

HIA REF: SND 48

NAME:

SND 48

DATE: [DATE]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

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Witness Statement of **SND 48**

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I, **SND 48** will say as follows: -

## Background information

1. My solicitor has shown me some documents. They show some details of my history, and were provided to me by the Family Care Society after my sister had got in touch with them to try and trace her background.
2. I have always thought my date of birth was [REDACTED]. The documents shown to me suggest that it is [REDACTED]. My baptism certificate gives my date of birth as [REDACTED]. I don't know which date is correct. Apparently I do not have a birth certificate.
3. I am now aged [REDACTED]. I have never been able to read and write. I can only sign my name. I have had schooling but I am told that I am not able to learn. I have a nurse and social worker to help me. The nurse makes sure I take my tablets.
4. I have to take tablets because I am diabetic and have heart problems such as angina. I also have high blood pressure.
5. The social worker helps with things around the house and also banking. I can deal with small amounts of money, but I need help with larger sums.
6. I am not able to drive. I went to the doctor years ago and did some tests. He told me I could not drive safely. I am also told that I should not use dangerous things like electric tools.

7. I am very forgetful, which I think is getting worse.

8. I live alone, after the death of my wife in [REDACTED]

#### **Time at Termonbacca**

9. I have no memories before being in Termonbacca. My solicitor tells me that the documents show I went there as a young baby.

10. I am also told that the document shows I was in foster placement in [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I have no memory of that at all.

11. When I was a child I was not aware of having any family at all. I was in childrens' homes for all of my childhood. I never had any family life.

12. To the best of my memory I was in Termonbacca until I went to [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The document I have seen dates that at [REDACTED] Depending on which date of birth is taken I would have been either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] at that time.

13. I didn't like Termonbacca. We were worked all the time. We were ordered around.

14. The work we did was mostly doing floors. I remember 4 to 5 hours per day cleaning and polishing floors over and over again. I didn't have a clock or watch so do not know the length of time for sure, but it went on for hours. I was doing that work for as far back as I can remember.

15. My memory is that we were referred to as a number. We didn't know anything about our families and were not told.

16. I remember it was very bad if you wet the bed. You had to wash all your own linen. You had to wash your own pyjamas. We would get to have a wash, but we only had one bath per week.

17. When at Termonbacca I was beaten. If you didn't follow the orders you were beaten. If you did anything the older boys or the sisters or priests thought was wrong you'd be beaten. You'd get the strap, the cane or whatever was handy to the person beating you. It was mostly the strap.

18. The level of beatings would depend on who was in charge. It was really rough. As a child I was really badly effected by the beatings. I wonder if that is why I cannot read and write.

19. We did get schooling. We used to go to another school for that. Because I could not read or write I was always made to stand in the corner of the classroom for

- hours at a time with a 'dunce' hat on. I really tried to learn to read and write but could not do it.
20. When I was a young boy at Termonbacca I was aware that boys were doing sexual things to other boys.
21. Things were also done to me. It is a very hard subject for me to talk about. I have put this aside and got on with my life. I am now having to think about it again. Things come back to me now that I have just put aside for all the years. I was very young at the time and I have tried to put all these things behind.
22. I think I stayed on at Termonbacca slightly longer than others as I worked out on the potato fields. I find it difficult to remember.
23. There were dormitories at Termonbacca. I remember that I did supervise dormitories. I would sleep in the middle of the dormitory.
24. I cannot remember **SND 49** I can remember a man named **SND 195/SND 196**
25. My lawyers had read some parts of a statement to me [Statement of HIA 121].
26. This is very hard for me to talk about. I was very young at the time. I think I did have sexual contact with some of the other boys, but I cannot remember for sure, or even what happened. A lot of boys were doing it in Termonbacca. At the time I did not think what we were doing was bad. We were not told anything about it. It was going on for all the time I was growing up. When I was young it was the thing that you just did. No one told us what we were or were not supposed to be doing.
27. I think maybe I did sexual things with other boys because that what was done to me.
28. I think the Sisters must have known what was going on. It was going on all the time and the rooms were large. It was not private.
29. I am told that HIA 121 does not allege that I actually had any sexual contact with him.
30. I have been told about the incident in paragraph 19 of HIA 121's statement. My memory is bad but that definitely did not happen.
31. I do not recall the other things he mentions in his statement. I can remember when I pushed a boy down some stairs but I cannot recall when that was or what it was about.
32. I am told that HIA 121 has said I did these things for years and when I was in my **[REDACTED]** I was only an older boy for a short while. I left Termonbacca when I

thought I was [REDACTED] years old but now I have seen the documents with a different date of birth I may well have been [REDACTED] years when I left.

33. I was glad to get out of Termonbacca. It was a bad place for people like me whose families did not want them.

#### After Termonbacca

34. After Termonbacca I went to [REDACTED] Some of the people there were nice to us. Some were bad to us.

35. At [REDACTED] I worked on different jobs. I remember working at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

36. [REDACTED] was much better than Termonbacca. We got out much more and it was good to work

#### Life after [REDACTED]

37. Since leaving the childrens' homes I have tried to put all that behind me and get on. After [REDACTED] I have worked. My work was mostly in hotels and catering. I would live in hostels and travel to work each day.

38. I got married when I was [REDACTED] We didn't have any children. My wife died in [REDACTED]

39. When I got out of those homes I had a much happier life. I was happy while my wife was alive, but things are more difficult now.

40. For many years I did not know about my sister. I met my sister at some point after my wife died. My wife died [REDACTED] My sister was living in [REDACTED] but came over to meet me. There was a social worker present. On that occasion I learned that I had a brother, but he had died in Termonbacca before I ever met him.

41. My sister has also now died.

42. She told me that she had been fostered out and the family that had her were very bad to her. She left there and went to [REDACTED] where she stayed.

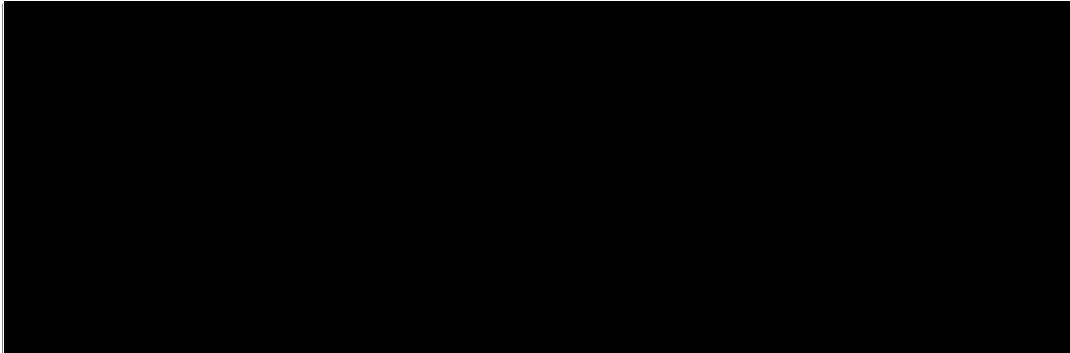
43. In this statement I have put down all I can remember.

Statement of Truth

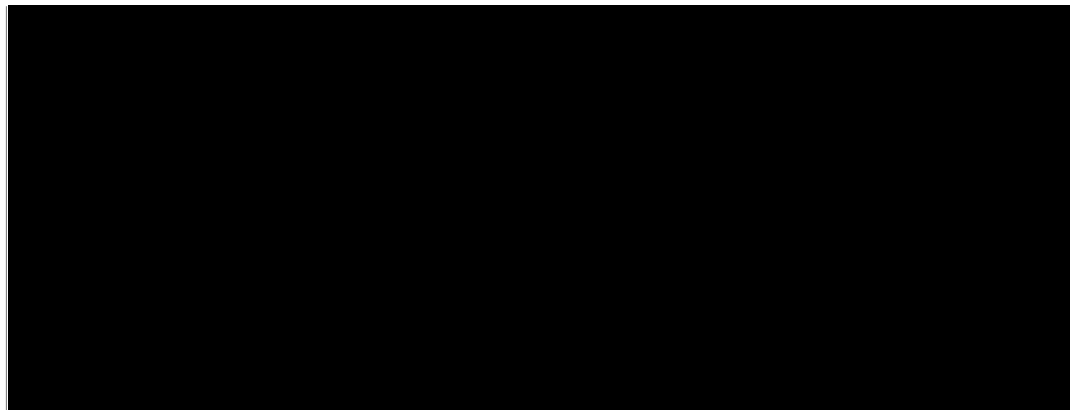
I have had the content of this statement read to me. I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed **SND 48** \_\_\_\_\_

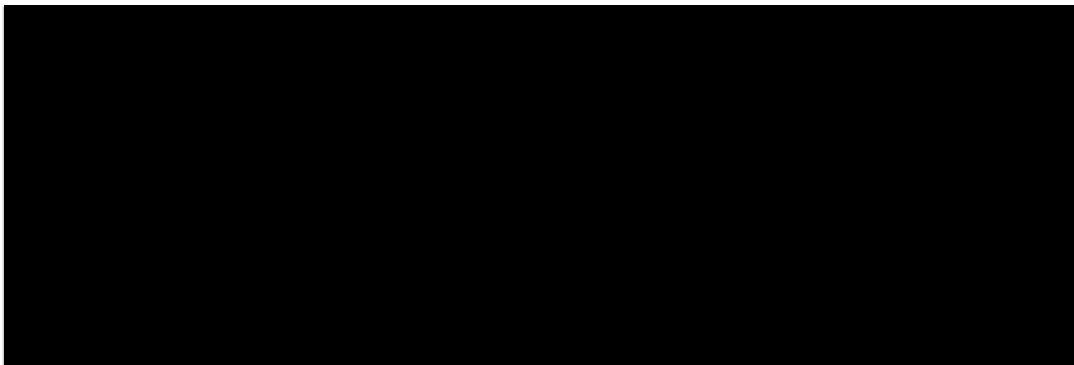
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7.



8.



9. [REDACTED] SND48 [REDACTED] SND49 and a man called [REDACTED] <sup>SND 195/196?</sup> worked at Termonbacca. They had been residents in Termonbacca. They were in their [REDACTED] when I was there. The three of them [REDACTED] and also supervised boys periodically during the day and at night. They were paedophiles and the most notorious was [REDACTED] SND48 [REDACTED] no words of mine can describe the sheer horror he inflicted. He sexually abused at will. During my years at Termonbacca the three of them made numerous attempts to sexually abuse me. I lived in constant fear of them. I always resisted and fought them off, resulting in beatings by them at every opportunity.

[REDACTED]

14. Two particular incidents of sexual abuse that I witnessed will remain with me forever. The first involved [REDACTED] SND48 [REDACTED]. One day I walked into the junior section of the dormitory where I slept. As I walked in I could see a boy who was no older than eight years old on his knees performing oral sex on [REDACTED] SND48 [REDACTED]. I screamed and turned to run out of the dormitory. Just as I turned to run, [REDACTED] SR11 [REDACTED] (who is now deceased), was standing behind me. She saw what was going on. I started screaming. It made no difference - [REDACTED] SND48 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] SND48 [REDACTED] continued to supervise the boys after this. I was terrified of him.

15. [REDACTED]

16. I spent my childhood in Termonbacca in fear of being sexually abused by these three paedophiles. I was determined they would not abuse me. Then one day [REDACTED] SND48 [REDACTED] grabbed me and tried to drag me into the dormitory to abuse me. I was ten years old. I kicked out at him and kicked him violently screaming and shouting - he eventually gave up and threw me down the steps of the furnace that heated the home. I fell on my face and broke part of my front tooth and I was bleeding heavily from injuries to my head. I was deeply traumatised and frightened. I was left there until almost midnight. From time to time a nun would open the door and look down at me with a smirk on her face and leave me there. Eventually I was bandaged up. [REDACTED] SR38 [REDACTED] kept me bandaged up for nearly a week.

17. [REDACTED]