

HIA REF \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (In full) **SND 332**DATE 14 November 2013**THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995****WITNESS STATEMENT OF****STATEMENT OF TRUTH**

I was employed as a \_\_\_\_\_

My principal duties were to engage in:

- Direct work with children
  - Organising and attending reviews
  - Staff development
  - Helping in the process of finding foster placements
  - After care and work with past boys of Termonbacca who resided locally
1. My initial induction to the work of the Sister of Nazareth in Termonbacca was carried out by Sister **SR 2**. At that time I believe there were around 40 children in the home residing in three separate units.  
  
I found Sister **SR 2** to be a dedicated and committed individual who cared deeply for those children in her care. She was also concerned for many of the boys who had left Termonbacca and were living in the city and encouraged my attempts to offer support. This was at a time when there was little support for those young people who left care.
  2. From my recollection in working in Termonbacca there was a low ratio of staff to children, partly due to I believe to the low per capita cost given to the Sister by the Health Board or DHSS.
  3. In my time in Termonbacca I believe the majority of children had social work involvement and were reviewed on a regular basis. I myself had regular contact with many of the children's social workers.
  4. On reflection a large part of my work was with those individuals who had left Termonbacca and were living locally. Many of these young men were struggling in relation to employment, housing, with emotional difficulties due to past experiences of loss and adjustment to life outside Termonbacca.

My mentoring role with some of these young men continued after I left Termonbacca in \_\_\_\_\_ My work also included trying to trace relatives for many of the boys but only a few were successful in what was often a heart-breaking journey.

5. I left Termonbacca in [REDACTED] I still have  
contact with some of the ex-residents.

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

Signed — **SND 332**

Dated 14 / Nov / 2013

HIA REF:

Witness Name: **SND 332**

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

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WITNESS STATEMENT OF **SND 332**

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1. I **SND 332** will say as follows –
2. This is the second statement provided by me to the Inquiry and deals with a number of questions put to me
3. I have worked in the caring profession i.e Social Services for approximately **[REDACTED]**
4. I began my career in Social Services in **[REDACTED]** working as a generic trainee Social Worker and subsequently qualifying as a professional Social Worker in **[REDACTED]** At that time I was **[REDACTED]** involved in many aspects of Social Services provision, particularly in relation to child welfare.
5. **[REDACTED]**
6. In **[REDACTED]** there were reducing numbers of children being placed in Termonbacca and I was informed my services were no longer required.
7. After a brief spell **[REDACTED]** I found employment in the **[REDACTED]** This involved planning support programmes and direct work with children and families.

8. In [REDACTED] I applied for and was successful in being appointed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which provided Adult Day Care to vulnerable groups e.g Dementia Care and a range of Family Support Services targeted at the most vulnerable.
9. I retired as manager of [REDACTED]
10. In [REDACTED] I applied for position of [REDACTED] and was successful. I remain employed in [REDACTED] to date, working in the [REDACTED]
11. My first impressions of Termonbacca were positive. I received a warm welcome. I was initially surprised by the size of the home. [REDACTED] SR 2 was particularly anxious to have Social Work input in relation to both children and staff.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

12. Duties involved direct work with children: Staff development: Assisting staff in accessing training: Taking part and sometimes chairing reviews: Developing After Care services (There were many ex-residents of Termonbacca living in the local community): Helping ex-residents find employment , housing accommodation.

### **Typical working day**

13. Talking to staff in the home, discussing issues arising: Helping some of the children: Liaising with other staff and professionals e.g social workers, planning and taking part in reviews, responding to requests for information from past residents.
14. My room/office was never private and I feel the children felt free to seek me out if they needed to talk – this was a two way process. I would spend time with the children as often as I could and I feel I gained their trust. Some of the older children would share their feelings in an open way with me, particularly those children who had difficult family situations.

### **Supervision**

15. My main contact in St Joseph's was [REDACTED] SR 2 particularly in relation to issues as they arose surrounding the children.

### **Staff Meetings**

16. I cannot recall if there were formal staff meetings but there were discussions on a regular basis re issues arising re the children: There were also formal reviews re children who had a social worker.

**Staffing levels**

17. I believe that staffing levels were too low but this was reflected by the low per capita cost issued by Health and Social Services Department.

**Clothing and food issues**

18. In my experience there were no issues re inadequate clothing or lack of food.

**Bed wetting and bathing**

19. I have no knowledge re management of bed-wetting and bathing practices.

**Corporal punishment**

20. In my time in Termonbacca I have no evidence re excessive use of corporal punishment.

**Chores and excessive physical work**

21. I have no evidence or knowledge that the children experienced excessive physical work.
22. I am not aware and have no knowledge of ex-residents being involved in management of or bathing younger children.

**Social work reviews**

23. "The Review Process" meant that the children's Social Worker and staff from Termonbacca would discuss issues re care and planning in respect of the children e.g possible return home/fostering plans.

**HIA411**

24. I have no recollection of anyone stating that they were being abused in Termonbacca whilst I was there. If any allegations were made to me I would have been duty bound to inform relative authorities/personnel.

**External monitoring**

25. I was not aware of external monitoring from the Health Board, although I was aware that Department of Health and Social Services personnel visited the home.
26. I had no concerns as to the care given during my employment.
27. I am advised that it is alleged that I was dismissed because I intervened in the physical punishment of a child. This is untrue. I was informed that due to

decreasing numbers being referred to Termonbacca my services would not be required.

28. After I left Termonbacca I was successful in gaining the post of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### **My Training**

29. My training as a Social Worker was generic and not specific to residential care.

### **Record Keeping**

30. From memory I believe there were individual files set up containing notes: Re Social Work involvement: Reviews: Incident recordings: Updates: etc
31. Children who had Social Work involvement had records of meetings/reviews.
32. I worked closely with Social Workers in trying to achieve best outcomes for the children. These relationships were invaluable.
33. Before I took up employment I was not fully aware that many of the residents were not placed by Social Services.

### **Government funding per child**

34. I cannot remember the exact amounts of government funding but I remember being surprised at how low this was.
35. I believe that with greater funding staff child ratios could have been much better and care improved as a result. I really cannot give more detail and did not have any dealings in the funding issue so do not know how it changed over time.

### **Ex Residents**

36. From a very early stage in my employment I realised there were very many ex-residents who needed support, guidance and advice.
37. I was given the opportunity to engage with many of the ex-residents by SR 2  
SR 2 This part of my work was significant.
38. From my perspective my impression of the home was positive particularly in relation to the care of the children. There was however great need among those ex-residents who resided locally. Many needed help re housing; re addiction; and finding information re their past.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

**SND 332**

Dated

*9/ April 2014*

22. I remember a man used to come to visit me in Termonbacca. The nuns would bring me into this room with a big table and give us tea and biscuits. He only came up a couple of times. I didn't know who he was but I later found out he was my granddad. I saw a photograph of him and I recognised him as the man who had visited me in Termonbacca. I'm not sure if my granddad is an ex-Termonbacca boy. I later heard that my uncle and his family were trying to adopt me but my mother would not allow it.

23. I felt so guilty about the abuse. I blamed myself for not stopping it but we were being bullied. We used to go to confessions but if you mentioned the abuse in confessions it was like giving your name to the priest to abuse next.

24. A social worker called **SND 332** used to come and talk to us. He knew all this was going on because we spoke to him. I specifically told him about all the abuse. He was good to us; he would bring us out to his family for dinner. I don't know where he is now but I think he left social work since, probably because nobody was doing anything about the abuse. He was very good; he would come to our houses and talk to us if we were going through a rough time.

25. On my fifteenth birthday I came back from school and was told I was going to Dublin in twenty minutes with another boy **SND66** That was **[REDACTED]** We were given no explanation for this; I think it was to get me out of the way. The nuns dressed me up in a pink shirt and tie; it was my first proper shirt and tie. We went to a hostel in **[REDACTED]** and they found us work.

### Life after care

26. My first job was in **[REDACTED]** I stayed in Dublin for a couple of years and then I moved to **[REDACTED]** when I was about 18. I worked as a **[REDACTED]** but I left that job because it was too



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: SND 484House or Group:1. 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 & 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: 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: 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.

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. SND 484
2.3.78	Called with ..... to arrange for a visit from HIA 352 on her own to compensate for the time she was sick. SND 484
4.3.78	HIA 352 left for day's visit - appeared to be very happy with this. SND 484
15.3.78	SND 332 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.  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. SND 484
17.3.78	HIA 69 and HIA 352 spent the whole day with their mother. SND 484
22.3.78	Saw HIA 69 and HIA 352 at Temonbacca to let them know I would be on leave over Easter. SND 484
24.3.78	3.4.78 Annual leave. DL 70 was home on holiday during this period. SND 484
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. SND 484
11.4.78	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.  Same date - saw all four children. SND 484

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD  
 DUNDERRY, LIMAVADY AND STRAFANE DISTRICT

## CASE — REPORT

Name ..... Family ..... Case Category .....  
 Address .....

DATE	CASE DETAILS-Visitors, Reports etc.,	
12.4.78	Reviews at Termonbacca - see decisions made.	SND 484
17.4.78	Visit to ..... No reply.	SND 484
18.4.78	Phone call from SR 6 re. HIA 69 - cannot cope with him - wants him removed.	SND 484
19.4.78	Visit to ..... No reply.	SND 484
	Visit to ..... to ask her if she were in position to take HIA 69 now - but again was unable to.	SND 484
20.4.78	Fort James have agreed to take him.	SND 484
21.4.78	Talked to HIA 69 and SND 332 HIA 69 says he definitely wants to leave Termonbacca. Saw HIA 352 - would like contact with whom she has not seen since the summer.	SND 484
24.4.78	SR 2 phoned - says she has talked to HIA 69 and has agreed to have him transferred to her group.	SND 484
25.4.78	Called with ..... Says she will invite HIA 352 out for weekends. Although she would be reluctant to think about a permanent placement, she has known HIA 352 for about three years.	SND 484
28.4.78	Collected DL 70 at Kircubbin - has broken his arm but he will soon be getting the plaster off.	SND 484
3.5.78	Visit to ..... to arrange a visit for HIA 69. No reply so left note saying I would bring HIA 69 next Saturday, and to contact me if inconvenient.	SND 484
4.5.78	Collected HIA 69 to visit mother but there was no reply. Thought he was very disappointed.	SND 484
5.5.78	Called with ..... to ask about HIA 352's baptismal linas. Discussed DL 70's future - he has another year to do at Kircubbin.	SND 484

## WESTERN HEALTH &amp; SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

## LONDONDERRY LIMAVADY AND STRABANE DISTRICT

## CASE REPORT

Name ..... Case Category

Address .....

DATE	CASE DETAILS,- Visits, Reports etc.,
8.5.78	Called with [REDACTED] No reply. <b>SND 484</b>
9.5.78	No reply, but received call later re. visit for <b>HIA 69</b> next day. <b>SND 484</b>
10.5.78	Collected <b>HIA 69</b> at [REDACTED] and took him to [REDACTED] Brought him back later to St. Joseph's. <b>SND 484</b>
15.5.78	Called with [REDACTED] No reply. <b>SND 484</b>
17.5.78	Met <b>HIA 69</b> at school and left him with his mother for the afternoon. Arranged to call with her next day. <b>SND 484</b>
18.5.78	No reply. <b>SND 484</b>
22.5.78	Saw all the children in Termonbacca. [REDACTED]'s mother has asked if she can take him out for the day and sometimes at weekends. Found also that [REDACTED] was going out to [REDACTED]. <b>SND 484</b>
23.5.78	Called with [REDACTED] to discuss fostering of children, but no reply. <b>SND 484</b>
24.5.78	No reply. Met [REDACTED] at Termonbacca and explained the situation about fostering. Arranged to meet her in Strabane and talk to her husband. Felt she was too enthusiastic. Got address of [REDACTED] in Strabane - family called [REDACTED]. Contacted [REDACTED] re. possibility of me visiting and assessing them. Collected <b>HIA 69</b> to visit his mother. <b>SND 484</b>
25.5.78	Telephoned [REDACTED] and arranged to visit. <b>SND 484</b>
26.5.78	Called with the [REDACTED] Are interested only in [REDACTED] Explained our plan for the children to be together or at least in the one family. <b>SND 484</b>
30.5.78	Brought <b>DL 70</b> back to Kircubbin - has broken his arm but it is almost healed. <b>SND 484</b>
31.5.78	Collected <b>HIA 69</b> at the baths - brought to mother for visit and left back at Termonbacca. <b>SND 484</b>