eventually moved to [REDACTED] I think I heard something in the home about my mother moving [REDACTED] so maybe they had some contact with her or someone was keeping them informed.
37. I feel as if the state simply abandoned me when they handed me over to the sisters. Someone took the decision to remove me from my mother and then to send me to Derry.. Out of sight, out of mind. The Sisters of Nazareth took me in and cared for me. Having read the material on the website for the Inquiry I would say that I believe there was a clear systemic failing where a child can be placed in a house many miles from his home clearly to inconvenience his family and to separate them and then duck their responsibilities. I do not have ill will towards the sisters who took me in, raised funds to provide my bed and board, education and even entertainment that many children outside the homes simply did not have.
38. I think there is a lot of "passing the buck" being done here. Children came into care for many reasons and the state should have been aware of who was in care and how they got there. Blaming the institutions for failings is not right in my view.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

SND 136

Dated

21 Jan 2014

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 in 1939 in Limerick. 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. I was professed in 1958 and took the name SR 3. I went to Termonbacca for two years, between 1958 and 1960. I then went to Bristol where I did my NNEB qualification as a nursery nurse and returned to Termonbacca about 1963..

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 and I returned around 1963/1964. 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.

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 **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.

General comments

41. the time that I was in Termonbacca was not a great time in Northern Ireland and particularly in Derry. The troubles were starting and we had riots, barricades and shooting on a daily basis. I remember occasions when we got bomb scares about bombs in Termonbacca and we had to get the children (including the babies) out into a field in the middle of the night and then the army searched the whole place. I remember a week when the house was surrounded by the army and it was almost impossible to get in or out.
41. Life was very difficult then and added to the troubles there was a lot of poverty in the Derry area. There was not much money in the area and we were called on a lot to help out locally..
42. I do not recall regular social worker visits. I think this was before the time when every child had a designated social worker. There were a couple who visited and Rosie Black is one I recall. We did have inspections by the state inspectors. I do not really recall these and it may be that the baby area was not inspected as much as the older children.
43. we relied very heavily on charity and I recall the Saint Vincent de Paul were always very good to us and the children. They would have made sure the children had gifts at Christmas. This is one of the reasons I cannot understand the comment about a toy room in the convent. The children did receive gifts especially at Christmas.
44. The local people were also very kind and contributed to collecting sisters and the diocese also had a collection every year for the sisters. Desmonds would have sent pyjamas up for the children and we were very grateful for all the help we could get.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

SR 3

Dated 12.11.2013

INTERNAL CASE REVIEW.

To be completed by member of staff responsible for the child

Name of child: HIA 352

Date of Birth:

Date of Admission: 7 July 1972

Responsible Local Authority: W. H. S. 8.

Referred by: Welfare

Responsibility:

House or Group: St Gerards

SR 6

1. Contact and relationship with child's own family:

a) With parents: Occasional visits to mother during September. No return visits yet.

b) With siblings or other relatives: Much better relationships with her brothers & sisters since HIA 69 her older brother was moved to another group.

c) With other outside contacts: HIA 352 spent the summer holidays with Mrs [redacted] but since early Sept. no contact except by phone to Mrs [redacted].

2. Emotional Development and behaviour:

HIA 352 has greatly improved since last report. This I feel is due to Mrs [redacted] taking HIA 352 out for week ends.

3. Relationships in the children's home:

a) With residential staff: Very good, and quite helpful at times.

b) With other children: Good.

4. Health:

a) General Health and physical development:

Normal

b) Record of any serious illness:

None.

c) Date of last Medical Examination and findings:

5. Education:

- a) Educational progress and school reports: *generally good*
Is inclined to be heedless at times
- b) General comments and relationships with teachers and pupils: *Since moving into Sec school*
HIA 352 *appears to be working much better - harder, seems to have settled*

6. Religious Development and Education:

Very good - normal

7. Hobbies, special interests and abilities: **HIA 352**

main interest at the moment is "Pop dancing"
Records, Swimming and boating. Has joined
the local guides. Has been to Dublin for
a week end with the other guides.

8. Other Remarks:

The "drop off" with Mrs [REDACTED]
*may cause problems to **HIA 352** again*
she looked forward to the week-ends, has
shown distress in herself over the past weeks.

9. Recommendations:

If relationships with Mrs [REDACTED]
has broken down, then suitable foster parents
should be found for the two younger
*children as well as **HIA 352** as soon*
as possible.

INTERNAL CASE REVIEW.

To be completed by member of staff responsible for the child

Name of child:

HIA 352

Date of Birth:

Date of Admission: 7th July 1972

Responsible Local Authority: Western Health Board (Derry)

Referred by: Welfare

Responsibility: Mrs Simpson

House or Group: St Gerards.

1. Contact and relationship with child's own family:

- a) With parents: Occasionally **HIA 352** asks to go down to see her mother, but no return visits from mother.
- b) With siblings or other relatives: continual nagging, and constant squabbles goes on with **HIA 352** and her siblings.
- c) With other outside contacts: None.

2. Emotional Development and behaviour: **HIA 352** at times shows signs of been affectionate, quite friendly, but can be very moody when corrected.

3. Relationships in the children's home:

- a) With residential staff: No deep relationship, likes to be the centre of attraction but can be abusive when corrected.
- b) With other children: a good mixer, but becomes bossy and soon loses the admiration of the others very soon.

4. Health:

- a) General Health and physical development:
Good, very well developed for her age
- b) Record of any serious illness:
None.
- c) Date of last Medical Examination and findings:

5. Education:

a). Educational progress and school reports:

*Average Intelligence, good relationships
with teachers*b) General comments and relationships with teachers
and pupils:*Is capable of doing better.*6. Religious Development and Education:*Good*7. Hobbies, special interests and abilities: *Music.*

8. Other Remarks: **HIA 352** has a nice personality, and has the ability to do well but the uncleanness in her mind of the home situation and her mother is causing her great emotional stress.

9. Recommendations: **HIA 352** should be told that it is not possible for her to return to her mother. (2) Suitable family found, who would take **HIA 352** out for week-ends and holidays and a view to after-care.

ST¹. JOSEPH'S, TERMONBACCA.

Name of Child;

HIA 352

Date of Birth;

Date of Admission; 7th., July. 1972.

Nearest Relative;

Responsible S.S.: Western Health Board (Derry).

CASE HISTORY.16th., March. 1977.

HIA 352 together with her younger brother and sister, SND 309 and [redacted] were transferred from Loreto House, so that they would be with HIA 69 their older brother.

HIA 352 has settled in well, and has been accepted by the older boys. She is of a very kind and gentle nature, and is a great help with the little ones.

She is intelligent but according to her teacher in school, she is quite lazy.

Mrs. [redacted] has not been up to see the family, since the 12th., Feb. HIA 352 talks quite freely about her Mam, and would like to see the whole family together again.

9th., May. 1977.

Still no visits from Mrs. [redacted]. Mrs. [redacted] with whom HIA 352 used to go out has visited HIA 352 and bought her presents for her birthday. As Mrs. [redacted] lives so near the mother, she has stopped taking HIA 352 out, but still keeps in contact.

HIA 352 has been chosen for the school Church Choir, so she is quite pleased with herself.

No problems with HIA 352 and she still continues to make steady progress.

29th., July. 1977.

HIA 352 really enjoyed herself down in Shrove - this was her first holiday with the older children.

25th., October. 1977.

No contact whatever with her mother now. Mrs. Simpson, HIA 352's new S. W., visited, but she was at school.

HIA 352 at the moment, is going through a 'phase' of stealing. It is only small things, but it is worrying. Is advanced for her age. Since another older and more craftier girl has come into the Group, HIA 352 seems to have changed. Was always, kind and gentle - but now seems to act 'hard'. Can be easily led.

Christmas. 1977.

I visited the school on Parents' day, and found that HIA 352 could be doing a lot better than she is. She is inclined to 'day-dream', and pay enough attention in class. She has the intelligence but she lacks concentration and needs to be 'driven' the whole time.

Had a card from her mother, and also money. Aunt [redacted] visited over Christmas.

HIA 352 went out to Mr. & Mrs. [redacted] for a week after Christmas, and she thoroughly enjoyed it. Mrs. [redacted] visited HIA 352 at Christmas, and bought her a lot of new clothes.

20th., Jan. 1978.

Back at school again, and looking forward to moving to Sec. Sch. in Sept. She visited St. Mary's School on Wednesday.

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
LONDONDERRY, LIMAVADY AND STRABANE DISTRICT

CASE REPORT

Name **DL 70**

Case Category

Address

DATE	CASE DETAILS - VISITS, REPORTS, ETC.
28.10.75	Case passed to me. Called with DL 70 's grandmother, [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] and explained that DL 70 would be back for his Hallow'een break on Friday. She seemed pleased. <u>E. McTernan</u>
30.10.76	Sharyn Preece, TSW, collected DL 70 from Kircubban and brought him home. <u>E. McTernan</u>
4.11.76	Sharyn Preece and myself took DL 70 back to Kircubban. He enjoyed his break and seemed quite content to go back. <u>E. McT.</u>
16.12.76	Visited [REDACTED] children in Termonbacca. They are quite content and appear to have adapted to life in an institution quite well. They appear to be a fairly closely knit family - this might make the prospect of fostering them out a very difficult one. <u>E. McT.</u>
21.12.76	[REDACTED] the children's aunt, contacted me to request permission to take the children out over Christmas. Permission granted. <u>E. McT.</u>
23.12.76	Pauleen McDermott, SWA, collected DL 70 from Kircubban for his Christmas break. <u>E. McT.</u>
7.1.76	DL 70 taken back to Kircubban. He enjoyed his holiday at home, and was extremely sullen at the prospect of returning to Kircubban.
14.1.76	Visited [REDACTED] children at Termonbacca. They enjoyed their Christmas break and are in good spirits. I consider that it will be extremely difficult to find a suitable foster home for the [REDACTED] children. As these children identify strongly with one another and obviously feel quite secure as a family unit, I feel that it is not feasible to separate them for the purposes of convenient fostering. In addition, the question of finding a family who would foster all five children is complicated by the uncertainty of their mother's whereabouts and the possibility that she might return to Derry at some date in the future. Overall I feel that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) it is not in the best interests of the children to be split up for the purposes of fostering b) the effects of institutional life are somewhat offset by the close bonds and sense of identification between the [REDACTED] children c) it will be some time before either a suitable foster home can be found or the children's mother makes her intentions clear. <u>E. McT.</u>
27.3.76	DL 70 discharged from Kircubban for mid-term break. Appears quite happy, and obviously looks forward to getting home. <u>E. McT.</u>
29.3.76	DL 70 returned to Kircubban. <u>E. McT.</u>
14.4.76	Collected DL 70 from Kircubban for his Easter vacation. <u>E. McT.</u>
22.4.76	Visited [REDACTED] children at Termonbacca. They are coping well and appear happy and content. The maternal uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs.

4 - INFORMATION ON FAMILY1. PARENTSMOTHERFATHER

- (a) Full Name
(b) D.o.B. and Place
(c) Address

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
England
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- (d) Civil Status: Single, Married, Widowed, Living Apart, Legally Separated or Divorced (If Legally Separated or Divorced, Date and Place of Order)

Single

- (e) Religious Denomination

Roman Catholic

- (f) Occupation

- (g) National Insurance No.

- (h) Income (Including Statutory Benefits)

Supplementary Benefit

- (i) Child Benefit Number and Weekly Amount

2. SIBLINGSSISTERSBROTHERS

- Full Name
D.o.B. and Place
Address

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Londonderry)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DL 70

(London)

School/Occupation

Termoncanice P.S.

Unemployed

Full Name

D.o.B. and Place

Address

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

HIA 69

Harberton House.

School/Occupation

St. Columb's College.

Full Name

D.o.B. and Place

Address

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SND 309

School/Occupation

Termoncanice P.S.

5. Social Report This report should contain all available relevant information about family relationships, previous admission(s) to care and full details of events leading to the child's admission to care.

HIA 352 is the third child in a family of five children who have been in care under F.P.O. since July 1973, following prosecution of their mother, [REDACTED] for neglect. The children had previous short admissions to St. Joseph's Termonbacca before being returned to the care of their mother. HIA 352 remained in St. Joseph's continuously from March 1974 to 16th April, 1979 when she was placed with foster parents Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] in Felinton. There have always been some problems in this placement, relating to HIA 352's tendency to be secretive, dishonest and defiant when attempts were made by the foster parents to keep control over her movements. These have intensified during the past three months until the discovery of the £30.00 in HIA 352's bag and her subsequent departure from their home, against the [REDACTED]'s wishes. The key factor in the breakdown centres around HIA 352's mother, who remains in the background as an undermining influence and is used by HIA 352 to manipulate the foster parents.

Signed: _____

Social Worker.

Date: 7th October, 1981