

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

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF** SR 6

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I, SR 6 will say as follows: -

1. I SR 6 was born on . I am unable to remember the exact dates of when I attended Termonbacca. I enquired from the Order and it would appear to be that I joined Termonbacca in 1979 and stayed there until 1982. This does not fit in with the dates of the Social Services records in relation to HIA 69 but I have no recollection of the incident referred to in the notes and deny the incident ever took place. Before Termonabcca I joined the Order and was in .
2. My role at Termonbacca was that of House Mother which took in the duties of the full time care of children from broken homes due to a variety of circumstances. I took over from SR 14 when she left. This would have meant that I was in charge of a group of between 16 to 18 children. There were two distinct units in the home and the other unit was run by SR 2 when I arrived. The two units were separated to give the idea of two households in order to make it feel more like a natural home environment.
3. The daily routine would have meant wakening the children around 7.30am when they would be encouraged to wash, brush their teeth and dress. Sometimes the children would have been woken by a lay member of staff. A lay member of staff would have

stayed over each night and there was always a member of staff around to the best of my knowledge. If a child wet the bed you would have known when they got out of bed by their nightclothes. If a child was wet they would have bathed or showered and then carried their sheets to the laundry room. Breakfast was then served and the children who were of school age were sent to school up at the Creggan. As stated earlier each unit was separate so each unit would have had breakfast on their own. Sometimes there would have been a cooked breakfast such as bacon and eggs. Cereals or porridge and toast with marmalade was always available. The children would decide what they would have and take the breakfast items themselves. There was always another member of staff in the dining room. Those children under school age stayed at home. I do not remember any children walking 4 miles to school. All the schools would have been in the Creggan and not 4 miles away. I never drove children to school

4. At mid-morning refreshments for the smaller children was given and lunch was served between 12 – 12.30pm. At approximately 3.30pm – 3.45pm the school children came home and light refreshments would have been served and then homework would have been supervised. After homework the children would have played around until 6pm when supper was served. After this, some children would have gone to the Sports Club or other Clubs and the girls may have gone to the Guides. Between 7pm and 7.30pm the under school age children would have had a bath and then it would have been bedtime. The older children would have watched TV; those who were not at Clubs or playing football. At about 9pm / 9.30pm this would have been bedtime for the school age children. The routine at weekends would have been different when the children would have been allowed to stay up later.
5. Termonbacca was divided into two groups as stated, each with a House Mother. There would have been other Nuns who would have helped as well as staff who would also have assisted.
6. I am aware that allegations have been made by various individuals in relation to treatment that they received whilst being in care at Termonbacca. I also understand some individuals have named me and made accusations in relation to my treatment of them.

7. I have read the statement made by HIA 126 SND -2403-2408. In relation to paragraph 3 of this statement, I can say that no child on first coming to the home would ever be stripped, bathed and put straight to bed. When children first arrived at the home they would have been comforted, given something to eat. They might have had their hands and faces washed and later put up to bed by the Sister or whatever member of staff was on duty. No child would have had to share with others, other than another family member for comfort which would only have been for maybe one or two nights.
  
8. In relation to paragraph 4 of the statement, I can say that porridge was part of what was served at breakfast. I can say that I would never have forced a child to eat anything. The allegation that I would have forced a child to eat something that would have made them sick is untrue. I also would never have kept the food until the child came home from school and make them eat the food at that time. No child would have been deprived of food for not eating food until the next day.
  
9. In relation to paragraph 5, the allegation that the children had to clean the floors, brush them and scrub them before they got ready for school is untrue. All the floors were carpeted, except the bathrooms and staff would have hoovered the whole unit after children had gone to school. There would not have been even time for the children to do this after they got up and were ready for school. This allegation is completely untrue. Further no child was obliged to go to mass every day.
  
10. In relation to paragraph 6, I would state that, during my time as a House Mother at Termonbacca, I can only remember the children going to schools in the Creggan area. Further, the allegation that I would have driven what are called my "favourites" to school on a bus is not true. I did not drive any bus during my time at St Joseph's as I only leant to drive just before I left Termonbacca.
  
11. In relation to paragraph 7, I would deny that I ever hit the children except for one incident in which I found a boy interfering with another younger boy in the toilets. I

smacked his hand with a wooden spoon but this was the only time that I ever reacted in that way. Further, the allegation that I would have hit a child because they had wet themselves is untrue. The allegation that I would have hit children with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or any part of my hand is untrue. It is true that I had [REDACTED] on my [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was removed in 1966. Before [REDACTED] it would have been excruciating if I ever banged it on anything. I cared deeply for all of the children in my care.

12. The allegation that I hit children in the chapel is untrue. If anything happened in the chapel the other nuns would have heard it as the chapel was right beside the nuns area and they could not have failed to hear if children were playing and laughing in the chapel. It is not clear from the statement where the beating allegedly took place but in any event the incident described in the statement did not take place.
13. The allegations contained within paragraph 8 are again untrue. I reiterate again that I would never have hit any of the children. I cared for the children and I would not have said the things that are alleged that I said to them.
14. In relation to paragraph 9, I would state that the children were taken on holiday to Moville and they enjoyed their time there.
15. In relation to the statement made by [REDACTED] HIA 40 [REDACTED] SND-4570-4579, I would say that I have no recollection of [REDACTED] HIA 40 [REDACTED] being in my care at Termonbacca, or at all. I would deny all of the allegations that he makes in the statement. He makes allegations I beat him for bed wetting when he was in Bishop Street. I can say that I never worked in Bishop Street. He would have been treated by me no differently than any other child and no child was treated in the way that he describes. Further, in relation to paragraph 9 of his statement, there is an allegation in relation to me driving a minibus and, as stated previously, I never drove a minibus in Derry.
16. I have read the statement made by [REDACTED] HIA 92 [REDACTED] SND-14923-14934. I do not remember [REDACTED] HIA 92 [REDACTED] being in care at Termonbacca, or at all. I deny all of the

allegations that he makes within his statement. He talks about being in SR 1 SR 1 group and that would mean he was not in my group and would not have been in my group for breakfast. I can say that SR 1 would not have tolerated any child being treated the way he describes.

17. It is not clear from his statement how long he alleges he was under my care or in the care of other persons. I knew SR 1 well and she was a very good woman and she would not have tolerated any of the behaviour that HIA 92 alleges. HIA 92 also alleges he was moved back to SR 1 and it is quite extraordinary that she would not have known about what was going on if it had happened. I have read the allegation in relation to HIA 92 being thrown in dryers and being spun round. During my time in St Joseph's there were only household driers and no drier large enough to take a child.

18. I have read the statement of HIA 69 SND-2188-2197. I remember HIA 69 HIA 69 was about years old when I took over as House Mother at Termonbacca. I remember he had a two sisters and HIA 352 and I think he had a little brother.

19. At Termonbacca there would always have been staff in the morning, during the day and in the evening as there would always have been children that needed looked after who were not of school age.

20. In respect to paragraph 4 of his statement, I would say that no ex-residents would have been in charge of the groups, only paid members of staff would have looked after groups.

21. In relation to paragraph 5. I would say that this is not true. There was no hierarchy and residents were not beaten by any persons that I ever witnessed, either by myself, ex-residents or seniors, or any other Nuns at Termonbacca.

22. In relation to paragraph 6, it is not right that children went to Mass every morning. I have no recollection of two or three Masses on Saturdays or Sundays and I can say that no boy would have been forced to become an Altar Server.
23. In relation to paragraph 8, I would never have discouraged a child from doing well at school and I totally deny that I said anything to HIA 69 or did anything to him in any way as he alleges. It is not clear from his statement when he was under my care. He refers to the fact that his treatment from me got worse after he passed the 11 plus. He refers to allegations of cruelty against me both before and after he would have done the 11 plus. Given his age he would have done the 11 plus in [REDACTED] or even [REDACTED]. As stated previously I was not in Termonbacca until 1979. I am unsure if HIA 69 was ever in my group. My recollection is that when I met him he was already attending St Columb's College.
24. In relation to paragraph 9, I would totally deny the allegation that I beat HIA 69 as he makes out, or at any other time. The allegation is just untrue and I would refer to paragraph 24 of the Statement of SND 21 which refers to HIA 69 and where she denies pulling me off him.
25. In relation to SND 21 statement I admit I would have shouted at the children at times as I imagine most people would dealing with children from time to time. I was aware that most of these children were from very unhappy homes and backgrounds and there is no way I would have bullied them or added to their difficulties. The nuns or social workers would not have tolerated such conduct. I doubt if any child could stand in a corner all day without collapsing and I would never have imposed this on a child. As stated earlier on I really cared for the children and did my best to care for the children.
26. In relation to paragraph 10, I have absolutely no recollection of the incident or any such incident as is described by HIA 69

27. In relation to paragraph 11, I would state that no allegations were ever made to me with regard to sexual abuse. In relation to the ex-residents, they would have visited occasionally but were all gone by the time the older children in the group would have gone to bed, which would have been about 9pm to 10pm. The oldest boy in my group would have been 15 years of age. HIA 69 was [REDACTED] when I first had contact with him. I find it extremely improbable that he would have been subject to abuse by a 15 year old and would have had to soil the sheets deliberately to avoid abuse given his age.

28. In relation to paragraph 12 and the allegation of continued sexual abuse, I would say that this would have been very unlikely given that there always would have been a member of staff that would have stayed upstairs when the younger children went to bed. I do remember though that there were suspicions in relation to HIA 69 in view of the fact that I myself found him interfering with some of the other children. This was something that staff would have been cautious about.

29. In relation to paragraph 13, I would state that the allegation in relation to sexual abuse occurring every night when the residents have baths or showers could not be true. The ex-residents would never have been near the showers if children were showering. The showers were located on the ground floor beside the sitting room, opposite the ironing room and laundry room where a member of staff or myself would be ironing, washing or getting clothes ready for school. No ex-boys would have been allowed to shower or indeed to be in the home after 8.30pm to 9pm.

30. In relation to paragraphs 14 and 15, I would state that ex-residents did not oversee any of the dorms as alleged. I have no recollection of him ever having a problem wetting the bed and I did not make him, or any other resident or anyone else, ever do, what he refers to as, "a walk of shame".

31. In relation to paragraph 16, I totally deny that I ever acted in such a way as alleged. I was dealing with difficult children and there may have been times when it was perceived that I lost my temper, but I can say that I never would have harmed any of

the children that I cared for. These children would have come from difficult backgrounds and there would have been behaviour problems, but I would never have used my fists or the flex of a kettle to beat anyone. The allegation that I put my fingers around the throat of a child leaving marks on his throat is totally untrue. I am very sad that these allegations are made. I cannot recall speaking to a Social Worker in relation to [HIA 69], but if there were a record of this it would appear that I must have spoken to them. I do not remember [HIA 69] ever running off as he describes and neither does [SND 484] the Social Worker.

32. In relation to paragraph 18, I have to state that I was not in Termonbacca during [SR 14] [SR 14] time.

33. The allegations that [HIA 69] makes are untrue. It hurts me why these allegations have been made as I tried to be like a mother in every way to the children in my care. I do not remember [HIA 69] being a difficult boy. There were two incidents when I found him interfering with smaller children in the toilets. He would always have been given a stern telling off and was not allowed to be on his own with children less than 5 years of age. My recollection is that he resented this and this resentment reflected onto me.

34. I have read the statement of [HIA 113] [SND-2334-2340]. In relation to paragraph 3, and the allegation that I would have smacked the children on their legs with my hand in relation to wetting the bed, is totally untrue. No child would ever have been beaten for wetting the bed, nor would a scrubbing brush ever have been used on the children when they were being washed.

35. In relation to the allegation at paragraph 4 that I would have hit the children at any time is totally untrue.

36. In relation to paragraph 5 and the allegation that I would have hit the children with a plastic curtain rail is totally untrue.

37. In relation to paragraph 6 and the allegation I would have put Fairy Liquid in a child's mouth for any reason is totally untrue. Children would have used bad language at times and if they did, the punishment would have been by withholding pocket money or something similar like not watching television for a night, but I do not recall HIA 113 ever using bad language.
38. In relation to paragraph 9, I remember HIA 113. My room was opposite her bedroom and my bedroom was never shut at night times and I was a very light sleeper. My light was always on during the night. The boys would have slept at the lower end with a door closing off the girls' section from them which they would have had to open and pass beside my bedroom door and therefore this just would not have happened.
39. In relation to paragraph 10 and the allegation that I would have force fed any child is totally untrue. The idea that I would have cleaned up vomit from a child and then made her to continue eating the same food is just untrue.
40. In relation to paragraph 11, I state that this is not true. This would not have happened as all members of staff were very kind to the children in their care.
41. In relation to paragraph 12, I can state that, during my time as House Mother, I only recollect the children ever going to schools in the Creggan.
42. In relation to paragraph 22 of HIA 113 statement and in relation to other statements, I note there is a reference that I had died and other people seem to believe that I have died, I am unsure as to how or as to why this has been suggested.
43. In relation to the further statement made by HIA 113 SND15325, again I would state no child would have been force fed at any time and I do not believe that HIA 113 would have been sexually abused as per my comments earlier in relation to my room being opposite to where she slept and my door being open all night with the light on.

44. I have read the statement of HIA 381 SND-11496-11501. I do not recall HIA 381 HIA 381 I have read the allegation that I was supposed to have hit HIA 381 on the back of the head with my knuckle at the breakfast table which I totally deny. As I have stated before I would never have done this to any of the children in my care or any other child.

45. I left Termonbacca in or around 1982. This was normal in the Sisters of Nazareth as you got moved on regularly. On leaving Termonbacca I went to [REDACTED] and then to [REDACTED] where my duties would have been collecting as I had then got my driving licence. I then worked in [REDACTED] working with the elderly and then to [REDACTED] again working with the elderly where I remained for fourteen years. I left the Order as I could not go through the trauma of overseeing another closure of a Nazareth House for the elderly. I currently work in Community Care with the elderly.

46. My time at Termonbacca was some of the happiest times that I had. I enjoyed being with the children who I loved and cared for. The allegations that are being made are extremely hurtful, but I know that they are untrue.

#### Statement of Truth

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

Signed:

SR 6

Dated:

19<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

HIA REF:

Witness Name:

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 – 1995

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SUPPLEMENTARY WITNESS STATEMENT OF **SND 194**

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1. I, **SND 194** will say as follows –
2. **SR 6** was in charge of ‘St Gerard’s Group’ in 1978. While I did not work with her, but with **SR 2** in ‘St Joseph’s Group’, I often came in contact with her in the home. I always found her to be a kind, pleasant person who gave her all to the children in her care.
3. In August 1978, the children went to Greencastle Co. Donegal for a month’s holiday – both groups were together in what was the Old Fort Hotel. Here I worked in close proximity with **SR 6** and **SR 2** and, I think, it was three other staff members.
4. During this time, **SR 6** gave of her best to ensure the children had a good time. She played the accordion and we would often have sing songs in the evening. During this month, I got to know **SR 6** very well, she was always smiling and was a kind and understanding person.
5. When **SR 2** was moved to Birmingham in October 1978, after 16 years in Termonbacca, the children were very upset – **SR 6** was always there for them to comfort and reassure.
6. I conclude my statement by saying that at no time did I see or hear any complaints about **SR 6** from children or staff.

**Statement of Truth**

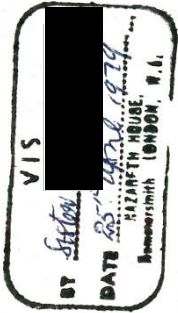
I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

39

†J.M.J.



Daughter of [redacted] and [redacted]

Born: [redacted]

Entered religion: August 22nd, 1962.

Professed: May 1st, 1965.

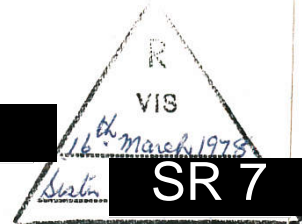
Name in religion: Sister [redacted]

SR 6

Final Profession: May 1st 1972.

Came to Termonbacca: Feb. 20th 1978.

Left for Swansea 9- September 1981



SR 7

Daughter of [redacted] and [redacted]

Born: [redacted]

Entered religion: 30th July, 1949

Name in religion: Sister [redacted]

SR 1

Professed:

Came to Termonbacca:



J.M.J.

Nazareth House  
Hammersmith Road  
London, W6 8DB  
Tel: 0181-748 3549  
Fax: 0181-741 4287

October 23, 1998

Most Holy Father,

Re: Sister**SR 6**

Sister **SR 6** as requested a dispensation from her perpetual vows.

She went to our Juniorate in Ireland when she was only thirteen years of age. She entered the Novitiate in Hammersmith when she was seventeen.

For many years of her religious life Sister **SR 6** was engaged in child care. When this work ceased Sister engaged in the care of the elderly. She received some training for this work which she enjoyed. She went to Nazareth House, Oxford in 1982.

When this House closed in 1995 Sister became unsettled and asked for exclaustation. This was granted for one year and later extended for two more years.

I have had contact with Sister, personally and by telephone, several times. She is in good dispositions but says she could never settle back into community. She is rather rough in manner but kind-hearted.

With regret I, and the members of the General Council, endorse her request for a dispensation from her perpetual vows.

Asking God to bless and prosper Your Holiness,

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Superior General

1. Sister [REDACTED]
2. ....
3. Sister [REDACTED]
4. ....

General Councillors

Sisters [REDACTED] and St [REDACTED] are in Australia on Visitation.

## 1 Questions from THE PANEL

2 MS DOHERTY: Thanks, HIA69. Can I just go back to the  
3 throttling incident and say do you think any of the  
4 other staff were aware it happened?

5 A. No, I don't. I have said in my statement actually there  
6 was a few occasions -- there was one woman, a civilian  
7 staff, who came and was there for a while, and Sister --  
8 that nun actually was beating me and this person came  
9 and pulled her off me, and she never came back again.  
10 She just left. You know, I can't remember her name.  
11 She just appeared.

12 I think the staffing structure in Termonbacca,  
13 I might be wrong, but I get the impression they relied  
14 a lot on voluntary and well-intentioned people,  
15 religious people or people who wanted to do something.  
16 So there was a high turnover of people coming and  
17 helping out, and on that particular occasion I think  
18 that lady came along to help, and she pulled her off,  
19 and then she just left, got her coat and never came  
20 back.

21 The time when she throttled me I honestly can't  
22 remember who was around, whether there was other  
23 residents or staff around. I can -- you know, but  
24 I decided that -- I was -- you know, I was in bed and  
25 first opportunity I got was the next morning when I was

CURRICULUM VITAE**Religious Name:****Sister****SR 6****Secular Name:****SR 6****Date of Birth:****Place of Birth;****Co Roscommon, Ireland****Parents:****Entered Religion:****22<sup>nd</sup> August 1962****Received as Novice:****1<sup>st</sup> May 1963****First Profession:****1<sup>st</sup> May 1965****Final Profession;****1<sup>st</sup> May 1972****COPY**

| <u>YEARS</u>  | <u>HOUSES</u> | <u>APOSTOLATE</u>   | <u>QUALIFICATIONS/STUDY</u>          |
|---|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1965 – 1968   | Lasswade      | Collecting          |                                      |
| 1968 – 1970   | Middlesbrough | Child Care          |                                      |
| 1970 – 1971   | Lasswade      | Child Care          |                                      |
| 1971 – 1972   | Aberdeen      |                     | Child Care Course                    |
| 1973 – 1975   | Cardiff       | Child Care          |                                      |
| 1975 – 1978   | Swansea       | Child Care          |                                      |
| 1978 – 1980   | Sligo         | Child Care          |                                      |
| 1980 – 1982   | Termonbacca   | Child Care          |                                      |
| 1982 – 1983   | Cheltenham    | Care of the Elderly |                                      |
| 1983 - 1995 (Nov)   | Oxford        | Care of the Elderly | City and Guilds in<br>Community Care |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> November 1995 - Exclaustation - During her three year period of Exclaustation she has worked as a Carer in a Residential Home |               |                     |                                      |

INTERNAL CASE REVIEW.

April 78.

To be completed by member of staff responsible for the child

Name of child: HIA 69Date of Birth:Date of Admission: 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 1973.Responsible Local Authority: Western Health Board (Derry)Referred by: WelfareResponsibility: Mrs SimpsonHouse or Group: St Gerard's1. Contact and relationship with child's own family:

- a) With parents: HIA 69 visits his mother, but no visits from her to the children.
- b) With siblings or other relatives: continual fights between HIA 69 and his older sister.
- c) With other outside contacts: none

2. Emotional Development and behaviour: Appears to be a very disturbed lad. hates any form of correction.3. Relationships in the children's home:

- a) With residential staff: Can not bear to be corrected. In conflict most of the time with staff. (Resident)
- b) With other children: not liked very much, very aggressive unless they fall in with HIA 69

4. Health: HIA 69 wishes

- a) General Health and physical development:

Very good normal

- b) Record of any serious illness:

none

- c) Date of last Medical Examination and findings:

March 77.

5. Education:

a) Educational progress and school reports:

*Excellent*

b) General comments and relationships with teachers and pupils:

*Stares into space at times but on the whole excellent relationship with teacher & pupils.*6. Religious Development and Education:*Excellent*7. Hobbies, special interests and abilities:*Reading, Planting shrubs*8. Other Remarks: *at the moment* **HIA 69** *is**causing great concern. He is most insulting to members of staff when corrected quite nastily with younger members of the group unless they do as he wants them. Appears to be only*9. Recommendations: *happy if allowed the attitude of doing as he pleases & coming & going when he likes.*(1) *A Returning to his mother*(2) *Suitable couple found who would take him for week-ends and short holidays*(3) *Foster-home within an area where he could still visit his mother.*

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD  
LONDONDERRY LITAVADY AND STRAFANE DISTRICT

CASE — REPORT

Name ..... family. .... Case Category  
Address .....

| DATE    | CASE DETAILS-Visitors, Reports etc.,  |
|---------|---|
| 18.2.78 | Took HIA 69 to see his mother as HIA 352 was sick. J. Simpson, S.W.   |
| 2.3.78  | Called with ..... to arrange for a visit from HIA 352 on her own to compensate for the time she was sick. J. Simpson, S.W.  |
| 4.3.78  | HIA 352 left for day's visit - appeared to be very happy with this. J. Simpson, S.W.  |
| 15.3.78 | <p>Martin McCafferty contacted re. HIA 69 running away last Friday. Called at mother's - HIA 69 there but very unhappy at idea of going back to Temonbacca. Has been getting on badly with SR 6 - culminating in an incident where he alleges she caught him by the throat. However eventually agreed to go accompanied by ..... We talked to SR 6 who said that she understood that HIA 69 was unhappy but that she felt he was quite insolent to her and that she had lost her temper with him. .... agreed that we should try to find a placement for him in the family.</p> <p>Called with ..... feel they have enough to be contending with DL 70 - would not be interested in having HIA 69. Called with his aunt ..... has five children and expecting a baby soon so could not do it either. However, she seemed a very sensible woman who said that we needed to be wary of ..... as she was capable of using HIA 69 to meet her own needs and that contact with her might not be the best thing for him. J. Simpson, S.W.</p> |
| 17.3.78 | HIA 69 and HIA 352 spent the whole day with their mother. J. Simpson, S.W.  |
| 22.3.78 | Saw HIA 69 and HIA 352 at Temonbacca to let them know I would be on leave over Easter. J. Simpson, S.W.   |
| 24.3.78 | <p>3.4.78 Annual leave.<br/>DL 70 was home on holiday during this period. J. Simpson, S.W.</p>  |
| 3.4.78  | Talked to SR 6 about HIA 69 - feels she still cannot make any kind of relationship with him and that he is still defying her authority, although not overtly. J. Simpson, S.W.  |
| 11.4.78 | <p>Called with ..... thinks the visits are going alright. Asked her why she never called to see all the children at Temonbacca - she said that she did not feel welcome and that the nuns made her feel guilty.</p> <p>Same date - saw all four children. J. Simpson, S.W.</p>  |

1 places her already in Termonbacca in March of '78.

2 The incident I want to talk to you about now, and  
3 I know you got to see this document earlier, but you  
4 will see on 15th March 1978 SND332 contacted you re  
5 HIA69 running away last Friday. You called at his  
6 mother's.

7 "HIA69 was there, but very unhappy about the idea of  
8 going back to Termonbacca. Has been getting on badly  
9 with SR6" --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- "culminating in an incident where he alleges she  
12 caught him by the throat. However, eventually agreed to  
13 go unaccompanied" -- sorry -- "accompanied by ..."

14 **A. It was his mother.**

15 Q. That's his mother.

16 "We talked to SR6, who said that she understood that  
17 HIA69 was unhappy, but that she felt he was quite  
18 insolent to her and that she had lost her temper with  
19 him. His mother agreed that we should try to find a  
20 placement for him in the family."

21 Now this record appears to suggest that SR6 was  
22 accepting that she had, in fact, done what HIA69 claimed  
23 she had done.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. Do you remember this now when you read this document?

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF:

SND 33

AGE OF WITNESS [if over 21 enter "over 21"]:

OVER 21

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS:

ADDRESS:

TO BE COMPLETED  
WHEN THE  
STATEMENT HAS  
BEEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of 4 pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 7TH day of MARCH 19 90

P Boyd

SND 33

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom  
statement was recorded or received

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I was born on [REDACTED] in Daisy Hill Hospital. My mother, [REDACTED] was only 14 years of age. After I was born, my mother and I moved into the Mother and Babies Home in Newry. After a year, my mother disappeared, moving to Dublin to work. I was then moved to Coneywarren Children's Home in Omagh. I stayed there for 6 months and then I was moved to Termonbacca Children's Home in Derry. I remained there until I was 14 years of age. Up until the age of 6 years, I was never happy but I was never sexually abused. The first time I was sexually abused I was just turning 6. [REDACTED] HIA 69 who was one of the older boys in the home - he was about 8 years older than me. This particular day I went into the music room; [REDACTED] HIA 69 was already there. I went over and started to mess about on the piano. [REDACTED] HIA 69 came over to me and put his arms around me from behind. I tried to get away from him but he held me. He then put his hands down the front of my trousers and touched my penis. I tried again to get away but couldn't. I remember him then putting his penis in my mouth. I don't remember if he came or not, only that I was physically sick after it. He told me not to say anything. Over the next 2 or 3 years, I had sexual relationships with [REDACTED] HIA 69 and a number of other boys

Form 38/36

(Plain)

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS:

SND 33

## STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: **SND 33**

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in the home. I can remember the 2 **SND 210/211** brothers. Oral sex and buggery took place between **HIA 69** and myself several times. I can remember on one occasion the **SND 210/211** brothers. One was bugging me and I was giving the other oral sex. **SND 211** was bugging me and **SND 210** was making me give him oral sex. He came and pissed in my mouth.

I was just like a piece of meat - they were playing 'Pass the Parcel'. At that time it was happening 3 or 4 times a week. These things happened in various parts of the building; sometimes in the showers, bedroom and laundry and linen cupboard and the embankment outside and in the grounds of the home. When I was 8 I started to work in the kitchen peeling spuds. When I was 9 or 10 the chef, who was **HIA 144**, started to abuse me. One day I was peeling the spuds in the shed which connected to the kitchen. I was by myself when he came into the shed and started to play with my penis on the outside of my trousers. By this time, although I did not want it to happen, I had accepted it as normal behaviour in the home. He then took my trousers down, bent me over the sink, took out his own penis and started to masturbate over me. He came over me, cleaned me up, gave me an ice-cream or ice-lolly and I then continued to peel the spuds. **HIA 144** had accommodation in a cottage away from the main buildings but still in the grounds of the home. About 4 or 5 times I went up to the cottage. I was stripped naked and he bugged me and made me give him oral sex. About this time, I started to be physically abused by Sister

**SR 6**

She beat me several times for what I consider trivial things. Once I was sick on a new carpet; she pushed my nose in the vomit and beat me. She also stripped me naked and beat me with a curtain rail. I was bruised all over my neck. I showed the marks to another Sister but she just said that it was self-inflicted. The sexual abuse continued

## STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

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nearly on a nightly basis. SND 23 who was the handyman at the time, made me give him oral sex and he also gave me oral sex., I do not remember how many times this happened - maybe 2 or 3 times. This happened in the changing room of the showers. SND 122, who was the gardener, also sexually and physically abused me. He only sexually abused me the once. I think he buggered me and made me give him oral sex. He also physically abused me when I was working for him. I was also buggered by a priest - I do not know his name. I was Alterboy at the time and the priests who said Mass every Sunday came from all over the place. A doctor who examined me twice or so at the home buggered me during one of the examinations. I do not know his name but he was one of the doctors who came regularly to the home. I can also remember another man but I don't remember his name. I think he was brought to the home by an older boy in the home. I cannot remember if he buggered me but I can remember having oral sex. Around this time, I went to SR 6 and SR 2 and told them what was going on in the home. I saw both of them together in the Music Room. The only thing that appeared to be done about it was that HIA 69 was moved away from me and over to St Gerard's part of the home. When I seen that nothing more than that was being done about it I started to abuse the younger children. This amounted to oral sex, masturbation but never buggery. This continued until I was 14 years of age and I was moved to Harberton House in Irish Street, Derry. Nothing ever happened there. I remained there until I was 16 years and then I went to St Pat's, Glen Road, Belfast; from there to Tarra Lodge, Lisburn Road. In Tarra Lodge I had a homosexual affair with 2 other persons. It was reported to police but no action was taken. From Tarra Lodge I went to a Foster Home in Bangor until I

## STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: SND 33 CONTINUATION PAGE NO: 4

was 18 years. After that, I made my own way in life and got my own  
flat in                     

Certified a true copy of the original

*Paul Thompson*

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HIA REF: SND 21

Witness Name: SND 21

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

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF SND 21**

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I, SND 21 will say as follows:-

**Personal details**

1. I was born on [REDACTED].

**Role and responsibilities**

2. I was employed as a houseparent in Termonbacca for a year and a half between 1977 and 1979. Six months prior to being employed I did voluntary work in the home. This involved making tea, washing clothes and helping the children. When I was a houseparent my hours were 7am until 10pm or 3pm until 10pm seven days a week. During the time I worked in Termonbacca I attended Rupert Stanley College in Belfast and completed a Certificate in Residential Care. During term I continued to work in the home at weekends.
3. I was a houseparent in St Gerard's group. The nun in charge of the group was SR 14. She was later replaced by SR 6. SND 57 worked as a cleaner in the group. SR 2 was in charge of the other group.

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4. I think there were approximately 17 children in my group. **HIA 127** was the youngest child in the group at 18 months old and **SND 147** was the eldest. He was 15 years old. I had no formal training in child care and was not given any in Termonbacca. I was the eldest girl at home in a house of twelve children and I was used to looking after my brothers and sisters. My course in residential childcare introduced me to child care theory. When I tried to implement some of the theories **SR 6** said to me 'you are not coming here to introduce any theories to us'. When I tried to apply my training in any way the nuns did not like it and resisted it.
5. One day a boy called **SND 309** took a biscuit from the kitchen and **SR 6** caught him. He was only about 5 or 6 years old. As punishment she made him stand in a corner of the corridor all day. I stood up for him and told **SR 6** not to punish him that way. I told her I would not take the other children to the civic parade that day without **SND 309**. She then conceded and allowed him to go. I started to stand up for myself and to challenge certain practices in the home on occasion.

### Staff

6. **SR 14** was there for approximately six months when I worked in Termonbacca. I would describe her as strict and controlling and did everything by the book. I felt that she was not emotionally attached to the children and viewed working in Termonbacca as a profession rather than a vocation. She shouted at the children a lot but I never saw her hit a child.
7. **SR 6** replaced **SR 14**. She had a strong brogue and played the accordion. She was close to her family. **SR 6** appeared to be a get up and go nun when she first arrived. She was full of fun and always smiling but again she was controlling and everything had to be spick and span. She was cross with children and often threatened 'I will give you a kick up the ass'. I did see her kick children on the bum with her boot but this was to move them along

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rather than to hurt them. **SR 6** shouted at children but I never saw her hit a child with her hand or anything else. I sensed from the children that they were uneasy in her company. When she was at prayer, which usually lasted a few hours, I was in charge of the children and they were visibly relaxed and were themselves. I allowed the children in my group to watch TV which **SR 6** would not have allowed. When I did this I always made sure there was one child keeping lookout on the corridor for **SR 6** returning. If she caught the children watching TV she would not have been pleased. When I stayed in the home on a Saturday night I allowed the boys to sit up late and watch Match of the Day. So as to not wake the nuns they had to be as quiet as mice going up to bed. I also used to play football with them and take them down the town. I tried to ensure they had fun as children should have.

8. **SR 2** was in charge of the other group in Termonbacca. I didn't think she was very nice. On one occasion I saw her and **SR 6** talking about people who donated money and were visiting the home saying 'I wish they would go now'. I didn't think she had a nice attitude to people who were trying to help them. She backstabbed people who were good to them and kind to the children. **SR 2** appeared to be the matriarch in Termonbacca. I do know that some of the boys thought that **SR 2** was kind.
9. It was a very regimented life in Termonbacca. Uniforms had to be neat and shoes had to be polished. The nuns were very concerned about portraying a good image to the outside world.
10. Older boys came back to visit the home when I was on duty at weekends. They were often left in charge of children when the nuns were at prayer. The nuns did not seem to have a problem with the boys returning. I recall boys called **SND 4**, **SND 23** and **SND 122** visiting the home. A resident called **SND 33** was in my group and he used to stay by my side when the older boys came to the home. On one occasion **SND 33** took a knife to **SND 4**. When I asked **SND 33** why he did this he said that he did not like him. When I worked in Harberton House a few years later **SND 33** who became a

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resident in Harberton, told me that he had been abused by **SND 4** in Termonbacca. I did not know this when I worked there but looking back on it he did act differently when **SND 4** was around. **SND 33** also told me that **SR 6** **SR 6** didn't like him and that she shouted and roared at him when I wasn't there.

11. There was not enough staff for the ratio of children in Termonbacca. If the nuns had had their way I would have been on duty every night but I had other commitments.

### Life in Termonbacca

12. I believe that the nuns got money for each child that came to the home. At Christmas Du Pont sponsored presents for each child. On some occasions the Du Pont worker who donated the present came to the home on Christmas Day to see the children open their gifts. I believe the children kept their presents in their rooms.
13. My duties as a houseparent involved getting the children up around 6.45am and getting them ready for mass. Mass was at 7.30am every morning. After mass I served breakfast in the dining room. When the children went to school I tidied up and did the washing and ironing. Clothes were washed every day. On some occasions I brought children to my family home for the day. I took **HIA 126** and **SND 197** home. At the end of the day they did not want to return to Termonbacca. I found it hard bringing them back. I recall that **HIA 126** felt that **SR 6** wasn't nice to her at times. I think that **SND 197** was a favourite of **SR 6**
14. There was a bad tempered nun in charge of the kitchen. I think her name was **SR 64** The children told me that she had hit them. The food was just alright. It was brought up from the kitchen on a heated trolley and I served the

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food out the hatch in the canteen along with **SND 57**. If a child wanted extras there was no food left to give them.

15. There were a few children in my group that wet the bed. When this happened **SR 6** would have told the child off and made them take the sheets down and put them in the washing machine. I told **SR 6** that bedwetting was a result of feelings of separation and loss which I had learned from my course. She just looked at me and wasn't interested in what I had to say. On occasions I washed children's wet sheets and showed them how to do it so they would not get told off again. When **SR 6** was on holiday I made the children's beds and helped them as much as I could. I couldn't do this while she was there or she would have told me off.
16. Punishments in Termonbacca consisted of children being made to go to bed early, being deprived of things or not being allowed outside to play. The nuns commonly said to children 'I am in charge of you because you have no-one else'. I thought this was a cruel thing to say.
17. Children were made to do chores in the home. These included washing dishes, cleaning the kitchen, hoovering, making beds and cleaning floors. The children had to do chores from a young age.
18. I do not think poverty was the reason why the nuns ran Termonbacca in the way they did. I was of the view that the nuns were money led rather than needs led. One time I was in the convent and the nuns used the best china and had excellent furniture. They didn't eat with the children. They ate in their own dining room and I believe they ate better food than the children.
19. **SND 332** was employed by the nuns as a social worker. I thought it was a good thing that he joined. He had an office of his own and I believe that some of the older boys were close to him.

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20. I had a room in the home when I was staying overnight. One day while I was off duty in my room I heard a child crying at the end of the corridor where the toilets were. I went to see what was going on. Outside the toilets I found **SND 197** **SND 197** with her pants down at her feet. She was about 5 or 6 years old at the time. **HIA 69** came out of the toilets and scarpered. **HIA 69** was about 9 years old at the time. I lifted **SND 197** into my arms and comforted her. She said that **HIA 69** was touching her. I reported this to **SR 6**. I understand that she informed **SND 332**. I believe that **HIA 69** was removed from Termonbacca because of this incident in 1980. I think he was moved to Harberton House.

21. I do not recall any inspections in the home while I was there although children did have social workers and I would have had some involvement with them. I kept a day book which recorded appointments and daily events which involved the children.

22. I believe that **SR 6** had to leave Termonbacca and go to England but I do not know why. I believe complaints may have been made to the Mother General about her. I think she left child care.

**HIA 352** (HIA 352)

23. I remember **HIA 352** in Termonbacca however I do not recall the incident which she describes. **SR 6** may have had a stick and she could have threatened children with it. However I never witnessed **SR 6** hit a child whilst I was in Termonbacca.

**HIA 69** (HIA 69)

24. I recall **HIA 69** in Termonbacca and being at Shrove during the holidays. I was only there once. However I do not recall the incident which **HIA 69** describes. I would have remembered if I had pulled **SR 6** off him.

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Life after Termonbacca

25. I got increasingly frustrated with the system in Termonbacca. I was young myself, I was only 19 years old. I had learned new theories in child care and the nuns were not interested in my views or implementing my ideas despite my best efforts. The nuns did not seem to want change. As a result I left and got a job in Dublin. When I left I prayed that Termonbacca would be closed down. It wasn't a nice place and it wasn't a good place for children to be brought up. In January 1982 I came back home to Derry and I got a job working as a residential social worker in Harberton House.

26. In Termonbacca the nuns were very into praying and following their own rules. I used to go home and vent my frustration to my mother. I told her 'the nuns are supposed to be with God and I had not seen any proof of that in Termonbacca'. The gentleness, kindness and compassion which the children needed wasn't provided by the nuns. I learned a lot from my time in Termonbacca. I learned how to be a better social worker.

27. I loved the children in Termonbacca. I was young myself. I did the best that I could for the children and I hope they felt they got some love and kindness from me whilst I was there.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

**SND 21**

Dated

25 / 4 / 14.