

68

J. M. J. +

- daughter of

Born

Co. Donegal.

Received 1st October 1964

Name in Religion SR 18

First Profession 1st October 1966.

Date of arrival in R'derry.

Left for Belfast

Left for Hammersmith

- daughter of

Born

Co. Antrim

Received February 2nd 1943

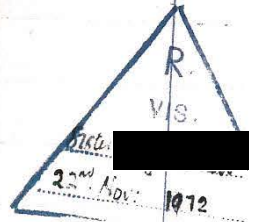
Name in Religion SR 92

First Profession November 21st 1945

Date of arrival in Derry.

Left for

1972.



82

1977

J.M.J.

Daughter of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

1978

Born [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Co. Donegal

Proposed 1st October 1966

Religious Name [REDACTED]

SR 18

Came to Derry [REDACTED]

Left for Hammis [REDACTED] 13/11/85

Daughter of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Born [REDACTED]

Proposed 2nd Nov. 1955

Religious Name [REDACTED]

SR 21

Came to Derry [REDACTED]

Left for [REDACTED]

R.L.P.

R

VIS

9th March 1978

SR 7

HIA REF:

Witness Name:

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 – 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF **SR 18**

1. I, **SR 18** will say as follows –
2. I went to Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Derry on the **SR 18**. At that time all the children in the home were on holidays with families. I spent the months of July and August helping in the convent and preparing for school in September.
3. Sisters **SR 9**, **SR 59** and **SR 52** were responsible for the care of the children. The children's wing was being refurbished to provide three separate units, each to accommodate fifteen children, with one Sister in charge of each unit. The dormitories were divided into two and three bedded rooms, all tastefully decorated and modern. The bathrooms and dining rooms were completed before Christmas 1972.

Daily Routine

4. On weekdays and schooldays the children were called in the morning about 7.15am; No child was called for Mass except at the child's request which was usually during Lent. They washed, dressed, made their beds (according to age), ate breakfast, cleared the dining room and got ready for school - the children at secondary school leaving at 8.00 and the primary school children at 8.45. All these times are approximate. At no time was I aware of which children wet their beds or not, nor did I see who collected or washed the sheets. All the children had dinner at school.
5. After school the children played, outside in good weather and in their groups inside in other weathers, this included watching television. Supper was served at 5.30pm and after tidying up the evenings were spent doing homework, practising music, and watching television and playing games.
6. The younger children had a snack and were put to bed about 7.00pm. The older children had a snack and got ready for bed about 9.00pm.
7. Bathing, before the refurbishing, took place in one big bathroom where there were six baths and six or eight wash basins. Each group bathed there twice a week. They were supervised by one of the Sisters. On completion of bathrooms in each unit bathing was as and when required.
8. On Saturdays and Sundays I had duties to attend to in the convent. I was not present with the children.

9. At the end of the school year in June I was no longer in the children's wing as the children were on holidays with families from July to August. When the children returned at the end of August I went to London for one month of spiritual training and returned to Derry for a few days before transferring to Belfast on [REDACTED] to teach and care for children. I remained there until I returned to Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Derry in [REDACTED]
10. During my months, [REDACTED] in Bishop Street with the children, I never saw any child being beaten with keys or anything else. Neither did I see children being punished for bed wetting. I found the children to be pleasant, happy and helpful. I have fond memories of my time there.

HIA 105

11. HIA 105 was [REDACTED] years old when I first met her in Nazareth House, Bishop Street. She was in [REDACTED] SR 9 group with about fifteen other children. She appeared to be a very pleasant and happy girl, always smiling and singing. I remember her on the big swing in the playground pushing the younger children and singing "Sunday Morning". My only contact with her was on school mornings, before the refurbishments of the dining rooms, when it was her job, before school, to mop the floor in the toilets.
12. In response to paragraph 5 of her statement, HIA 105 says I arrived a few months before she left the home in [REDACTED]. This is untrue because I arrived back in Derry in [REDACTED] I had not been in contact with her from the time I left Derry in [REDACTED] until I met her at the reunion in 1992. When HIA 105 phoned me I was in [REDACTED] I remember the conversation. She told me about the incident. She asked me about the names of all the Sisters who were in Derry in her time there. I told her, Sisters SR 9, SR 59, SR 52 and myself. She said there was another Sister in the nursery and she mentioned two names – SR 61 and SR 60. I told her I never heard of any Sisters with those names. She asked me to contact SR 59. I told her SR 59 was in [REDACTED] and that she had [REDACTED] and I would not contact her because of her condition. I never phoned SR 59.
13. Sometime later, I can't remember how long, a PSNI officer phoned me and questioned me regarding a statement HIA 105 had made to him regarding the above. I have not heard from HIA 105 since.

HIA 169

14. HIA 169 was [REDACTED] years old when I first met her in Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Derry. She was in [REDACTED] SR 59 group with about fifteen other children. She was a pleasant and helpful child who liked to receive attention especially from myself. I was fond of HIA 169. Her talent was art and she loved drawing pictures and showing them to me. My only dealings with her was on school mornings, before the refurbishments of the dining rooms, when it was her job, before school, to sweep the dining room floor.

15. I remember when it was my turn to supervise the children from 8.00 – 9.00pm. I used to sit with them in their sitting rooms. The children loved to sit on the couch with me to show me photographs or work they had done in school or just for a chat. I enjoyed these occasions and I have happy memories of my time there. **HIA 169** liked a chat with me before she went to bed.
16. In relation to paragraph 8 of her statement, I never saw or heard of **SR 59** wearing boots. In fact Sister always wore fashionable shoes and sandals. I never heard of **SR 59** kicking any child nor did I ever hear of the children who wet the bed having to wear their underwear on their heads.
17. The incident described in paragraph 12 regarding **SR 9** did not take place after school. It happened one night before the older children went to bed. I was supervising the bath time of **SR 59** group. I cannot remember how it started but **HIA 169** was swinging off the top of the bathroom door and fooling around. I asked her to stop, but she kept on swinging. I told her that if she did not stop I would bring her to **SR 9**. She did not stop. When the bathing was finished I took **HIA 169** to **SR 9** who was downstairs. I told **SR 9** what had happened. Sister **SR 9** lifted her hand to give **HIA 169** a clip on the ear but **HIA 169** quickly moved her head to the side to avoid **SR 9** hand but banged the side of her head against a cabinet nearby. I did not see what happened next because **SR 9** asked me to go upstairs. I believe **HIA 169** has a scar on the side of her head as a result of this incident. I was shocked as I never previously witnessed anything like this incident.
18. In regards to paragraph 19, I was living in Nazareth House, Ormeau Road, Belfast, when this incident occurred.
19. In regards to paragraph 20, I was not present. I had left Nazareth House Bishop Street, Derry the previous year.
20. To discuss paragraph 35, I was totally surprised when I received this telephone call because I had not seen or heard from **HIA 169** in years. The incident I admitted to remembering was not the one where **HIA 169** claimed she was hit with a brick but the incident dealt with regarding the incident of paragraph 12 of her statement which I have discussed.
21. I am very annoyed that **HIA 169** taped the telephone conversation without my knowledge and I am wondering what rights I have on this subject. Being taken by surprise and without time to think I am quite disturbed about the whole affair.

Life in Derry

22. In conclusion I hope I have given you some insight into how life was lived in Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Derry from **[REDACTED]** to **[REDACTED]**

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

SR 18

Dated

04 / 03 / 14

<p>1 Now you talk about in this paragraph how you say:</p> <p>2 "There was a regular hygiene inspection every</p> <p>3 Saturday when we were brought into the nun's room for</p> <p>4 our nails, hair and ears to be checked."</p> <p>5 Was that just when you were in the nursery or was</p> <p>6 that at a later stage?</p> <p>7 A. Well, they still continued on, although it was done when</p> <p>8 we came out of the bath at -- you know, when I was out</p> <p>9 of nursery, where your ears were checked and your nails,</p> <p>10 etc, but it was regularly done in the nursery now. It</p> <p>11 was every Saturday.</p> <p>12 Q. And when you're talking about this incident, you're</p> <p>13 talking about when you were in the nursery?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>15 Q. So you say you were brought into the nun's room. You</p> <p>16 don't remember this particular nun's name --</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. -- but that she had her own room within the nursery.</p> <p>19 A. Yes, that's right.</p> <p>20 Q. And you talk about -- you describe the room, that there</p> <p>21 was a sink and a glass cabinet with medicines, and you</p> <p>22 remember having to queue outside the room and being</p> <p>23 brought in one at a time and being seen by this nun --</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. -- and you describe her as stocky and appearing tall,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 Q. Now you talk about a nun in this paragraph who you say</p> <p>2 arrived a few months before you left the home in [REDACTED]</p> <p>3 and you name her. You say that you remained in contact</p> <p>4 with her. Can I ask about that contact with this</p> <p>5 particular nun after you left the home?</p> <p>6 A. Yes. I became friendly with her when I had a wedding to</p> <p>7 go to. One of the girls in the convent was getting</p> <p>8 married. So I got invited to the wedding and she was at</p> <p>9 the wedding, so she was, and we sort of struck up</p> <p>10 a friendship, and I got on very well with her brother</p> <p>11 and he actually gave me a beautiful dog to take home</p> <p>12 with me, you know.</p> <p>13 Q. So this contact then went on for a number of years?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, it did, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. You say in that statement that around 2003 or 2004 you</p> <p>16 told her about the incident that had happened to you</p> <p>17 involving the nun in the nursery.</p> <p>18 A. Yes, I did, yes.</p> <p>19 Q. You told her -- what were the circumstances of you</p> <p>20 telling her about that?</p> <p>21 A. I was just in a very, very low mood that day, and I was</p> <p>22 talking to her on the phone, and I just came out with</p> <p>23 it. I just told her and she told me she would have to</p> <p>24 report it immediately, you know, which she did and got</p> <p>25 back to me in twenty minutes or so to say that it was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 but you recall in particular one occasion when she</p> <p>2 brought you into the room and asked -- told you to lie</p> <p>3 on the floor.</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. You did this. She then lifted her habit and straddled</p> <p>6 you. You describe in that paragraph what she asked you</p> <p>7 to do and you say that essentially, without going into</p> <p>8 the details, you were asked to lick her -- lick her</p> <p>9 private parts essentially.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. You did that and you say you were absolutely terrified.</p> <p>12 It didn't seem to last for very long. You don't</p> <p>13 remember her saying anything or making any noise, and</p> <p>14 then in your original statement you said you thought you</p> <p>15 were between [REDACTED] when it happened --</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. -- but you since corrected that to say you think you</p> <p>18 were between [REDACTED]. Now can I ask why you think you</p> <p>19 were that bit older?</p> <p>20 A. Because it was a period of time when I actually moved</p> <p>21 down to the senior section, not very long, you know. It</p> <p>22 was quite a short time after what happened. So I would</p> <p>23 have been [REDACTED] when I moved down to the junior section.</p> <p>24 Q. So that's how you place it at that age then?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 such and such and such a nun that did it.</p> <p>2 Q. And you talk about that in your statement. She</p> <p>3 suggested that it may have been a nun who was there on</p> <p>4 summer relief.</p> <p>5 A. Yes, that's correct, yes.</p> <p>6 Q. She -- you say that she has since denied she had that</p> <p>7 conversation with you, and what were the circumstances</p> <p>8 of her denying that you had told her this?</p> <p>9 A. She just said to me that she would have remembered if</p> <p>10 something like that had been said to her, but again I've</p> <p>11 sworn on the bible and I would swear on the bible again</p> <p>12 that this conversation did take place, you know.</p> <p>13 Q. And the only way that you -- sorry. Have you had</p> <p>14 contact with her since? Are you still in contact with</p> <p>15 her?</p> <p>16 A. No, I'm not, no.</p> <p>17 Q. If we can move on then to paragraph 7, and I think</p> <p>18 you've given some evidence about this already. You say</p> <p>19 that the junior section wasn't pleasant, that the senior</p> <p>20 girls have a lot to answer for because of the amount of</p> <p>21 cruelty they showed towards the juniors. You describe</p> <p>22 it as dreadful. You say they were very violent and</p> <p>23 would have beaten you and they would even have been</p> <p>24 violent when a nun was standing nearby, but you say the</p> <p>25 nuns never said anything.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

RESTRICTED

relation to the offence of Cruelty.

During the interview she confirmed that at the relevant time she worked with Sister [SR 9] and Sister [SR 59]. Throughout the interview Sister [SR 25] totally refuted the allegations in relation to what was alleged regarding her and stated she never witnessed Sister [SR 9] or Sister [SR 59] inflict any harm on any child.

Conclusion and recommendations.

[HIA 105] describes in her statement how she was subjected to significant sexual, emotional and physical harm whilst she was resident in Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Londonderry. She can not positively identify the perpetrator of the sexual abuse. Sister [SR 25] was interviewed in relation to the offence of cruelty, although there are no allegations of her inflicting the harm she was in a position of responsibility and trust and its alleged she was present at the relevant time. Sister [SR 25] totally refuted the allegations throughout the interview.

Sister [SR 9] is now deceased, a copy of her death certificate is attached to the file, and due to Sister [SR 59] health, interviews after caution cannot be conducted, a copy of a letter received from her Doctor is attached to the file.

[HIA 105] disclosed incidents involving "senior girls", naming [SND 109]. [SND 109] I have considered this and it is my belief these girls were children themselves at the relevant time and also residents in Nazareth House as [HIA 105] explained, it is unclear what age they were as children became "seniors" from as young as 12-to 13 years of age. Would the directing officer agree that it would not be in the Public interest to pursue these persons with a view to prosecution for any offences.

In an additional statement to Police [HIA 105] stated that Sister [SR 18] had contacted her around a time 2003-2004, Sister [SR 18] she informed [HIA 105] that she would report this information to Sister [SR 59]. Sometime later Sister [SR 18] contacted [HIA 105] to inform her that the name of the Nun who sexually abused her was named Sister [SR 61] or Sister [SR 60].

On 5 January 2012 Police spoke with Sister [SR 18] regarding her conversation with [HIA 105] she confirmed she knew [HIA 105] but that she never discussed [HIA 105] being a victim of sexual or physical abuse. Sister [SR 18] stated that she had no information concerning physical or sexual abuse occurring in Nazareth House Bishop Street, Londonderry.

Throughout interview Sister [SR 25] refuted the allegations stating she dedicated her life to caring for children, she also stated that she never witnessed Sister [SR 9] or Sister [SR 59] assault any child. A PACE22 summary of this interview can be completed if requested by the directing officer.

RESTRICTED

SR 18 You were in [REDACTED] the last I heard about you.

HIA 169 [REDACTED]
Oh yeah. I just, I just...

SR 18 You spent a long time there in [REDACTED]

HIA 169 [REDACTED]
I moved over here in February.

SR 18 Right -- to where -- [REDACTED]

HIA 169 [REDACTED]
Yeah, because I'm ... I don't believe you don't know about it... Come on.

SR 18 About what?

HIA 169 [REDACTED]
I'm pursuing a case ... I don't know why I'm whispering ... I'm pursuing a case against

SR 52

SR 18 Who's SR 52

HIA 169 [REDACTED]
Sister SR 52

SR 18 Sister SR 52 from Derry?

HIA 169 [REDACTED]
Yeah.

SR 18 Honest to God I didn't know that now.

HIA 169 [REDACTED]
Oh, wow!

SR 18 [REDACTED]
We are far away over here in [REDACTED]? Nobody knows us.

HIA 169 [REDACTED]
And I'm trying to pursue a case against SR 59 who's down in [REDACTED] but I've been told she's got the early stages of [REDACTED]

SR 18 She has, yeah.

HIA 169 [REDACTED]
So, Okay. I'm, I'm pursuing a prosecution case against Sister SR 52

SR 18 Oh.

HIA 169 [REDACTED]
Okay, anyway. Well, come on!

SR 18 I don't know anymore!

HIA 169 [REDACTED]
What I'm saying is... but you went 'oh'. What I'm saying is, like..

SR 18 That's rough.

HIA 169 [REDACTED]
I know it's rough.

SR 18 Hmm.

HIA 169 [REDACTED]
(Audible sighs)

HIA 169

No, I know you were.

SR 18

I was new in the order and I wasn't in on that and I used to sleep on the middle floor.

HIA 169

Yes, I know all that - but are you telling me you never saw me after the time my head was split and all that?

SR 18

Yes, that was the only time, HIA 169

HIA 169

But hello? (laughing) Come on.

SR 18

That you got what?

HIA 169

My head was split down in the school. SR 9

SR 18

Yes, I remember that, I was there.

HIA 169

Come on, that's good.

SR 18

Right.

HIA 169

I mean it's not good. I mean it was a horrible thing that happened. Look...

SR 18

But then you would have to bring that against Sister SR 9

HIA 169

She's dead -- very funny!

SR 18

She's dead ??

HIA 169

No but yeah, but yeah you can .. could you vouch for me?

SR 18

As I say I would have to take advice on that.

HIA 169

(Audible sighs) Okay, look, Erm (audible sighs)

SR 18

I'm still here.

HIA 169

Yeah, I know. Erm I appreciate your honesty at least. Erm,... okay.

SR 18

Are you really looking for me to give my name? For me to put my name forward? Is that what you're looking for?

HIA 169

Yeah.

SR 18

Yeah. I couldn't do that.

HIA 169

You what?

SR 18

I couldn't do that straight away.

HIA 169

No, no, no, no. God no. But (audible sighs) But you may have been there a very short time but you were pretty powerful.

SR 18

I never saw me as anything or anybody there.