

HIA REF:  
Witness Name: **SND 43**

**THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995**

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF **SND 43****

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I, **SND 43**, will say as follows:

**Introduction**

1. I have had the opportunity to read and consider the witness statements of **HIA 127** of 24<sup>th</sup> July 2013 (HIA Ref: 127) and **HIA 233** of 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013 (HIA Ref: 233), in which allegations of improper conduct are made against me. I emphatically deny those allegations. I make this statement for the purpose of responding to the allegations and thereby assisting the Inquiry in the exercise of its functions.

**Personal and Employment Details**

2. I was born on [REDACTED]. I left school in or around [REDACTED] at the age of [REDACTED] and subsequently undertook and completed a course in child care and development at the [REDACTED].
3. In [REDACTED], I was employed by the Sisters of Nazareth and worked as a [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] with the Sisters of Nazareth, Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Londonderry. In or around 1999, when Nazareth House closed, I moved with other staff to [REDACTED]. At that time, staff transferred from the employment of the Sisters of Nazareth to the employment of the [REDACTED]. I have been employed by [REDACTED] since then.
4. I continued to work in child care until [REDACTED], when [REDACTED] ceased to be used as a child care facility. I was then redeployed to the [REDACTED].

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- 1500

### Duties at Nazareth House

- HIA 127

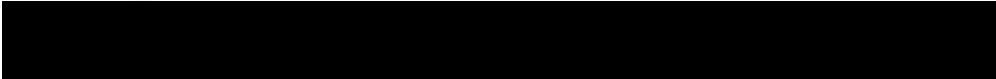
- ii.

of the resident children who would have been on a rota then assisted the staff in housekeeping tasks, such as cleaning the tables, drying dishes and Hoovering the floor. When the resident children attended activities, the return time was generally dependent upon the age group and went from 8.00pm to 9.00pm. Assistance was offered if required to the resident children, for example in preparing a bath or making up supper before bedtime. Bedtime was between 9:00pm and 10:00pm. Afterwards the House Parent completed the evening log book and went home at 10.00pm.

8. In or around 1990, civilian staff started to work an additional shift to the two original rotas as outlined above. This was referred to as 'sleep-in'. This involved working with those on the 2.00pm to 10.00pm shift towards the end of that shift. Then one slept on site (on call if required) until starting again at 7.00am, working alongside those on the morning shift until 3pm. This was organised on a rota which to my recollection was organised either monthly or six weekly.
9. There was another role added on in the early 1990s. This was called 'waken night duty' where specific staff were brought in to stay awake at night to supervise the floor and resident children. The shift began at 10.00pm and ended at 8.00am. This shift ran alongside the 'sleep-in shift', ensuring there were at least two people on shift at all times.

Response to allegations in statement of **HIA 127**

10. I propose to address only those paragraphs in which allegations are made against me. Firstly, I would indicate I was absent from my employment at Nazareth House during the following periods:

a. 

b. 



11. *Paragraphs 12 - 14.* In these paragraphs, **HIA 127** makes allegations against the civilian staff in general. It is unclear whether those allegations are directed at me in any way. For the avoidance of doubt, I can state that I never engaged in the conduct alleged by **HIA 127** in those paragraphs, nor did I witness other staff engaging in the conduct alleged. Insofar as **HIA 127** intended to include me in the staff at whom those allegations are directed, I categorically deny those allegations.
  
12. *Paragraph 26.* **HIA 127** states that he 'thinks' he hit me. **HIA 127** did not hit me at any time. Further, I did not 'threaten' **HIA 127** with my then husband **SND 44**. This allegation is entirely false and without foundation. Finally, my then husband did not attend Nazareth House and assault **HIA 127**. This allegation is also entirely false and without foundation.
  
13. I can recall that in or around the mid-1990s, allegations were made to police by **HIA 127** against the member of staff identified in his witness statement, **SND 38**. At that time, I recall being called in to speak to **SR 9** in Nazareth House about an alleged incident involving my husband. I do not recall the full details of this matter. My recollection is that **HIA 127** had said that I had put him in a bath of cold water and that he had thrown water from the bath and soaked me, following which I had to go home and change; further, that I had threatened him with my husband who came to the home and hit **HIA 127**. I was very upset by this allegation at the time. I denied the allegation to **SR 9**. The alleged incident in the bath did not happen and my husband did not assault **HIA 127**. I recall that **SR 9** took notes during our conversation. I heard nothing further about this matter subsequent to my conversation with **SR 9**.

Response to allegations in statement of **HIA 233**

14. As above, I propose to address only those paragraphs in which allegations are made against me.

15. *Paragraph 11.* I categorically deny 'force feeding' **HIA 233**. I also categorically deny threatening **HIA 233** in the manner implicitly alleged in that paragraph. These allegations are entirely false and without foundation.
16. *Paragraph 15.* I categorically deny throwing **HIA 233** brothers **HIA 233** and **SND 283** into freezing cold baths or showers. This allegation is also false and without foundation. My then husband **SND 44** was not a staff member of Nazareth House. The incident in which **SND 44** is alleged to have hit **HIA 233** brother **HIA 233** did not happen. I have never worked in a children's home on the Racecourse Road in Londonderry. I categorically deny hitting or deliberately bumping into **HIA 233**. I did regularly purchase small gifts for the children in care. This was motivated simply by kindness. The allegation that I 'bought silence' with gifts is utterly false.
17. *Paragraph 16.* I have no recollection of a **SND 331** residing at **HIA 233**, Nazareth House. However I do recall a girl called **HIA 233** whose mother married a man called **HIA 233** and I believe this may be the individual to which the statement refers. She had special needs and suffered from a condition known as **HIA 233**. I categorically deny the allegation that I called this child a 'spastic' or 'retard'. I have never referred to any child in such terms. For the avoidance of doubt, the final sentence of the paragraph not being specifically directed at me, I also deny putting this child in a room on her own.
18. *Paragraph 32.* I deny the generalised allegation within this paragraph.
19. I have seen **HIA 233** on a couple of occasions since her departure from Nazareth House. In or around the late 1990s, I met her with one of her children in the Quayside Shopping Centre in Londonderry. She introduced the child to me, told me about her family and drew to the child's attention the fact that I had looked after her (**HIA 233** **HIA 233**) when she was a child. We had a perfectly amicable conversation. She made no mention of the allegations that she now makes in her statement. On a subsequent

occasion, in or around five years ago as far as I can recollect, I saw her on Pelham Road, Knightsbridge, Londonderry. I waved at her and she acknowledged my wave in return.

### **Conclusion**

20. The statements of **HIA 127** and **HIA 233** contain general and specific allegations against me. I have worked with children for over  years. I have dedicated my working life to this role, which I regard as a vocation rather than a duty. I have regularly gone into work unpaid when birthdays were being celebrated or at Christmas when I was not on shift. Many of the children with whom I have worked have maintained contact with me through the years. I categorically deny that I have ever failed any child. I believe that I have, to the best of my ability, acted at all times professionally and properly towards those children with whom I have worked. Subject to the matter to which I have drawn attention at paragraph 13 of my statement, I have never been the subject of a complaint about my conduct at work. I have never engaged in conduct of the manner alleged towards **HIA 127** or **HIA 233** or towards any child. Had I witnessed other staff engaging in conduct of the kind alleged, which I did not, I would have reported it to my superiors.
21. I am deeply hurt by these allegations made by **HIA 127** and **HIA 233**. I simply do not understand why they are making completely unfounded allegations against me.
22. I have in this statement responded to the matters raised to the best of my ability and recollection. I am happy to assist the Inquiry in any other manner that the Inquiry may direct.

### **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed **SND 43**

Dated 28.02.14

File 1 no 2

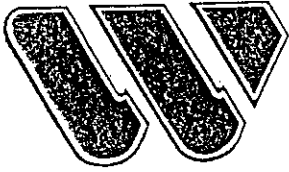
NAZARETH HOUSE

<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>GROSS PAY</u>	<u>NET PAY</u>	<u>DATE COMMENCED</u>	<u>APRIL '90</u>
SND 285				Pt. (UQ)
SND 243				Pt. (UQ)
SND 40				Pt. (UQ)
				Pt. (UQ)
SND 284				Pt. (UQ)
				Pt. (UQ)
SND 194				Pt. (UQ)
				Pt. (UQ)
SND 38				Pt. (UQ)
SND 343				Pt. (UQ)
SND 43				Pt. (UQ)
SND 39				Pt. (UQ)
				Pt. (UQ)
				Pt. (UQ)



W E S T E R N  
AREA BOARD HEADQUARTERS

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD



Please use this reference in your reply

Our Ref:  
Your Ref: B/rk  
Date

27 February 1991

Chief Social Services Inspector  
D.H.S.S.  
Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
BELFAST

Dear [redacted] 9/3.

Re: REPORT ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING INCIDENTS OF PEER  
CHILD ABUSE WHICH OCCURRED WITHIN RESIDENTIAL CARE

Further to your correspondence and our conversation concerning  
the above I am now able to advise you on the developments  
emanating from the Report.

1. The Review Team presented the Report to the AET on 22 November 1990. The Report was accepted and it was agreed that it should be presented to the Community Care Committee at its December meeting.
2. The Community Care Committee on the 7 December had a presentation of the Report by Mr Bunting. The Committee accepted the report and agreed that the issues raised therein should be examined by Foyle Community Unit and, as you are aware, also agreed that copies of the Report should be forwarded to yourself. I gave you a copy of these minutes on 22 February 1991.

*Please return. To [redacted]*

# WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

## FOYLE COMMUNITY UNIT

### MEMORANDUM

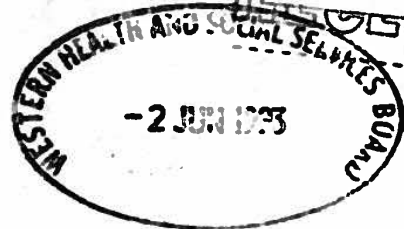
2 - JUN 1993

TO: **SND 469** CSWA

FROM: **SND 425** VAUGM

DATE: 24th May 1993

RE: **WAKING NIGHT STAFF: NAZARETH HOUSE**



You will recall that I had a brief telephone conversation with you about this matter some weeks ago. In the interim **SR 2** has forwarded this letter to me requesting funding for these staff. My calculation is that this would amount to £21,000 per year.

Waking night staff were introduced to Nazareth in November 1992 following a number of incidents in the Home during the night where peer abuse was suspected. I flagged this issue up in the paper I prepared prior to the discussion about the capitation fee though this was not debated in depth at subsequent discussions though you will recall that **SR 2** did raise it at the meeting that you attended with **SND 507** and I at Nazareth House on 16th April 1993.

I have raised this matter with **SND 511** Acting UGM and he has indicated that Nazareth are requesting what amounts to a development of service for which the Unit is not funded. Indeed whilst we introduced waking night staff into Harberton House it was done so in the expectation that until funds were obtained the Board it would be funded out of slippage. The Unit did apply for funding as part of the recent service development.

I believe that the incidents that occurred in Nazareth were sufficiently serious to warrant the introduction of waking night staff. Given this situation and the fact that we have already introduced waking night staff to one of our own facilities I believe that we have no alternative but to agree to this request. However I am of the opinion that the Board should provide the funding for this additional service.

**SND 425**

this matter in the near future.

**TL 19**

*31/6/93*

ACTING ASST UNIT GENERAL MANAGER

(SOCIAL SERVICES AND SOCIAL CARE PROGRAMMES)

*I would like to discuss this with you.*

*1. 2/6/93*

1 any time. She says she didn't threaten you with her  
2 then husband, that that's a false allegation without any  
3 foundation and that her then husband did not attend  
4 Nazareth House and assault you and that's untrue.

5 Now what do you say about the suggestion that that's  
6 untrue, that this didn't happen?

7 **A. That's lies. It did happen.**

8 Q. What can you point to to -- what do you recollect about  
9 it or about the individuals involved? Is there anything  
10 sticks out about the man you say --

11 **A. "██████" we called him, because he had ██████**

12 Q. How often would you -- other than this particular  
13 occasion how often would you have seen him?

14 **A. All the time when his wife was working. He could just  
15 waltz into the place like he owned the place.**

16 Q. Now just for completeness then if I can take to you  
17 SND-15878 and paragraph 20 where -- and paragraph 21  
18 where this lady points out that she has worked with  
19 children for over thirty years. She has dedicated her  
20 life to that role. She regards it as a vocation rather  
21 than a duty. She talks about much of it being  
22 voluntary, and she has good relationships with children.  
23 She categorically denies that she ever failed any child,  
24 and she believes that to the best of her ability she  
25 acted at all times professionally and properly towards

top bunk and **SND 38** was in the lower bunk. I was dozing and **SND 38** appeared at the side of my bed. He put his hand underneath the quilt inside my pyjamas and pants and touched my penis. He started trying to masturbate me but I rolled over. He pulled me back and did the same again. I rolled over again and this happened about ten to fifteen times. Then he pulled the quilt down and lifted me out of bed and put me on the bottom bunk. He pulled down my pyjamas and pants and he started to masturbate me and himself. He ejaculated and then went downstairs.

23. On two or three occasions **SND 38** came to my bedroom in unit two and tried to have anal sex with me. I said no.

24. In early January 1991 before I went back to school **SND 38** took me to **[REDACTED]** house. He pushed me down on the sofa in the living room and pulled down my trousers and pants. He masturbated me and then put my penis in his mouth. He was also masturbating himself. This went on for ten to fifteen minutes. We then returned to Nazareth House.

25. I was half starved in Nazareth House. To this day I am a slow eater. My sister

**HIA 233** **[REDACTED]**

**[REDACTED]** I was hungry all the time. I had five minutes to eat and I just ate at my own pace and I wasn't given the time to finish. Nine times out of ten I went hungry. I was **[REDACTED]** in school and my teacher **SND 42** got an extra meal ticket and gave me the spare one so I got fed from the school canteen for free. Then I used my own money which was for the school meal given to us every morning and I bought food on the way home. I did that for five years at school.

26. I was beaten by one of the social workers **SND 43** husband. We had an argument one day and I think I hit her. She threatened me with her husband **SND 44** and said 'if you hit me again I'll bring my husband'. I said 'well go on ahead and bring him'. He came to the home the next day and he slapped me around the head in my bedroom.