

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 233

Witness Name: HIA 233

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 233

I, HIA 233 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED]
2. There were [REDACTED] of us in my family, [REDACTED] girls and [REDACTED] boys.
3. I was placed in Termonbacca when I was [REDACTED]
4. In [REDACTED] I was fostered out to [REDACTED] SND 36/37 [REDACTED] of my older siblings had been there since [REDACTED] – HIA 113 HIA 126 [REDACTED] SND [REDACTED] SND 287 and HIA 127 [REDACTED]
5. On [REDACTED] when I was [REDACTED] years old, we were all removed from the [REDACTED] SND 36/37 [REDACTED] We were never told why, they just lifted us out after school one day and put us in Harberton House. That was difficult because they were my parents in my eyes. I later learned the reason we were removed was because my two older sisters [REDACTED] SND 197 and [REDACTED] HIA 126 made allegations of sexual abuse against our foster father [REDACTED] SND 36 [REDACTED] I knew he was an alcoholic but he never did anything to me.

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Harberton House, Derry [REDACTED]

6. I was placed in Harberton House on [REDACTED] when I was [REDACTED] years old. My two older brothers [HIA 127] and [SND 283] were also placed there but I didn't know [SND 283] was my half-brother until later. My older sisters [HIA 113] [HIA 126] and [SND 197] went to Nazareth House in Bishop Street, so I was told. We were placed once more in Harberton House where we remained until [REDACTED]. I don't recall much of this period in Harberton House.

Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Derry [REDACTED]

7. I was moved to Nazareth House, Bishop Street on the [REDACTED] when I was [REDACTED] years old along with [SND 283] and [HIA 127]. I stayed there until [REDACTED] when I was [REDACTED] years old. Nazareth House was mixed and when we first went in it was made up of big rooms. The boys slept in one big room and the girls in another. There were about eight children in each unit. I was in unit 2 and it was on the top floor. [SR 23] and [SR 21] were in charge of unit 2 at different times. I also remember there was a nun called [SR 22]. She called us all 'bastards' at one time. [SR 97] the head nun was an older nun and was good. I told her what [SR 22] said and she was shortly moved on. There was a [SR 19] who worked in the home. [REDACTED] She then left the convent. She was replaced by [SR 2]. There was a woman called [REDACTED] and she got married in the home. She was great. She is now called [REDACTED].
8. I went to school in [REDACTED] Primary School. There was a school onsite in Nazareth House but we didn't go there because we had been fostered out. They thought it would be too much upset to move schools. We had to walk to school but the children who were the nuns favourites were driven on a blue minibus by a staff member called [SND 38] or one of the staff who could drive. I loved school, it was my escape. I was bright and there were teachers at school who made me feel great.

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9. The regime in Nazareth House every day was you were woken at 7am and if you didn't get up immediately, the duvet would be pulled off you by the nuns or staff. We walked to school. We used to walk up Bishop Street and down through the flyover but there was always a drunk man called [REDACTED] there and I was afraid of him. He would shout at us and I would always ask HIA 127 to walk the long way down through the Brandywell so we could avoid the drunk man. Then I met [REDACTED] who worked in unit 1 and she used to walk me to school. She changed her shifts so she could walk to and from school with me. HIA 127 had left school at that stage so I must have been about ten, eleven or twelve years old.
10. In [REDACTED] when I was [REDACTED] years old, I was abused by my half-brother SND 283 in Nazareth House. I shared a room with [REDACTED] SND 41 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] SND 295 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and one of the older girls called [REDACTED] SND 283 and HIA 127 were in a separate room. SND 283 came into the room while we were all in bed. He used the excuse that he was in to see SND 41. SND 41 was fifteen or sixteen and SND 283 was about fifteen. He came into my bed. SND 41 saw him. He put his fingers in my vagina and kissed me and put his tongue in my mouth. The same thing happened nearly every other night for weeks. I told SR 23 about the abuse. One Sunday I told SR 23 and a staff member SND 39 was also there. SND 39 was my key worker. She later [REDACTED] [REDACTED] called SND 38. I was put in a room and told not to mention it again. I wasn't allowed go swimming with the rest of the group that day. The nuns called my mother the next day and she came down to the home. I told her what SND 283 was doing and she slapped me in front of SR 23 and told me not to be telling lies about my brother. I was taken to see a psychiatrist on Clarendon Street every Friday for about a year. They all thought I was mental. SND 327 was the priest attached to the home and he said I was a disturbed child and I was playing silly games. The police never came to question me about the abuse and therefore I assumed they never reported it. Nobody ever mentioned it again. I was told not to mention it so I didn't. SND 283 was sent to St. Patrick's Training School not long after that which I

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was relieved about. [SND 39] told me my mother said I told her I was making it up but she would have protected [SND 283] anyway, he was her blue-eyed boy.

11. I hated the food in Nazareth House, I refused to eat it. I couldn't eat the slop they brought me for dinner, it was disgusting. Weekdays were alright because I ate the food in school. On a Saturday I was forced to sit at the table all day and the same meal would be put in front of me over and over again. They wouldn't even heat it up. If I didn't eat it, it was forced down my throat and I would vomit. I was force fed by [SR 21] [SR 2] [SND 43] and [SND 39] and [SND 38]. They held my mouth and nose and forced the food into me. Everyone in the dining room saw this. Every time I threw up they would just force it back down my throat. [SND 43] was the worst for force feeding me. She was a [redacted] in the home. She would say she was looking forward to mealtimes and that she would take care of me. I dreaded [SND 43] being on duty at meal times. There was a worker called [SND 328]. She was there for about a year and she knew about the force feeding. I told [SND 329] my primary 7 teacher in [redacted] Primary School about the nuns force-feeding me. I know she spoke to the staff about it in Nazareth House because [SND 39] told me not to be telling lies in school. Nothing changed after this and I was still force fed. [SND 329] now works for Trocaire in Derry. I don't have set meal times in my house because of the way I was treated. If my children are hungry at 9pm, I'll put the oven on. I would love to be able to eat a full dinner but I cannot. I now eat little and often. Nazareth House kept an exercise book of everything each resident did in the home on a daily basis. This included behaviour, school, activities and meal times. The staff filled in the books every evening. All of this should be recorded on my file with the Sisters of Nazareth. One day [SR 91] showed me the books in the vault which held all the records of each child so I know they exist.

12. On one occasion around [redacted] when I was about [redacted] years old, my brother [HIA 127] who was about [redacted] had an operation on his testicle. While he was recovering on the sofa in the living room, the carer from the old people's home

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showed everyone his wound. I didn't want to look but the carer held my head and made me look at his wound.

13. The night before the 11 plus test, I became really ill. I didn't want to do the 11 plus and I had got a letter from my mother to say I didn't have to do it. That night I knocked on **SR 2** door even though we weren't supposed to unless you were really ill. I told her I was vomiting black stuff and that I was really ill. She just said 'you're doing that test tomorrow'. She left me lying all night on the bathroom floor while she went into her bed and slept. The next morning she came in to the bathroom and nudged me. I said I was sore and I was doubled over so she got someone to ring an ambulance. **SND 38** accompanied me to the hospital. It turned out my appendix had burst and she just left me there all night because she thought I was pretending to be sick. I was off school for about a month after this.
14. My mother came about six times in total to see me in Nazareth House. The nuns forced me to go visit her in **[REDACTED]** I never wanted to visit her because I knew all there would be was drinking and fighting. My father was an alcoholic and they fought all the time. I knew I would be hit when I went down there and I wouldn't get a dinner. I begged to be fostered out and I ran away countless times. My mother never cared about us but if there was a fight with the welfare she would always fight it. She would say she was coming up to visit us in Nazareth House and I would stay back from going up the town to wait for her. We would have sat looking out the window for two or three hours waiting for her to come, but she never did.
15. The civilian staff at Nazareth House were cruel to us. I remember **SND 38** a social worker, and **SND 43** would throw my two brothers **HIA** and **SND 283** into freezing cold baths and showers. I saw another staff member **SND 44** hit my brother **HIA 127** with the back of his hand. Some of these people are still working in homes and I don't think that's right. **SND 43** **SND 43** **[REDACTED]** **[REDACTED]** She was awful. She was a very big woman. She used to hit me on the back of the head whilst I was walking along the corridor

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and bumped into me deliberately. She would buy our silence with hair bands and things whenever my social worker **SND 475** would visit. I had a good relationship with **SND 475** and I told her about the abuse by **SND 283** and the force feeding. When I was about twelve **SND 475** put a stop to the feeding and the home had to bring me food I could eat. **SND 475** even brought me in sweets and crisps. I think **SND 475** now works with the [REDACTED]

16. On one occasion **SND 38** and **SND 39** threw me and another girl **SND 330** into a room and told us to beat each other. We had never got along; we were just two young girls who clashed **SND 330** is actually a friend of mine now and I asked her if she remembered that happening and she said she did. She said she doesn't want to be a part of the Inquiry. There was a girl called **SND 331** who went to [REDACTED] School in Derry. All the staff in the home including **SND 39** and **SND 38** and **SND 43** **SND 43** called her a [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] She was always put in a room on her own so visitors wouldn't see her.
17. On one occasion when I was about [REDACTED] Sister **SR 2** and **SR 21** brought **SND** and **SND 37** into the visitor room at Nazareth House and made us talk to them. I didn't want to talk to **SND 36** because at that stage I knew what he had done to my sisters. I couldn't believe they would bring a known paedophile into the visitor room and make us talk to him. I wouldn't have minded sitting with **SND 37** I still speak to **SND 37** today but not **SND 36** I remember he was in a rehab place on the [REDACTED] I think he was ordered to go there by the Court and we used to go visit him.
18. There was a priest in Nazareth House called **SND 327** and he was really creepy. He would put his hand on your leg and start rubbing your thigh. He came to say mass at the chapel every Sunday. He's dead now.
19. I went to [REDACTED] on a school trip from [REDACTED] Primary School when I was [REDACTED] I didn't want to go because I was scared of going on the plane. I was told I would be staying with two families for three weeks each. [REDACTED] the head social worker in [REDACTED] laughed and said he couldn't wait to see my

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mother's face when she found out one of the families was Protestant. My mother was a [REDACTED] and I was the only child staying with two families. He was using that to get at my mother because she was well known to the welfare authorities. The first family I stayed with in [REDACTED] were lovely but when I arrived at the house of the second family, they said 'are you the little fenian coming to our door'. I said 'no, I'm the little fenian leaving your door'. I went back to the first family and stayed with them for the rest of the trip.

20. I left Nazareth House on [REDACTED] when I was [REDACTED] years old. I was fostered out to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I stayed there for about a year and I watched my foster family's marriage break down. My foster father was having an affair. I knew what was going on because he used to take me out to play squash when in fact he was meeting the woman he was having an affair with. I told **SND 475** I didn't want to stay there any longer. When she asked why I said it was because my foster mother pulled my hair but really I didn't want to stay and watch their marriage fall apart. I loved her more than I loved him. The [REDACTED] are now separated and I still speak to [REDACTED]

Harberton House, Derry ([REDACTED] approximately)

21. After the foster placement with the [REDACTED] broke down, I was placed in Harberton House. I would have been [REDACTED] at the time. Harberton House was run by a man named [REDACTED] **HH 5** – [REDACTED] we used to call him. I don't have a bad word to say about that man. He cared for us all but things happened on his grounds that shouldn't have happened. There were about ten or twelve in each unit in Harberton House and there were two units **HIA 127** and **SND 283** were already there and we were all placed in the one room together. I said to a staff member called [REDACTED] **HH 15** that I wasn't staying in a room with **SND 283**. He just said I had to because I was there on an emergency placement. I slept in the bathroom, I put my duvet in the bath and lay there all night with the door locked. I was moved to the other end the next morning for a long term stay. [REDACTED] **HH 15** was a big brute of a man and he

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would grab me by the neck and batter me. HH 5 knew HH beat me but he didn't do anything about it. My first memory of being in there was seeing him trail a young boy named HH 16 down the corridor. HH 15 lives in [REDACTED] He also slapped and beat my younger sister SND 356 My mother and father came to the home to report it and I think HH 15 [REDACTED]

22. I was raped by a boy in Harberton House called HH 18 when I was about [REDACTED] years old. He was about two years older than me. One night I was going to bed in my single room when I heard music blasting from another room. HH 18 and another resident HH 19 were carrying on. I complained to HH 20 who was the social worker in charge that night about the noise. She told them to turn it off. Around 1 or 2am when I was sleeping HH 18 came in to my room and HH 19 held the door from the outside. I could hear HH 19 giggling. HH 18 raped me and held his hand over my mouth. It lasted for about ten minutes. When he left I put my bedside locker up against the door. I was distraught. His mother was a [REDACTED] who had been [REDACTED] in the town so he had been in Harberton for a long time. I told a young girl called HH 21 HH 21 about it and she told HH 20 HH 20 then told HH 22 who was the head of the long stay unit in Harberton. She lives in [REDACTED] HH 22 said 'are we back with these lies again HIA 233 She said I was going to end up in the training school. She asked why I hadn't told her and I said I learned years ago not to tell staff, to which she replied 'are you implying we wouldn't believe you?' Two days after I was raped I telephoned my mother and told her. She sent my sister HIA 126 down to see me. I told her to tell my mother I was being sent to the training school the next day. My mother told the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Harberton wanted me to report it to the police and I wanted to but nothing happened and I was never interviewed. HH 18 still [REDACTED]

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St. Joseph's Training School, Middletown, Co. Armagh

23. I was [redacted] years old when I was moved to St. Joseph's training school. It was out in the hills in [redacted] and we thought it was great craic. [redacted] SJM 1 and [redacted] SJM 2 were the two nuns in St. Joseph's and they were both very nice. [redacted] SJM 3 was a lovely woman. She would sing to try to calm you down but she left when I was there. St. Joseph's was split into four houses. I was in House 2. The staff in my house were [redacted] SJM 4 [redacted] SJM 5 and [redacted] SJM 6 and they were nice. We slept in dormitories with a curtain for a door.
24. We had to make our own meals but I was taken out of the kitchen because I was always putting fairy liquid in the food. I was a handful growing up but they made me like that. [redacted] SJM 2 used to call me a 'delinquent'. Others called me an 'illegitimate bastard'. I was a nice child until nobody would believe me about the abuse. After that, I was always angry and my anger was directed towards whoever was the boss. The way I saw it every member of staff was to blame.
25. In St Joseph's the government provided five cigarettes to each girl a day. I know this because the nuns told me. We were given a full cigarette at 9am, 1pm, 4pm, 6pm and 9pm and we shared a cigarette at 11am. I started smoking in there when I was thirteen just to get something else from the system. The cigarettes were regal filters and I still smoke the same cigarettes today.
26. There were four cells which we called 'the lock up'. In the cell there was a metal bed. The cells had red doors and bars on the windows. They would put you there if you did anything wrong. I was in it many times for bad behaviour. I was put in it for two or three days at a time. I was given my usual cigarettes and water but no food at all. That was the punishment. You would be trailed there by the hair.
27. After an initial four weeks in St. Joseph's you went back to court and you'd be given another interim order for five weeks. I think fifteen weeks was the maximum short stay. St Joseph's gave us £50 after every court appearance. I

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was always cheeky and ignorant in court. I would swear at the judge and ask to be sent back to the training school because at least it was all girls there. Harberton House kept asking if I was ready to tell the truth and I'd just say 'are you?' Eventually, the judge, Mr Perry in Derry court told St. Joseph's to keep me for two years. I was happy out because there were no male members of staff and no boys in St. Joseph's so at least nothing would happen to me there. However, we were locked up and forced to clean from morning until night in St. Joseph's. I was happy in St. Joseph's.

28. We walked to the main building for school at St. Joseph's. [REDACTED] was the principal and I had an art teacher called [REDACTED]. When you were ready to leave St. Joseph's they moved you to a bungalow to give you independence and prepare you for life outside. I left St. Joseph's in [REDACTED] when I was [REDACTED]. I just walked out one day. I had been allowed out to my sister [REDACTED] HIA 126 house on the weekends and then the IRA shot bullets at House 3 so I decided to leave. After I left, the nuns tried to lure me back twice, promising me I would get £50 if I came back up and signed a form. I refused point blank and remained with my sister. The police came looking for me once or twice but I just opened the door and said [REDACTED] HIA 233 'not here'.

Life after care

29. I got pregnant soon after I left St. Joseph's at [REDACTED]. I got my own flat in [REDACTED]. The aftercare team from social services were based at Fort James and they called to see me when I was pregnant. They decided that my child needed a social worker based on the way my mother had raised my siblings and I. I asked if that applied to any child who had been in the homes. I vowed that I wouldn't let the social workers take my children from me. I challenged them in court and they backed down so there has never been any social worker involved with my children. To this day I have a fear of social workers. I don't trust anybody from that system. I never have and I never will.
30. I am married now with [REDACTED] children, [REDACTED] girls and [REDACTED] boys. The eldest is [REDACTED] and the youngest is [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] of my children have [REDACTED] and

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one has [REDACTED] Even though my family life seems happy, my marriage is only holding on by a thread and it's because of the abuse I suffered. My husband [REDACTED] knows about the abuse I suffered. I changed my religion to Church of Ireland because of the abuse. I couldn't remain a Roman Catholic after what I suffered.

31. I am not in contact with my siblings. My mother died [REDACTED] years ago. We never had a close relationship as she never believed me about [REDACTED] **SND 283** abusing me. The last time I saw her before she died she asked me to tell [REDACTED] **SND 283** that I was mistaken and it was [REDACTED] **HIA** who had abused me.
32. I feel like the adults failed me, especially [REDACTED] **SR 23** and [REDACTED] **SND 39**. They were meant to protect me but they didn't. I just want an adult to stand up and tell me they're sorry. I don't want anybody to go to jail but if there are adults who did bad things still working with children like [REDACTED] **SND 43** that is not right. Most of the nuns are probably dead now. I don't think [REDACTED] **SR 23** is dead and I would like to ask her how she thought fit to say I was a mental child and I was making the abuse up. A sorry won't fix it but it will go a long way for someone like me.
33. Everything that happened to me has affected me as an adult. I am very protective of my [REDACTED] daughters; I won't let them wear dresses. I can't get a passport because I got one in the home but I don't know the exact date it was issued or who signed for it. I can't get that information. I just want somebody to say they're sorry; they owe it to everybody who was in those homes. I don't want money or anything. I just want somebody to say it was wrong. I don't understand how the staff could go home and sleep in their beds knowing what was happening to us. There's no job or money in the world that would keep me quiet if I knew something like that was happening.
34. I spoke to a police officer called Grace McGonigle in Strand Road police station in May 2012 in relation to the abuse by [REDACTED] **SND 283**. He threatened me and I didn't feel I could go back and sign my police statement. He kept walking past my house in a threatening manner. The stress was too much. [REDACTED] **SND 283** is

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living less than three miles from me with my sister [REDACTED] and they are in a relationship. One day I was in Tesco's and [REDACTED] hit me because I went to the police. [REDACTED] was lovely to me; she pleaded with me to go ahead but said it was up to me. Unfortunately, I don't have much confidence in any system, including the police system. However, I have since made a statement to police at Strand Road PSNI station regarding the abuse involving [REDACTED] SND 283

Statement of Truth

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

Signed [REDACTED] HIA 233

Dated 25th November 2013

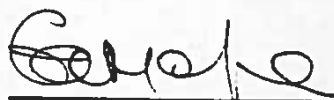
SOCIAL REPORT (UNTOWARD INCIDENT)

Re:- **SND 283** (d.o.b. **[REDACTED]**)
HIA 127 (d.o.b. **[REDACTED]**)
HIA 233 (d.o.b. **[REDACTED]**)

Children in Care (FPOs)
 B/O Mr. and Mrs. **SND 36**
[REDACTED], Derry

The three **[REDACTED]** children went home to their mother, Mrs. **[REDACTED]**, for a two day visit on 8.7.85. On 10.7.85, Mrs. **[REDACTED]** refused to permit the youngest child, **HIA 233**, to return to the foster home. When the Social Worker, Ken Austin, attempted to remove the child, she became hysterical. Ken Austin then took **SND 283** and **HIA 127** back to the foster home. Later that evening Ken Austin and I called again with Mrs. **[REDACTED]**. She then stated that she had kept **HIA 233** at home because the child made allegations to her which involved the foster father, **SND 36** and which had a sexual content. We interviewed **HIA 233** in her mothers presence, she did not in any way substantiate her mothers allegations. I agreed that **HIA 233** could remain at home overnight, and then called with Mr. and Mrs. **SND 36**. I described the allegations made by Mrs. **[REDACTED]**. They denied these vigorously. They stated that they now wished to withdraw from fostering. I also interviewed **SND 283** alone. His account of how Mr. and Mrs. **SND 36** dealt with discipline matched that of **HIA 233** and did not in any way substantiate the content of Mrs. **[REDACTED]**'s allegations. The **SND 36**s agreed that the placement of **HIA 127** and **SND 283** should continue until alternative arrangements could be made at the beginning of next week.

HIA 233 was taken into residential care the following day (11.7.85). She is presently in Harberton House. On the same day Mrs. **[REDACTED]** made a complaint to **[REDACTED]** police, who interviewed **HIA 233** in Harberton on 12.7.85. A Case Conference was held in Harberton House on 16.7.85, with the police in attendance. **SND 283** and **HIA 127** joined **HIA 233** in residential care on 16.7.85.


 EAMON McTERNAN
 SENIOR SOCIAL WORKER

I, **SND 283** previously **SND 283** have been taken through the allegations about me made by **HIA 233** to the Inquiry.

HIA 233 is my half sister. I cannot recall when I was first told this.

I have considered each of the allegations made against me by **HIA 233** in turn and I deny each and every one of them.

I did spend time in Nazareth House and it was not a pleasant experience at all and I have chosen to block out that part of my life as it is too painful for me to deal with.

I do not believe that I was in Harberton House in 1991-1992. I was born on [REDACTED] and was 16-17 years old during this period. I remember leaving care the week before I was 16 years old and having to find somewhere to live.

I have considered why **HIA 233** would make these allegations against me and I wonder is it because a sister of mine, **SND 197**

SND 197

HIA 113

[REDACTED] to see if we could all make a claim but I chose not to.

In respect of the bundle of documents provided which relate to **SND 357** I was prosecuted in respect of that allegation and acquitted for same.

I do not feel that I can be of any further assistance to the Inquiry.

SND 283

SIGNED.....

DATED THIS 26th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2014.

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

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF **SND 43**

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 24th July 2013 (HIA Ref: 127) and **HIA 233** of 25th 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 16 and subsequently undertook and completed [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
3. In November [REDACTED] I was employed by the Sisters of Nazareth and worked as a 'House Parent' in [REDACTED] with the Sisters of Nazareth, Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Londonderry. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Road, a team comprising social workers, personal advisers and tenancy support workers and I continue to work in that capacity to the present day.

5. My husband was **SND 44** who is also named in the statements of **HIA 127** **HIA 127** and **HIA 233**. We have two children, **[REDACTED]** (DOB **[REDACTED]** **[REDACTED]** and **[REDACTED]** aged **[REDACTED]** **[REDACTED]**). My husband and I separated in **[REDACTED]**

Duties at Nazareth House

6. In or around the late 1980s (the approximate time frame of the allegations) I was working as a 'House Parent' in **[REDACTED]** on the second floor at Nazareth House. I recall both **HIA 127** **HIA 127** and **HIA 233** being in Nazareth House at or around that time.
7. The duties of the 'House Parent' differed dependent upon the shift worked:
- i. Morning shift (8.00am to 4.00pm). This involved getting the resident children up for school, making their breakfast and helping them to prepare for school. Thereafter those who needed accompaniment to school were accompanied. After the resident children were all at school then the duties involved general housekeeping. If a child did not go to school, for example due to sickness, the House Parents would look after the child. Duties also involved completion of a morning logbook accounting for activities such as making appointments for social workers and also attending meetings.
 - ii. Afternoon shift (2.00pm to 10.00pm). This began with a 30 minute 'handover' from the morning staff, which would have included outlining the evening tasks. Thereafter the duties included: making a snack for the resident children when they returned from school; collection of any resident children required to be collected from school; socialising and general 'chit-chat' with the resident children; and assistance with completion of homework. The House Parents also assisted in making arrangements for the resident children to attend activities such as swimming, the youth club and Irish dancing. Dinner time was at 5.30pm. Some

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. From [REDACTED] to the [REDACTED] The reason for my absence was maternity leave and illness.
 - b. From [REDACTED] to the [REDACTED] The reason for absence was maternity leave.

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 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 Nazareth House. However I do recall a girl called whose mother married a man called and I believe this may be the individual to which the statement refers. I categorically deny the allegation that I called this child a or 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 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 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 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 30 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.....

HIA REF: SND 38

Witness Name: **SND 38**

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

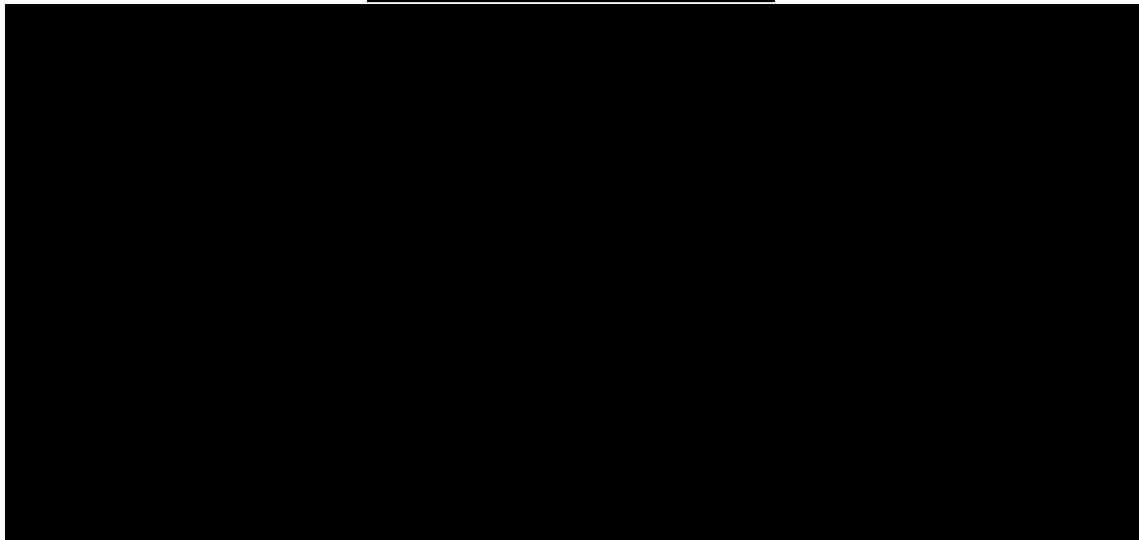
WITNESS STATEMENT OF **SND 38**

I **SND 38** will say as follows:-

Personal Details

I was born on [REDACTED] and commenced employment at Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Derry, on 1st June 1987.

Before this I had worked in [REDACTED]



Nazareth House Overview

The principle aims of Nazareth House were:-

“To provide a loving, caring and stable environment in which the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of the child are met”

“To assess each child’s needs and to decide how best to help the child through an individual care plan.”

“To ensure that opportunities are provided, within the home and outside it, through relationships with staff and other children, through contact with parents, social workers and friends, for the child to realise his full potential and gain a measure of independence – thus ensuring an early return to the community.”

Paragraph 32

HIA 127 states that he informed his after-care social worker that he had been abused by me when he became aware that his younger siblings were being admitted to Nazareth House. This is untrue.

HIA 127 youngest sisters were admitted to Nazareth House in 1992.

HIA 127 first reported allegations of abuse to his after-care social worker in July 1996. His younger sisters had already been in Nazareth House for four years at this stage.

HIA 127 states that when he first reported the alleged abuse that the two police men called him a liar. This is untrue and as result the police thoroughly investigated, with the assistance of Social Services and Nazareth House, all of the allegations made by HIA 127. The investigation found not one piece of evidence to corroborate even one of the allegations made by HIA 127. My position was vindicated, the suspension was lifted and I was allowed to return to work.

RESPONSE TO HIA 233 STATEMENT TO THE INQUIRY

I have read the statements made by HIA 233 to The Enquiry dated 25th November 2013 and I vehemently deny all allegations made against me in this statement.

BRIEF BACKGROUND INFORMATION

I worked in Nazareth House when HIA 233 was resident there along with her brothers HIA 127 and SND 283. HIA 233 like her brother HIA 127 was a child who presented with many challenging behavioural problems.

During her time in Nazareth House I had a very good relationship with HIA 233 as did the other residential staff who worked there.

Paragraph 7

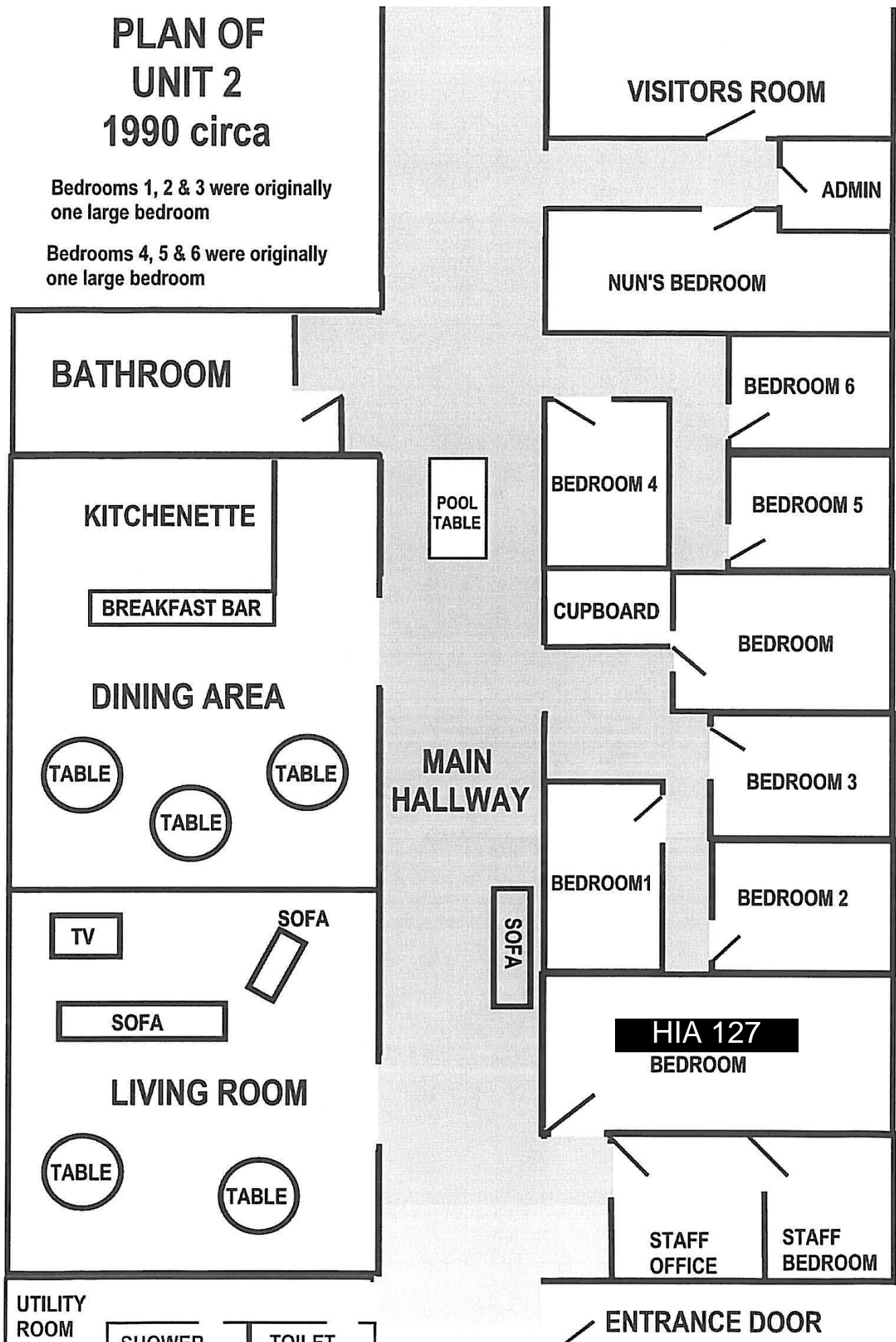
HIA 233 states SR 19 This is untrue.

SR 19 was a nun who worked in HIA 233 was in SR 19 The nuns who SR 23 (in charge of and SR 23 (principle of along with members of staff, including myself.

PLAN OF UNIT 2 1990 circa

Bedrooms 1, 2 & 3 were originally
one large bedroom

Bedrooms 4, 5 & 6 were originally
one large bedroom



MW

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: ELIZABETH ANN KENNEDYAGE 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 one page~~s~~, 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 9th day of November 1992.

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom
statement was recorded or received

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I am a Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary presently attached to the CARE Unit at RUC Station, Strand Road, Londonderry. On Sunday 25 October 1992 at 10 20 am, I saw **HIA 233**, DOB [REDACTED]

C/o Harborton House Childrens' Home at Strand Road RUC Station. She was accompanied by [REDACTED] Residential Social Worker at Harborton House Childrens' Home. I recorded a statement from

HIA 233 into an alleged incident which occurred at Harborton House Childrens' Home on 23 October 1992. **HIA 233** refused to be medically examined. During interview, **HIA 233** informed me that her brother, **SND 283** had sex with her three or four times when she lived in Nazareth House Childrens' Home, approximately six years ago. She refused to comment further on this matter when questioned. On 27 October 1992 I again saw **HIA 233** at Harborton House Childrens' Home. She was accompanied by her Social Worker,

[REDACTED] The reason for this interview was to clear up ambiguity resulting from the interview on 25 October 1992. **HIA 233**

HIA 233 was most unco-operative and abusive and continually used foul language. She stated she had nothing further to say or add to the statement already made and that her statement was true. When asked about the alleged incidents involving her brother, she again was verbally abusive and stated she did not wish to discuss the matter with me or anyone else. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: EA Kennedy