

THE SISTERS OF NAZARETH

"The pile of buildings at Hammersmith, which shelters and feeds so many, old and young, is the visible sign of God's blessing on the heroic work of the Sisters of Nazareth. How everything has been accomplished, no history however detailed can tell. All that we can know for certain is that no human hand can have built up what has been accomplished. The only obvious thing is that, as it is work for God alone, He alone has been the Builder. To Him be all praise and glory."

Aidan Cardinal Gasquet



MOTHER ST. BASIL

A brief account of the life of Mother St. Basil and of the Congregation of the Poor Sisters of Nazareth which she founded.

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London SW1V 1PD

Publishers to the Holy See

'Can anything good come from
Nazareth?'

'Come and see'

(John 1.46)



**PRAYER TO OBTAIN GRACES AND FAVOURS THROUGH
THE INTERCESSION OF VICTOIRE LARMENIER (1827-1878)
KNOWN ALSO AS MOTHER ST. BASIL, FOUNDESS OF
THE CONGREGATION OF THE POOR SISTERS OF
NAZARETH.**

O Almighty, all holy, all loving God, author of our sanctification and salvation, You continually show your divine bounty by raising up in your Church new examples of virtue and new ways of spreading the Kingdom of Jesus Christ among men. We humbly and earnestly implore You to glorify Your servant, Victoire Larmenier, Mother Saint Basil, by granting through her intercession the favour we now ask

.....
so that, Your goodness thereby manifested, her work of bringing needy children and poor people to You, O God, may increase and multiply.

This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who is God, living and reigning with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. AMEN.

Nihil obstat: R.J. Cuming, D.D.

Imprimatur: Ralph Brown, V.G., 28th Sept., 1977 Westminster

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Rev. Mother General,
Nazareth House, Hammersmith, London W6 8DB

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R.J.C.

The life of love and dedicated service of a Sister of Nazareth

"See the Divine infant in the little ones, try to love them very much for His sake, and in the dear old people see Our Blessed Lady and St. Joseph." In these words Mother St. Basil bequeathed to her children the rule and spirit of one of the most beautiful vocations in God's Church — that of a Sister of Nazareth. Modelled as it is on the Holy Family of Nazareth every Nazareth House is a home in the fullest sense of the word. An air of peace and happiness strikes the visitor to its precincts. Under its roof the little ones are lovingly cared for and prepared to take their place in the world, while the elderly pass their days in the quiet contentment and security of a good home. Both these works are as necessary now as in the early days of the Congregation.

Beginnings of the Congregation

As early as 1850 with the restoration of the Hierarchy in England and the appointment of Dr. Wiseman as the first Catholic Archbishop of the See of Westminster, the great need for such work was realised. The Archbishop had many problems to face. He soon discovered that not only caring for the aged but the rescuing of orphan poor and sometimes abandoned children was of vital necessity. He decided to take steps to begin this work as soon as possible. Feeling that the best people to undertake it would be Religious he saw that an

Order was needed in his Diocese the work of which would be especially that of providing homes for orphan and destitute children, as well as for the aged to end their days in comfort and security. He appealed for help to France, to the Order recently founded there for the care of the aged, and among those sent in response to his appeal were three young Novices who were destined to be the nucleus of the new Order to be known as the Poor Sisters of Nazareth. One of these was Sister St. Basil who was later to become the first Mother General of the new Congregation.

Who was Mother St. Basil?

She was Victoire Larmenier, born of comfortable parents on July 21st, 1827 at Liffre, Ille-et-Villaine in Brittany. Possessing good common sense and a pleasing personality she was admirably suited for the great work God had entrusted to her. Her deep piety caused her to turn her thoughts to the religious life and so on February 20th, 1851 she entered the Congregation established for the care of the aged. However, as we know, God had other plans for her and after only seven weeks in religion — five of these spent as a postulant — she was sent to England. Two members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society — Mr. Pagliano and Mr. Georgé Blount — had secured a small cottage for the five Sisters (two of whom were professed) in Brook Green, Hammersmith, a part of London where the Catholic religion was faithfully preserved through the Penal Times. The first House is thus described in the records of the Congregation: "It was indeed small, at most it could hold twenty people and these only by surprising economy of space, but in that little house there was one thing to give them courage — the CRUCIFIX; if they were poor He was naked of comfort and honour; if they had left



"Isn't she a darling?"

friends for adherence to a strict rule, He was fastened to a cross. That sad, yet hopeful image which preached its silent sermon of patience, trust and love to these young Novices on their first day, accompanied them in all their movings, and still preached on when years had passed over their heads and poor Mother St. Basil's heart was stilled for ever."

Here then to Brook Green the young Religious came in absolute poverty as regards worldly possessions but with a burning love for God and zeal for His glory. The first old lady was received on April 14th. The work begun in such humble circumstances thrived though the Sisters encountered great

difficulties and much opposition. Apart from the privations due to lack of money they experienced many others arising out of the hostile attitude of the people, yet their confidence in God never wavered nor did their courage fail them. Tales about Catholicity and convents circulating in England for three centuries caused the religious habit to be disliked and ridiculed. In spite of this the Sisters determined to make a trial of going out in it, well aware that they would be reviled — which they duly were. However they persevered and now they enjoy the remembrance of having been among the first to wear the religious habit openly in England after the Reformation. Cardinal Wiseman watched over the little community. He asked help for them from his influential friends; he prayed for the success of their undertakings; he planned their future.

Growth of the Congregation

Before the end of the year the little Community had increased in number and the aged filled the small house to overflowing. A larger house was leased in Great Windmill Street but as it proved most unsuitable, a further move was made to Elm Tree House on the site where the West London Hospital is now built. Soon it too became inadequate for the number living under its roof. Mother St. Basil decided that the only thing to do was to build a suitable house and the Cardinal agreed with her. He urged her to begin the work immediately and promised to help by raising subscriptions for the purpose. A plot of ground was purchased in 1856 and when the Community took possession of their new home in October 1857 most of the debt on it had been cleared — thanks to the Cardinal, the Duke of Norfolk, Lady E.



"for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs" (Matt. 19:14)

Howard and the people of Ireland (where the Sisters went to collect). This was the beginning of the present Nazareth House, Hammersmith. The aged were moved in to the new building and thirty infirm children were admitted the same day. The Cardinal's wish was now on the way to fulfilment.

Congregation receives its name

On December 8th, 1855 Mother St. Basil and her companions had been professed, having done a twelve months' Novitiate at the Cardinal's command. Their vows as members of the French Congregation had expired in December 1854 and they had decided not to renew them and to sever all connection with France. Several reasons led to this decision. The young Community in London felt that they had been neglected by the Mother House from which there had been no real communication after November 1851. In their early trials — and they had many — they had appealed to France for help and received none. The Novitiate in France was not suitable for the postulants coming to Hammersmith from the British Isles as their customs and temperament were completely different. Besides, the Cardinal wished the Sisters to undertake the care of children — a work that the French Congregation was not founded to do. When then they made their vows in 1855 it was with the express condition that they would consecrate themselves to the service of the poor in the United Kingdom. It was also decided at this time that in honour of the Holy Family they should take the title of Poor Sisters of Nazareth; that every branch house that they might found in time to come should be called Nazareth House; that the Order should be ruled by one Superior General and that the Mother House should be in Hammersmith.

Papal Approbation

With a view to all this Cardinal Wiseman urged Mother St. Basil to go to Rome in order to obtain approbation of the Institute from the Holy See. Arrangements were made immediately to do so and Mother St. Basil accompanied by Mother Mary of Jesus (who had been appointed Assistant) and Father Claude Bernin, the saintly priest the Cardinal had appointed to train the Sisters in the spiritual life, set out for Rome on October 13th, 1858. They had an audience with the Holy Father, Pius IX, who was kindness itself and spoke to them as a father. He blessed Mother and her work and gave her every reason to hope that the sought-for approbation would be granted in the course of time. With this assurance the little party returned to Hammersmith. The long-desired Brief arrived in April 1864 as a result of the Cardinal's application to Rome in October 1863 for recognition for the Sisters as a Religious Congregation. This was received with joy and on April 20th nine Novices made First Profession and nine postulants were received in the new Congregation. Shortly after this the Cardinal again wrote to Rome and obtained the authorisation of the Holy See for the Sisters to establish a new work of charity — a home for destitute and abandoned children. When writing to tell Mother St. Basil of this new undertaking the Cardinal also said in his letter: "We confirm the name of 'Sisters of Nazareth' which you have taken and decide that it shall remain yours. We approve in the same manner the religious habit that you have, and which differs from all other religious families, and we declare that it is your own. We approve of the formula of your vows and the Constitutions of your family which we have examined and which are according to the Rule of St. Augustine, under the condition that



'I do look nice, don't I, Sister?'

should necessity compel any change to be made in them, it would be in our power to do it, until they have the final confirmation and approbation of the Holy See." Although the Congregation was granted the sanction of Rome by Pope Leo XIII on March 18th, 1888 it was not until September 6th 1899 that he graciously granted his final approbation and confirmation. The Congregation of the Poor Sisters of Nazareth was approved in Rome for two beneficent objects — first and above all for the tender care of the little ones and secondly for the aged in need of the security of a good home.



Helping the handicapped.

Care of the children

Mother St. Basil agreed to undertake this new work and although the House was already filled with the aged and with incurable children, she received eight babies ranging in age from 19 days to five months. Applications for admission were so numerous that it was decided to build a new wing and in August 1868 it was furnished and ready for occupation. Unfortunately Cardinal Wiseman did not live to see the dream of his life fulfilled — a building in Hammersmith ringing with the laughter of little ones — for he died on February 14th, 1865.

Vocation of a Sister of Nazareth

The Sisters of Nazareth, as already stated, follow the Rule of St. Augustine and their own Constitutions which are based upon strict lines of self-denial, poverty and obedience. The Congregation combines the active with the contemplative life, a life of work and prayer, in imitation of the Holy Family of Nazareth. By her prayer life — Holy Mass, the Blessed Eucharist, Divine Office and Mental Prayer — the Sister is strengthened daily to begin her devoted duties to young and old. Her spirit of recollection is sustained during the day by her visit to the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary and her spiritual reading. At the beginning of her religious life each Sister is given a trial period at the different works of the Congregation. Gradually, as her character and abilities develop, she is engaged in that branch of the apostolate for which she is best suited, be it the nursery, child care, teaching, catering, collecting alms, maternity or nursing the aged.

Apostolate to Children

Nazareth House cares for children of all ages. The Sisters aim at giving them a real home — with all the name implies — until such time as they are ready for their future careers in the world. Many of those who have passed through Nazareth House have done and are doing well in their various avocations as Bishops, Priests, Sisters, Brothers, teachers, nurses, etc. Nazareth House is not an institution but a home. The buildings are adapted to present-day needs with every modern convenience and comfort. There are well equipped flats for the children, each accomodating 15-20 boys and girls. While encouraging and helping them to make the best possible use of their talents the Sisters strive to instil into the children a love for God and a respect for authority.



A happy group of children in our crèche in Kimberley, South Africa.

Care of the Aged

From the Sisters the aged receive the loving care and attention they need in the evening of life. Retired Priests, married couples, ladies and gentlemen are all catered for. It is not easy for many of the elderly to leave their own homes outside and come into Nazareth House. However, the happy atmosphere, the warm friendships, and the comfort of having their own little bits and pieces near them soon ease the heartache and they settle down contentedly. Their days are passed peacefully in various activities and hobbies and they are made to feel that their mission in life

is not ended when they come in to Nazareth House. Many of them do great work for the local parish and the Foreign Missions and by their prayers are the means of bringing stray souls back to God.

Death of Mother St. Basil

Mother St. Basil died on June 16th, 1878, in the fifty-first year of her age. R.I.P. She left to her daughters a legacy of charity, love for the poor and unfailing confidence in God. Though she was in what could have been her prime, by dying in union with Christ after a lifetime spent in His service, she gave life to countless others. She was the model of a true Religious. She followed the path marked out for her by her Divine Master faithfully even when it was beset with trials, worries and heavy crosses. She took these as a sign of God's favour and her confidence in Him never wavered. She endured want, hard work, opposition, misunderstandings and the loss of friends and from all she came out triumphantly for she died with true peace in her heart. Her life's work and the end she attained can speak for her. How many thousands of souls of the aged has she not been the means of bringing back to God? How many children has she not been instrumental in safeguarding for the Church? Thoughtfulness for others, simplicity, kindness of heart — these were the qualities that endeared her to the Sisters to whom she was a true mother. Her life stimulates their faith and fervour. In the words of Cardinal Vaughan, a successor to Cardinal Wiseman: "They realise that if they are humble, forgetful of self, sympathetic and loving like their holy Foundress, God will do yet greater things through them than those He has hitherto done. His work will go on increasing unto the perfect day."



Pastoral work in one of the Houses.

Expansion

Before her death Mother St. Basil had the happiness of seeing in a flourishing condition eight Houses of her Congregation — Hammersmith, Aberdeen, Cardiff, Southend, Oxford, Northampton, Nottingham and Belfast. Her work is carried on by her Sisters with the same zeal, courage and devotion which inspired her, and with the blessing of God it has increased and extended year after year. Mother Mary of the Nativity succeeded her as Mother General of the young Congregation, and under

her remarkable guidance it slowly but surely expanded. To-day there are Nazareth Houses throughout the British Isles, in South Africa, Rhodesia, America, Australia and New Zealand. There are Novitiates in Melbourne, Los Angeles, and Johannesburg in addition to that in Hammersmith. In all the Houses, be they retirement, family group or maternity homes, the aged and the young receive devoted care from the Sisters. Now, one hundred years after her death, Mother St. Basil can feel justly proud of the Congregation she founded and from her heavenly home obtain all the graces and blessings necessary for her Sisters to continue her apostolate. May she plead with God to inspire many young hearts to follow in her footsteps by devoting their lives to His service as Sisters of Nazareth. There is work in the Congregation for everyone, whatever her capabilities or aptitudes. The youth of today are generous and courageous; they love a challenge. Nazareth offers it. Why not come and see?

Novitiates in:—

Nazareth House,
6 Webb St.,
Yeoville,
Johannesburg 2198, S.A.

Nazareth House,
Cornell Street,
Camberwell,
Vic 3124, Australia.

Nazareth House,
3333 Manning Avenue,
Los Angeles,
California 90064.

Nazareth House,
Hammersmith Road,
London W6 8DB.



Peace and security in the evening of life.

SEEK TO SERVE HIS WAY

Look into the eyes of an innocent child, then smile,
Steady the trembles of an aged withering hand,
Teach all who will come unto you.
Lead me to the house where the Lord may enter,
uninvited.

Give of yourself, a precious jewel, for sunlight
search,
Open your heart, open your mind,
To His teachings, His Truth, His Church.
Cherish your heart, Our Lord will enter.

There is no prize in gilt-edged frame,
Listen to yourself; seek to serve His way
The lonely, the aged, the abandoned child.
Whisper now the Word, Love is the same.

Though the atom has been harnessed, planets
explored,
Nobel Laureates know well temptation.
Pause now, consider all His children,
Learn of His Love; serve His way.

In these lines an 'Old Boy' of one of our English Houses (now making a name for himself in the musical world in Canada), gives his impressions of the vocation of a Sister of Nazareth. He dedicates his little verses to all the Sisters who 'looked into his eyes and smiled'.



PRAYER TO OBTAIN GRACES AND FAVOURS THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF VICTOIRE LARMENIER (1827-1878) KNOWN ALSO AS MOTHER ST. BASIL, FOUNDESS OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE POOR SISTERS OF NAZARETH.

O Almighty, all holy, all loving God, author of our sanctification and salvation, You continually show your divine bounty by raising up in your Church new examples of virtue and new ways of spreading the Kingdom of Jesus Christ among men. We humbly and earnestly implore You to glorify Your servant, Victoire Larmenier, Mother Saint Basil, by granting through her intercession the favour we now ask

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so that, Your goodness thereby manifested, her work of bringing needy children and poor people to You, O God, may increase and multiply.

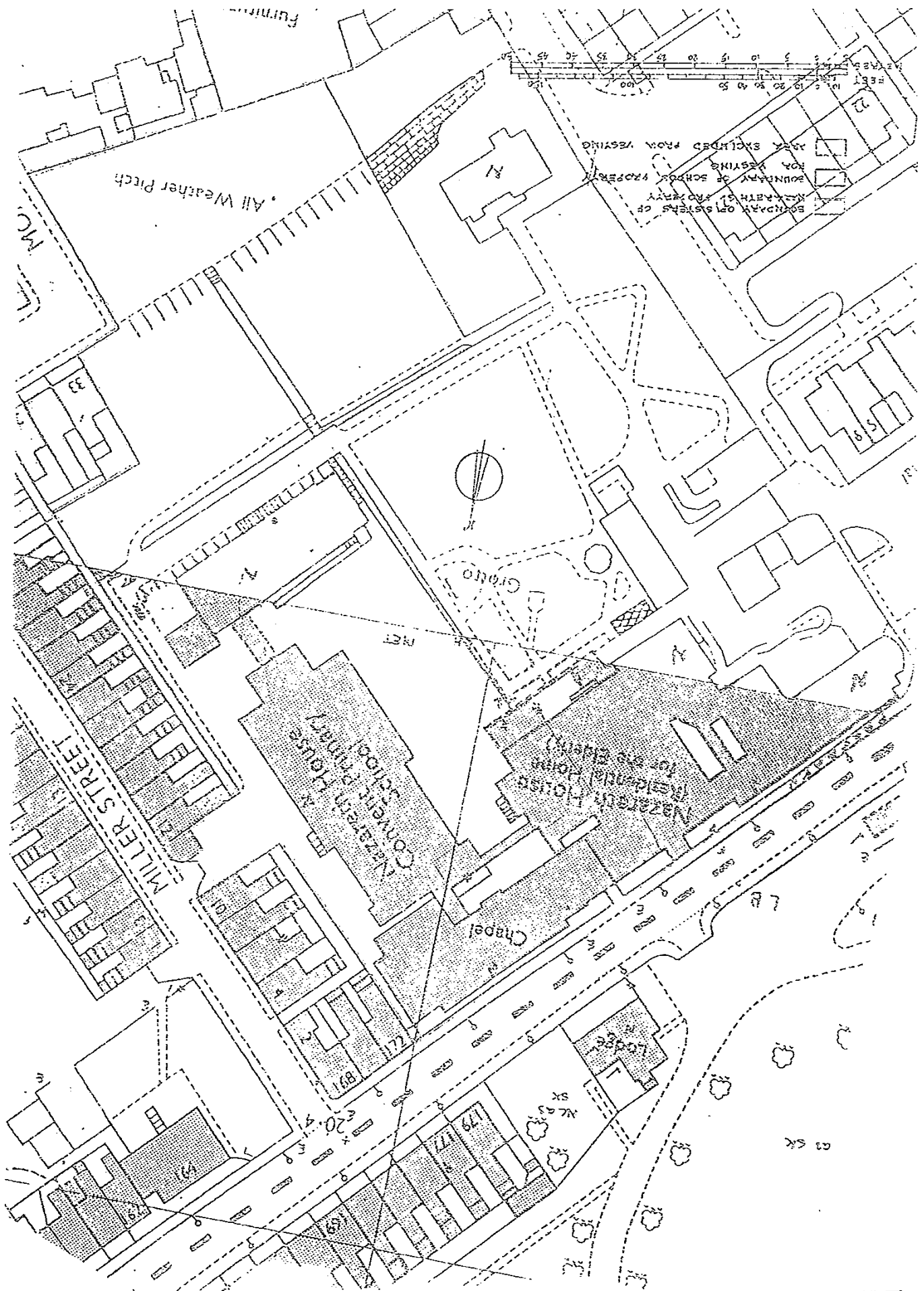
This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who is God, living and reigning with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. AMEN.

Nihil obstat: R.J. Cuming, D.D.

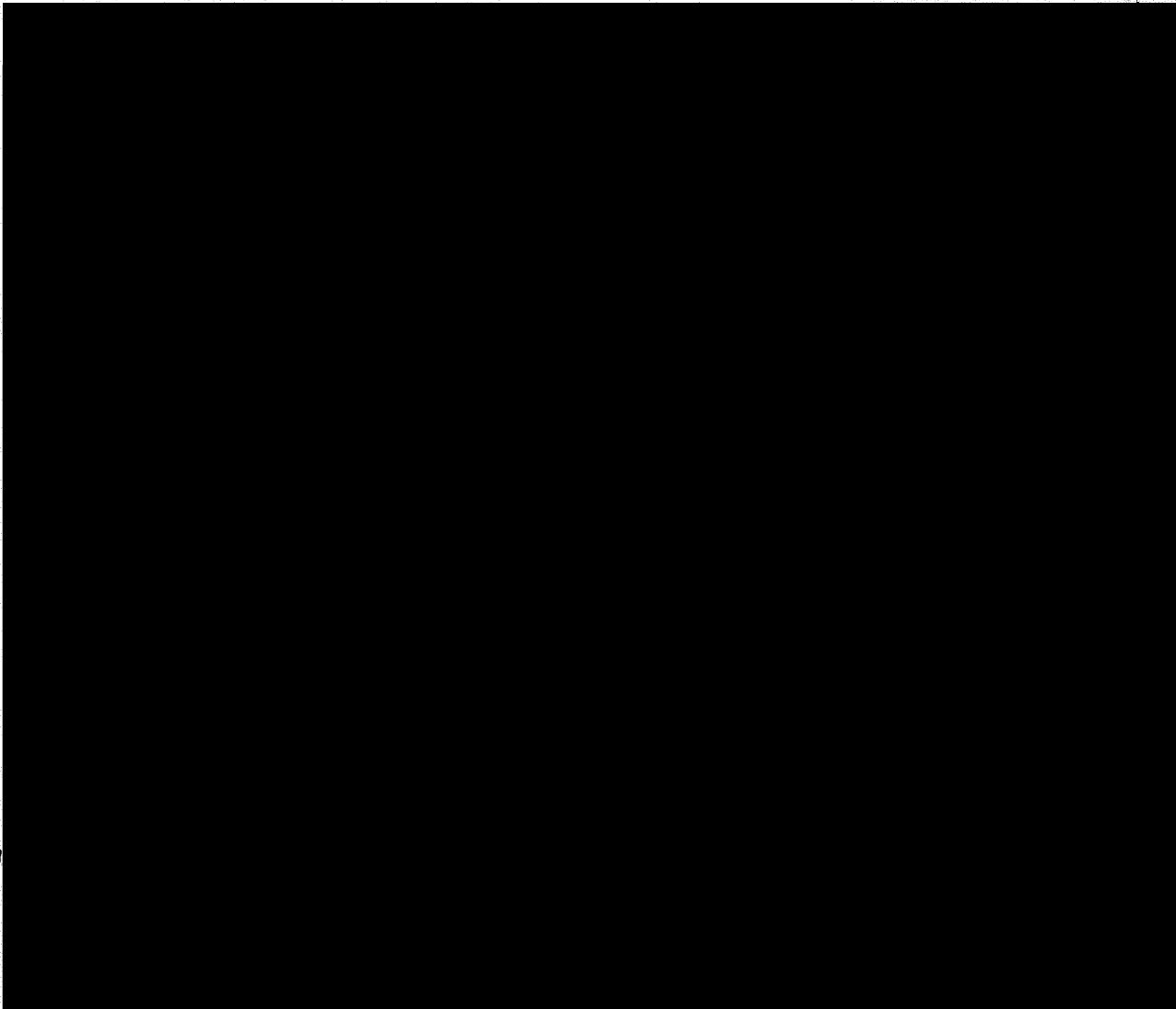
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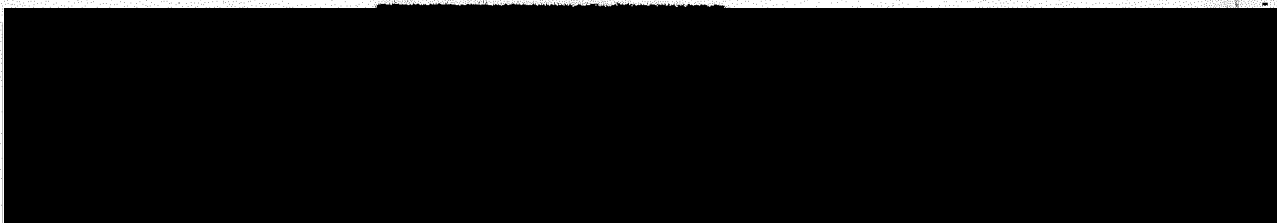
VOLUNTARY HOMES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
IN NORTHERN IRELAND



Not
functioning
at present
5/10/12

Nazareth House,
Bishop Street,
Londonderry.

180 Boys and girls up to 14 years.



St. Joseph's Home,
Termonbacca,
Londonderry.

108 Boys up to 16 years.



432

St Joseph's. Immonbacca. 1950.

SR 78

SR 88

SR 12

Superior. Church.
1st L.C. Parlour. Farm Boys

2nd L.C. Children

Babies.

Bursar. Kitchens

Linen Room.

Work Room. Laundry.

Linen Room

39

St. Joseph's Termonebucca - 1951

7

SR 78
SR 88

Superior Church

1st L.C. Farm

2nd L.C. Boys

Babies

SR 12

Linen Room

Dinner Kitchen

SR 86
SR 11

Workroom Laundry

Boys

Dinner Kitchen

101

Tummonbacca, 1952.

SR 85

SR 85

SR 88

SR 88

SR 88

SR 86

SR 86

SR 86

SR 11

SR 11

Superior, Sacristan
 Farm, Parlour,
 Nursery,
 Linen Room, Refectory
 Kitchen
 Boys
 Workroom, Laundry

166

Gummonbassa, 1953.

SR 85

Superior.

SR 88

L.C. Farm.

(Linen Room ^{Babies} House (Dolls).)

Bussar. Kitchen

SR 86

Boys.

SR 11

Work R. Wash.

~~Linen Room~~ ~~House work~~

SR 30

Farm.

SR 12

Boys.

SR 30

Farm.

SR 16

Linen Room.

SR 62

Nursery.

SR 38

"

38

Geronbacca. 1954

Superior Sacristan

~~Hot L.C. Farm.~~

SR 16

Invalid.

SR 38

Bursar Kitchens.

SR 12

Nursery.

SR 11

Boys.

Workroom, Laundry.

Linen Rooms.

Farm

Detmonbasca 1955.

100.

SR 87

1 Superior Flatm etc
 Kennicott linen rm., parlor

SR 16

Butter Kitchen

SR 31

Museum

SR 12

Corp

SR 11

" & laundry

Jermonbacca 1956. 8

168.

SR 13

SR 87

Farm 10

Linens room, parlour.

SR 16

Refectory, dormitory.

Kitchen

Buscar

SR 38

SR 10

SR 12

SR 11

SR 17

Museum

~~Boys~~
~~Boys~~

Laundry, boys workroom.

Boys

Kitchen

SND-5767

Desmonbacca 1957

SR 13

Hatm. etc.

SR 16

Boys, housework

SR 8

Refectory

Kitchen

Linen room

SR 38

Nursery

SR 11

Boys

SR 10

Workroom

SND-5768

Vermontacca 1958

SR 13

Harm

SR 16

Reflecting

SR 11

Children

SR 94

Linen room

SR 10

*Children's
work room*

SR 38

Nursery

SR 8

Kitchen

SR 3

to the children

3/0

Yermonbacca 1959SR 13
SR 11

Farm, Church

Id. L.C. Boys

SR 16

Invalid

SR 94

SR 38

SR 8

SR 3

Bursan Nursery

Kitchen

Boys

Sick Sisters

3 37

Yermombacca, 1960.

SR 13

*Superior**Farm*

SR 11

*1st LC.**Boys*

SR 16

Invalid

SR 94

*Linen Room
in Hospital*

SR 38

*Bursar**Nursery*

SR 8

Kitchen

SR 3

*Boys.**2*

105

1961

Yermombacca

SR 13

Superior Farm Chapel

SR 11

Councillors Childrens

SR 16

Invalids

SR 94

Linen Room

SR 38

BussarNursery

SR 8

Kitchen

SR 3

Boys

8

SR 95

Nursery

SR 1

BussarChildren

Yermontacca. 1962

Superior Parlours

1st L.C.

Nursery

Invalid

SR 16

R. J. P.

SR 94

Church, Linen Room

looks after Invalid Sisters

SR 1

Bursar

Boys

SR 8

Boys Workrooms, Laundry

Kitchen

SR 2

Boys, Laundry

107

Yermombacca, 1963

SR 93

Superior. Pass. (Same?)

1st L.C. Nursery.

SR 16

Invalidia

SR 94

Linen Room. Chapel

Invalidia

Invalidia Sisters.

SR 1

Bursar Boys.

SR 2

Laundry. Boys.

SR 8

Kitchen.

Yermombacca. 1964

SR 93

Superior

1st L.C.

Nursery

SR 94

Linen Rm. Church

Invalids

Care of Invalid's Sister

SR 1

Butsar Boys

SR 2

Laundry Workroom

SR 8

Kitchen

FEBRUARY 1965

4

1965

WEEK 7
(41-324)

TERMONIBACCA

WEDNESDAY

10

1	SR 93	Superior	
2	SR 1	1st L.C.	Boys.
3	SR 94		linen room Church.
4			Invalid
5			Infirmary
6	SR 2		Work room Laundry.
7	SR 8	Bussar	Kitchen
8	SR 3		Nursery

MARCH | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed

111

APRIL 1965

20

TUESDAY

TERMONBACCA

WEEK 17
(110-255)

1966

SR 93

Superior

SR 1

Councillor

SR 94

Boys.

Church. linen room

Invalids

Infirmary

Work room. Laundry.

SR 2

SR 8

Bursar

Caterer.

SR 3

Nursery.

APRIL | Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun |

1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 | 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 | 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 | 26 27 28 29 30

179

JUNE 1965

1965

29

TUESDAY •

Yermontacca

WEEK 27
(180-185)

1

SR 93

Superior

2

SR 1

L.B.

Boys

3

SR 94

Linen room to lunch

4

Wakarusa Laundry

5

SR 8

Bursar

Waterer

6

SR 3

Murray

JUNE | Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed

1 2 3 4 5 6 | 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 | 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 | 28 29 30

249

SEPTEMBER 1968

1968

7

TUESDAY

TERMONBACCA

WEEK 37
(250-115)

1

SR 1

Superior

2

L. b.

Children

3

SR 94

Church. Linen Room

4

SR 2

Children Laundry

5

SR 8

Nursar

baterer

6

SR 3

Nursery.

SEPTEMBER | Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu

1 2 3 4 5 | 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 | 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 | 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 | 27 28 29 30

319

NOVEMBER 1965

1969 16

TUESDAY

TERMONBACCA

WEEK 47
(320-46)

1.

SR 1

Superior
1st L.C.Church + parlour
Children

2.

SR 2

" + laundry

3.

SR 8

Busar

Catering + farm.

4.

SR 3

Nursing.

5.

NOVEMBER | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun | Mon Tue

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 | 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 | 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 | 29 30

1970

TERMONBACCA

SR 1

SR 2

SR 8

SR 3

Superior

L. B. Group of Boys

Laundry Group of Boys

Bursar Caterer's Farm

Nursery

120

1971

TERMONBACCA

1	SR 7	Superior
2	SR 12	L. b. linen Room Parlour
3		Boys Bureau
4	SR 8	Bureau latrine
5	SR 2	Boys
6	SR 3	Nursery and girls
	SR 36	latrine

190

1972

TERMONBACCA.

SR 7
SR 12

Superior Church
Councillor, Lien Room

Basar Group

SR 36
SR 2
SR 3

Cake, farm

Group, laundry

Nursery, girls

259

1973

TERMONBACCA

SR 7
SR 12

Superior

Councillor, linen room, parlours

Bursar group

SR 36
SR 2
SR 3

Calaveras farm

Group Laundry

Nursery.

47.

1974

TERMONBACCA

SR 7

SR 12

SR 36

SR 2

SR 3

Superior, Church, C.C.C.

Councillor, Parlour, linen room

Bursar Group

Caher farm

Group, laundry

Nursery gals N.N.E.B.

TERMONBACCA.

1975

SR 12

SR 36

SR 2

SR 96

SR 14

Superior, Church
Councillor, linen room

Bussard, group of Chile

Caterer & Councillo

Group of children, ^{Bunga} Lau

Group of children.

Linen Room & parlour

170

1976

TERMONBACCA (40)

1

SR 36

Superior

2

Councillor, caterer
kitchen room

3

SR 2

Sacristan, parlour

4

SR 14

Bursar
Group of children

5

SR 96

6

TERMONBACCA

SR 2

SR 14

superior

Parlours, Church, Limerick Co.

baterer

children - Bureau

nursery group

children

1978

Termonbacca

SR 2

SR 27

SR 14

Superior

Ch. Pauline L.C.

Children, Bussan

laterer

1979

Termonbacca

1		Superior
2		Parlor L. C.
3	SR 1	Bursar & Children
4	SR 6	Children
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145

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Termonbacca

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Superior

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SR 6

Children

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SR 27

Children

6

SR 64

Caterer

7

238

Termonbacca

1981

SR 97

*Superior, Church**L. C. Paulson**Refectory*

SR 1

Bursar, Children

SR 6

*Children**Caterer*

43

1982

Termonbacca

SR 97

2.

3.

Superior

L. C. Parlous, Books

Refectory

SR 1

Bursar, Children

5

Children

HIA REF:

Witness Name:

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF SISTER **SR 107**

I Sister **SR 107** will say as follows –

1. In response to the inquiries made by the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry in a letter of the 21st May 2013, the Sisters would wish to put on record a number of responses.
2. The Sisters were involved in running a number of institutions across Ireland during their time. In Northern Ireland, the Sisters were involved in six different institutions. There were two in Derry, Termonbacca and Bishop Street, one in Portadown, and three in Belfast. Of the three in Belfast, two were operated entirely by the Sisters, Nazareth House and Nazareth Lodge, and one was owned by the Diocese of Down and Connor but was managed and maintained by the Sisters at St. Joseph's Babies' Home.
3. Each house would have been run on a semi-autonomous basis with the superior in each house being responsible for the house. Whilst these houses were on a semi-autonomous operation, the congregation would have ensured that all houses were run within the ethos of the Sisters of Nazareth.
4. There were regular visitations, referred to in the earlier statement provided by the Sisters, where a senior member of the Congregation would visit and speak with the Sisters and look at all aspects of the operation including the religious observance, as well as the management and maintenance of the Homes.
5. In discussions with the Sisters, and from experience, some of the superiors would have been stricter than others and may have placed different emphasis on different aspects of the running of the House, the Congregation and religious observance. There is, therefore, no standard response which would cover exactly how each House was run at any particular time.
6. A general daily routine for the Sisters would have depended on their role or duties within the Congregation. Some would have been based entirely in the convent; involved in daily prayer and also in making charitable collections upon which the Congregation relied heavily in order to provide for the Institutions being run by them.

7. Some of the Sisters would have been trained and qualified teachers. They would have risen around 6am, dressed and had Morning Prayer or meditation for about half an hour. They would then attend Mass followed by breakfast and would then have gone on to their appointments as teacher for their normal daily work.
8. In the evening the Sisters would then follow the routine of the Rosary and a light supper followed by prayer and bed around 9.00 pm. Many of the teaching Sisters would also have assisted with the children in the morning and in the evening to supervise mealtimes, home works and general oversight of the children.
9. The Sisters who were responsible for attending to the children would normally have had some form of early year's child care qualifications. They would rise before the children for their own prayer and would then be available to assist in getting the children up and dressed to serve their breakfast and make sure that they were then sent out to school wearing their appropriate uniforms. When the children were not with the Sisters in the Home, they would have had other duties to deal with such as supervising the children who may not have been at school because they were ill or too young, ensuring that the accommodation was appropriately tidied, cleaned and maintained as well as their own religious duties. They would supervise the mealtimes, homework and recreation activity of the children.
10. The Sisters are using and accepting the widest definition of abuse when they respond to the queries raised by the Inquiry. They accept and understand this to include all aspects of physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse.
11. Over the recent years a number of former residents have come to the Sisters, both North and South of the border and as a result of the Ryan Commission in the South of Ireland, regarding complaints and recollections of their time within the care of the Sisters. Many tell of unhappiness in their time and this is a matter of deep regret to the Sisters.
12. In some of the cases, the former residents have made direct contact with the Sisters and have arranged to come and meet with them and discuss their time in care. Some have made indirect approaches and have either accepted responses through intermediaries or have eventually come to meet with the Sisters directly. Of these many of them describe a time where they did not feel that they were loved and cared for and that the Houses were not a warm happy place to be brought up.
13. It is a matter about which the Sisters feel very deeply as it was always their intention to provide a safe place for the young people in their care and it is a matter of deep regret to them that any child did not feel loved or cared for.
14. As a result of discussions and investigations over the recent years, including the Ryan Commission, claims brought to the Sisters' attention through intermediaries or directly and in light of this Inquiry, the Sisters do accept that on

occasions the standard of the care provided to the children may not have reached an acceptable level. There are instances when a particular Sister may not have acted in an appropriate way or when the children were not protected as well as the Sisters would have wished.

15. One of the main elements which has to be accepted is that the Sisters' general policy of no physical punishment of children was not implemented. There are instances where children were the subject of a physical assault and this is not acceptable when the care of children is to be considered.
16. Unfortunately the passage of time means that many of the Sisters who may have been involved in the care have died and therefore cannot be approached to give their information. Others are ill and are also unable to assist because their memories are not what would be required to give responses to some of these allegations.
17. One of the Sisters has recalled an incident where she saw a child being 'rapped' on the head by a Sister. This Sister was using a bunch of keys in her hand when she struck the child. The incident was immediately reported to the Superior. The Sister cannot recall the identity of the Sister who had rapped the child on the head with keys nor can she recall what led to the child being dealt with in this way or what steps were subsequently taken by the Superior. She can, however, recall that she did report this incident immediately as she did not consider this to be an acceptable way to proceed.
18. On a number of occasions recently, and in the not too distant past, the police have asked to speak to a number of Sisters in light of some of the allegations which have been made. The police investigations were initially on a case by case basis but have now been co-ordinated under 'Operation Charwell'. On every occasion in which the police have asked to interview a Sister, arrangements have been made and the Sister has made herself available to be interviewed. The allegations in these individual cases are consistent with the general nature of the allegations made to this Inquiry.
19. What is accepted is that there were occasions when a Sister has let her frustrations overcome her self-control and has acted in an inappropriate manner. The exact circumstances why or when any of these incidents occurred cannot be dealt with in a very wide ranging way and will have to be looked at separately.
20. The Sisters themselves accept that the responsibilities they took on were taken on in a voluntary way and therefore they cannot, and do not, seek to use this as an explanation or excuse for any misconduct.
21. The Sisters had a long working day and dealt with a large number of children in each of their individual units. Many of the children themselves would have been from troubled backgrounds and had issues to deal with.

COPY for T.S.O.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
NORTHERN IRELAND

25 William Street,
Derry City.

20th February, 1958

My Ref. F.197/16

The City Accountant,
Guildhall,
Derry.

Dear Accountant,

St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacco, Derry

I give below the number of boys in care at this date:-

Under 2 years	1
Between 2 and 5 years	15
Between 5 and 15 years	<u>76</u>
Total	<u>92</u>

Out of this total of ninety-two, eighteen were born outside
the Six Counties.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) E. McATEER

the views of the Hughes Inquiry which found that inspections undertaken by the MOHA and the DHSS during the 1960-1980 period were deficient in frequency, nature and scope.

74. The DHSS had in the early 1980s already begun to address these matters (see paragraphs 31 and 32) and over the next decade instituted a rigorous programme of inspection, enhanced monitoring systems and qualifying training initiatives for residential staff, all of which at the time of inception were the most advanced in the UK (see paragraphs 59-60). Northern Ireland has also since maintained the position of having the highest number of residential child care staff in the UK with a social work qualification (paragraph 60).
75. Whilst effective inspection, monitoring and staff training programmes do not of themselves prevent the ill treatment or abuse of children, they nevertheless serve to create a caring environment that minimises the opportunities for abuse to occur.

22. In dealing with such children it is possible that a Sister or lay staff member may have lost their temper and may have reacted in a way which is not acceptable in light of the beliefs that the Sisters hold.
23. The Sisters would also have to accept that, within any group of children, particularly when there are mixed ages, there may be the risk of bullying within a group. It is likely that there will have been instances when some of the children may have been unreasonable and unfair when dealing with other children and this behaviour would also not have been acceptable. However, the Sisters do have to accept that they could not keep an eye on the children for the entire time and these issues of abuse between peers may have led to some children having an extremely bad time and they may feel that the Sisters should have been in a better position to look after them.
24. This is a matter of regret as the Sisters would always wish to provide a safe place for the children placed in their care.
25. In regard to issues of sexual abuse, there have been very few allegations of that nature made against the Sisters until this most recent inquiry highlighted a number of further complaints.
26. These are matters about which the Sisters are extremely upset but have little information to give or assistance that they can provide to the Inquiry. These are new allegations and they are only recently coming to terms with them. None of the Sisters have any memory of this type of abuse being discussed with them or of receiving any training or warnings from any other agency about this behaviour or how to monitor and watch for it. They have no records of any advice on how they should have handled this type of behaviour if it did come to their attention.
27. If any child was subjected to any form of physical or sexual abuse, the Sisters feel deeply sorry for this and do feel that they should apologise to anyone who feels that they have been let down by the Congregation.
28. Returning to the police interviews, and most recently Operation Charwell, a number of Sisters have in fact been interviewed.
29. None of the Sisters have ever been charged with any offence following any of the interviews which have taken place regarding allegations about care provided to children in Northern Ireland.
30. In these circumstances, there are no Sisters who have faced any form of trial nor has anyone been convicted of any offences within Northern Ireland.
31. We have asked our solicitor to provide a schedule to the Inquiry of all of the cases in which they have been involved and to facilitate the Inquiry's Investigations in that regard. We believe that this may in fact have already been done.

Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast.

A.S.C.

Here are some brief summary impressions of the different Voluntary Children's Homes.

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| <p>No</p> <p>1.)</p> | <p><u>Dr. Barnardo's</u>
<u>National organisation</u></p> | <p>Macedon:- For school-age children. Well-staffed, well-equipped, excellent care and training. Children attend outside schools.</p> |
| <p>2.)</p> | <p></p> | <p>Manor House:- The same. For babies and toddlers.</p> |
| <p>3.</p> | <p><u>Glendhu:-</u>
<u>Local Voluntary</u>
<u>Committee</u></p> | <p>Very high ratio of staff to children, very good quality staff. Many voluntary helpers in addition. Excellent care for all ages of children, boys up to about 9 years, girls up to school-leaving age. Equipment and activities excellent. Whole atmosphere warm and homely.</p> |
| <p>4.</p> | <p><u>Johnston Memorial:-</u>
<u>School</u>
<u>Presbyterian</u>
<u>Voluntary Committee</u></p> | <p>Very good care by good quality staff. Children go to ordinary day schools and Technical schools. Natural, happy atmosphere. House a bit shabby, but homely.</p> |
| <p>5.</p> | <p><u>Moyallon:-</u>
<u>Charitable trust.</u>
<u>Really a private</u>
<u>charity of</u>
<u>Richardson family,</u>
<u>Quakers.</u></p> | <p>Will probably wind up as soon as present few teen-age girls are on their own feet. Very good care as in an ordinary family. Girls go to Grammar or Technical schools.</p> |
| <p>6.</p> | <p><u>Manor House, Lisburn:-</u>
<u>Voluntary Committee</u></p> | <p>Has been poverty-stricken both in money and ideas for some time past. Insufficient staff of poor quality in recent times. Equipment and maintenance very poor. Some improvement in recent weeks, but needs a large amount of money spent on, e.g., floor-coverings, heating, beds, tables, chairs and play equipment. Attend outside schools.</p> |
| <p>7.</p> | <p><u>Childhaven:-</u>
<u>Methodist</u>
<u>Voluntary Committee</u></p> | <p>Lively energetic young Matron is just in process of introducing a homelier atmosphere to this somewhat bare and spartan Home. Is not helped by the other 3 members of staff, who are little more than domestics. Would need more, better-quality staff and more equipment. Committee would be willing, I think, if helped. Have football field, swings and large playhall. Attend outside schools.</p> |
| <p>8.</p> | <p><u>Victoria Homes:-</u>
<u>Voluntary Committee.</u>
<u>Combines a voluntary</u>
<u>Home and Shamrock</u>
<u>Lodge Training School.</u></p> | <p>Insufficient staff, and not of highest quality. Equipment and maintenance good, but one room full of lovely toys never seen to be entered or used by children. Happy enough atmosphere, however, and children lively. Attend outside schools.</p> |

/9. Thorndale:-

9. Thorndale:- Well run by adequate trained staff.
 Salvation Army mother-and-baby Home. Takes some unaccompanied children and teen-age girls. Could do with more play equipment for toddlers. Otherwise standards of care and training excellent. Get grants from W.A.S. for mother-and-baby work and payment for them and other children and girls, who are, as a rule, placed there by W.A.S.
10. Hopedene:- } Mother-and-baby Homes. Only registered
 11. Kennedy House:- } in case they should ever have to keep an unaccompanied child temporarily.
12. Good Shepherd Convent:- } Only a few teen-age girls, the rest are
 Derry. } older women.
13. Good Sheperd Convent:- } Material conditions and equipment very
 Newry. } good. Girls and women work in laundry, have all amusements laid on inside Home. Quite happy atmosphere in both places.
14. Sacred Heart Home:- } Good material conditions. Could perhaps
 Good Shepherd Convent, Belfast. } do with more play equipment, but would, I think, buy anything suggested to them. Have singing, elocution, dancing classes and girls go out to ordinary schools and to do shopping for Home. Not short of money, I think.
15. Rubane House:- } Good care and training by trained staff
 of Brothers - plus one woman cook. Is still in process of development, but on well organized lines. ? 2 women and ?
16. Our Mother of Mercy Convent:- } Children go to outside school. This is
 Newry. } also a Home for old ladies. The children look quite well-cared, and the babies very well-cared, but I feel there are insufficient staff, and the bigger children's activities could be improved.
17. Convent of Mercy:- } Mainly a cheap boarding-school, on spartan
 Bessbrook. } lines, but affectionate care is given. Take a few voluntary children only. Said to have none when Dr. Simpson visited recently. Adequate care and training. Short of play equipment.
18. Nazareth Lodge:- } Poverty-stricken. Short of staff and play
 Belfast. } equipment. Very institutional for older children, and babies in desperate plight. Rev. Mother very anxious to improve and hopes to have Nursery School started. Getting equipment already. Trying to make holiday arrangements at Mrs. Stephen's Gleniff house.
19. Nazareth House:- } Very institutional, but material conditions
 Belfast. } better than Nazareth Lodge. Short of play equipment. Short of staff. Home made holiday arrangements at Mrs. Stephen's Gleniff house.
20. St. Joseph's Home

Reference _____

20. St. Joseph's Home:- Very institutional, but boys do get out
 Termonbacca, to school, younger ones to Nazareth
 Derry. House, older ones to Christian Brothers.
 (Nazareth Home) Short of staff; short of play equipment.
21. Nazareth House:- Best play equipment of any of the 4
 Derry. Nazareth Homes, at any rate for toddlers.
 Still very institutional.
22. Portadown Babies Home ^{especially}

The children in these 4 Homes have nothing like a normal upbringing. They must feel unloved as it is just not possible for the number of staff to show affection to such large numbers of children. They can know little or nothing of the world outside, (as with one exception school is on the premises), and must be completely unprepared for it, either in character or knowledge. I find these Homes utterly depressing and it appals me to think that these hundreds of children are being reared in bleak lovelessness. This is not meant entirely as criticism of the staff, but their task is impossible. Some of them have, however, little idea of what a child's life should be. They have got used to their own institutional set-up. For example, when asked about the children going out, one replied "Oh yes, they go to the Circus at Christmas". If this is their sole contact with the world they must have a distorted idea of it! Even their "god-parent" scheme is unreal, as instead of getting ordinary folk somewhere near the children's own level to be "uncles and aunts" they have looked for business men who will give the boys jobs on leaving - regardless of whether the business is likely to suit the boy!

In short, I think we must press for complete overhaul of the whole set-up of these Homes, and assist them in every way possible

Kathleen B. Forrest
 (K.B. FORREST)

28th April, 1953.

NORTHERN IRELANDPopulation (census figures, 1951)

	Total		Roman Catholics		Protestants	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
All ages	1,370,921	100	471,460	34.4	899,461	65.6
Children 0-14	378,737	100	150,014	39.6	228,723	60.4

Children in care at 31st December, 1957

	Total		Roman Catholics		Protestants	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
In care of Welfare Authorities and Voluntary Organisations	2,006	100	1,059	52.8	947	47.2
In care of:-						
(a) Welfare Authorities	1,196	100	✓ 393	32.9	✓ 803	67.1
(b) Voluntary Organisations	810	100	666	82.2	144	17.8

Children in care at 31st December, 1957

Total	Numbers in care of Welfare Authorities				Numbers in care of Vol. Organisations		
	In W.A. Homes	In Vol. Homes	Boarded-out		Total	In Vol. Homes	Boarded out
			By W.A.	By Vol. Home			
393	72	<u>Roman Catholics</u> 64	257	-	<u>Roman Catholics</u> 666	661	5
803	185	<u>Protestants</u> 105	508	5	<u>Protestants</u> 144	68	76
1,196	257	169	765	5	810	729	81

all boarded out

CHILDREN IN CARE

A REPORT BY THE NORTHERN IRELAND CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

THE Child Welfare Council, after its appointment by the Minister of Home Affairs in February, 1953, established Study Groups to investigate the various aspects of child care and welfare in Northern Ireland and to make suggestions on the basis of their investigations. The following Report is essentially the work of two of these Groups, those dealing with (a) adoption and boarding-out, and (b) the welfare of children in Homes. The former held 19 meetings and the latter 27. Part I of the Report was prepared by the Adoption and Boarding-Out Study Group and Part II by the Homes Study Group, while Parts III and IV are the work of both Groups and the whole Council respectively. The Council as a whole has, of course, considered and approved the entire Report.

Part I—Adoption and Boarding Out

INTRODUCTION

1. At the end of 1955 there were 2,142 children in the care of Welfare Authorities or voluntary organisations in Northern Ireland. Of these 963 had been boarded out in foster homes: the remaining 1,179 were in Children's Homes of one kind or another.

2. The table in Appendix A gives a more detailed picture of the problem of these children in Homes. While it can be assumed that many of them are "short-stay" cases who are awaiting return to their parents and that some others may be unsuitable for boarding out, there undoubtedly remains a very large number of children who could have the happiness and security of normal family life if people could be found willing to take them into their homes. Waiting lists of prospective adopters and foster-parents sometimes appear gratifyingly large, but unfortunately these applicants are often not willing to take the children who are available: as long as the needs of the children and the requirements of the adults fail to coincide, the shortage of adopters and foster-parents will be greater than appears on the surface.

3. Many of these children in Homes are under two years old, the age group which is generally accepted as being most suitable for adoption; though there is no reason why greater efforts should not be made to have many of the older children adopted or boarded out. It seems evident that the "bottleneck" which exists in the higher age groups is the result of failure to arrange adoption or boarding out earlier. Apart from the human point of view the mere financial cost of maintaining large numbers of children in institutions is one which would justify all practicable efforts to find a solution to the problem.

4. We propose now to consider separately adoption and boarding out, the two principal ways in which the deprived child can be given the nearest approach to a normal home life.

NGBA 56/6/6

NAZARETH HOUSE
CARING TOGETHER

Regarding:

HIA 11

Date of Birth:

Date of Admlsson:

6th September 1960

Left Care:

20th June 1975

Born :

County Hospital, Derry

Mother's Name:

Nazareth House, 174 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UN, Northern Ireland.
Tel: 02871 262180 Fax: 02871 263254 Email: nazarethderry@btinternet.com Charity No. 228906
Locations in Ireland: Belfast - Cork - Derry - Donegal - Dublin - Sligo

Jesus entrusted His mother to the care of one of His disciples. John 19:25-27

4

Table 7 - Number of children in care 1947-59

Voluntary organisations		Welfare Authorities	
Year	Number	Number	
1947	1,000	501	(of whom 189 were in workhouses or other institutions, and the remainder boarded-out)
1959	751	1,148	(of whom there were 728 boarded-out 226 in welfare homes 158 maintained in voluntary homes or on behalf of a welfare authority)

The figure for 1959 shows the substantial proportion of children cared for by welfare authorities, the scale of new provision in relation to residential care and the commitment to having children boarded-out (63 per cent of all children were boarded-out).

In 1960, 2.4 per 1,000 children were in care in Northern Ireland, lower than for England and Wales (5.2 per 1,000) and Scotland (6.5 per 1,000). In the same year a report entitled, "The Operation of the Social Services in relation to Child Welfare" (Child Welfare Council, HMSO 1960), provided details on the considerable progress made in relation to child care services since the implementation of the Children and Young Persons Act 1950. It also noted that unlike the children in statutory homes, children in voluntary homes, apart from those operated by Dr Barnardos, were rarely boarded-out. Discussing the future role of the voluntary sector it concluded that the number of children in their care would continue to decline. It envisaged their role as being involved in the long-term care of children where special treatments were required or where boarding-out was inappropriate. The Report also commented on the uneven development of child care services across Northern Ireland and on the difference in pattern of provision between welfare authorities and voluntary homes.

Population under the age of 18.

(Census taken at 23.4.1961)
Preliminary Report

	Male	Female	Total	'000		
				M.	F.	Total
Antrim	48,940	46,216	95,156	49	46	95
Armagh	21,620	20,441	42,061	22	20	42
Down	45,894	42,692	88,086	45	43	88
Fermanagh	9,512	8,918	18,430	9	9	18
Londonderry	21,383	20,542	41,925	21	21	42
Lynne	25,727	24,460	50,187	26	24	50
Belfast Boro.	66,392	64,080	130,472	66	64	130
Londonderry Boro.	10,915	10,612	21,527	11	11	22
Northern Ireland	249,883	237,961	487,844	249	238	487

5.

Northern IrelandChildren in Care at 31st March, 1966Welfare Authorities

Number in Care: 1,368 (excluding 50 in lodgings or residential employment and 50 under "Fit Person" Orders who live with parents or guardian, relative or friend)

Number Boarded Out: 690 (50.44%)

Voluntary Organisations

Number in Voluntary Homes: 948

Number Boarded Out: 132 (13.9%)

By Welfare Authorities	Children Boarded Out			
	In area of Authority	In area of another Authority	By Voluntary Organisation	Total
Antrim	82	12	6	100
Armagh	41	12	1	54
Down	129	16	3	148
Fermanagh	61	11	1	73
Londonderry	40	13	-	53
Tyrone	75	7	1	83
Belfast County Borough	108	47	-	155
Londonderry County Borough	11	13	-	24
Totals	547	131	12	690

By Voluntary Organisations

Nazareth Lodge, Belfast	1
St. Joseph's Babies' Home, Belfast	64
Dr. Barnardo's	38
Nazareth House, Londonderry	22 (under 2 years)
Marianvale, Newry	7 (under 2 years)
	<hr/> 132 <hr/>

(Note - With the exception of Dr. Barnardo's, most of the boarding out from voluntary homes is carried out with a view to adoption. No maintenance is paid for the children concerned and they are boarded out for a short period only.)

Chapter 4

RESIDENTIAL CARE

Residential child care prior to 1950

Prior to 1947 the care of children was governed by the Poor Relief Acts which empowered Boards of Guardians to care for children in workhouses or to have them boarded-out (fostered). The functions of the Boards of Guardians in relation to children transferred to the newly established welfare authorities on 1 November 1947. At that time the Ministry of Home Affairs recommended that the 8 welfare authorities established under the Public Health and Local Government (Administrative Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1946, established homes to provide for persons in need, including children. Almost 80 per cent of children in care lived in institutional placements (Table 6).

Table 6: Children in care, 1947

Placement	Number
Care of voluntary organisation (Virtually all institutional)	1,000
Boarded-out	312
Workhouse/other Local Authority Institution	189
TOTAL	1,501

The above table also demonstrates the significant degree of reliance upon the voluntary sector for the provision of placements for children; virtually all of this provision was in large institutions.

a welfare authority are references to a child for the time being received into or committed to the care of the authority as aforesaid.

89.—(1) Where a child is in the care of a welfare authority, it shall be the duty of that authority to exercise their powers with respect to him so as to further his best interests, and to afford him opportunity for the proper development of his character and abilities.

General
duty of
welfare
authority.

(2) In providing for a child in their care a welfare authority shall make use of facilities and services available for children in the care of their own parents and, in particular, shall ensure that no child in their care is deprived of the utmost benefits available under the enactments relating to health, education and employment services.

(3) For the purposes of their functions under this Act or under the Adoption of Children Act (Northern Ireland), 1950, a welfare authority shall, in accordance with provisions as to experience, qualifications and conditions of service to be prescribed by the Ministry, appoint an officer to be known as the children's officer.

1950, c. 6.

If the welfare authority propose to appoint a person who, in the opinion of the Ministry, is not a fit person to be the children's officer of the authority, the Minister may give directions prohibiting his appointment.

Where the Ministry is satisfied that the same person can efficiently discharge the functions of children's officer for two or more welfare authorities, the Ministry may approve the appointment of one person as the children's officer by each of the authorities.

The children's officer shall not, except with the approval of the Ministry, be employed by the welfare authority in any other capacity.

90.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a welfare authority shall discharge their duty to provide accommodation and maintenance for a child in their care—

Mode of
provision of
accommoda-
tion and
mainten-
ance.

- (a) by boarding him out on such terms (whether as to payment by the authority or otherwise) as the authority may, subject to the provisions of this Act and regulations thereunder, determine; or
- (b) where it is not practicable or desirable for the time being to make arrangements for boarding-

out, by maintaining the child in a home provided under this Part of this Act or by placing him in a voluntary home the managers of which are willing to receive him.

(2) A child who is in the care of a welfare authority and has attained the upper limit of compulsory school age may be accommodated and maintained in any hostel (whether provided by a welfare authority or not) which is wholly or mainly intended for persons who have attained the upper limit of compulsory school age but have not attained the age of twenty-one.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing a welfare authority from making use, for the benefit of any child, of any such facilities and services as are referred to in sub-section (2) of the last preceding section, and for that purpose arranging for his accommodation and maintenance in any suitable manner not specified in the foregoing provisions of this section.

(4) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this section, a welfare authority may, with the approval of the Ministry given either generally or as respects particular premises and subject to such conditions as the Ministry may specify, accommodate and maintain a child in their care in premises under their control or under the control of any other welfare authority other than premises such as are mentioned in the foregoing provisions of this section.

(5) Where under this section a welfare authority provide for a child by maintaining him in a home or hostel not provided by the authority, the terms, whether as to payment by the authority or other matters, upon which the child is so maintained shall be such as may with the approval of the Ministry, be agreed upon between the authority and the persons providing the home or hostel.

Regulations
as to
boarding-
out.

91.—(1) The Ministry may by regulations make provision for the welfare of children boarded out by welfare authorities under paragraph (a) of sub-section (1) of the last preceding section.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the preceding sub-section, regulations under this section may provide—

(a) for the recording by welfare authorities of information relating to persons with whom children are boarded out as aforesaid and

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Extract from Minutes of Proceedings of County Londonderry Welfare Committee
~~County Londonderry Sub-Committee~~

at a meeting held on 13th September, 1958.

Minutes adopted _____

File No. T.125.

GRANT TO
ST. JOSEPH'S HOME,
TERMONBACCA

The recommendation of the Sub-Committee - that this application for Grant be referred to the N.I. Association of County and County Borough Welfare Committees - was accepted.

Mr. Loughlin.

Done { Please attach the file relating to St. Joseph's Vol. Home, Termonbacca,
 and tab. the latest report by the H.E.P. inspector.

See below. { Please state for each W.A. who had children in care placed
 in this Home, the nos. of such children at 31/3/58, 30/6/58 and
 30/9/58.

Mr.
20/10/58.

Miss Miller

There were no children belonging to the W.A.'s in St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca at 31/3/58 and 30/6/58. As for 30/9/58 all the returns are in except those for Belfast and Londonderry Co. Boroughs and I don't think that either will have any children in St. Joseph's as at that date.

12/21/10/58.

27/10
JP/C.

When this matter comes before the Association of Welfare Ctee's, the representatives from Londonderry Co. Boro. should be able to advise the members of the Ministry's views on Section 118(2) as set out in our letter of 12.8.58.

Go see above and extract from minutes of meeting of children sub-committee on 2/9/58

This looks as if St. Joseph's Vol. Home, or someone on their behalf, has applied to L'derry County Welfare Office for a grant under sec. 118(2) of the C.V.P.A. Act. Towards the running expenses of the Home, as was done to L'derry C.B. Welfare Committee.

The correspondence about the proposed grant of £1000 by L'derry C.B.W. Office, which was not approved, is in this file, ending with letter of 3/10/58 to Minister, HP.

27/10

*Two copies of this list sent to Mr. E. Gault, Min. / Ed.
today. BB 19/2/57*

Children and Young Persons Act (N.I.), 1950

Voluntary Children's Homes

Name and Address	Managers	Age range	No. in residence at 31.12.55
Glendhu Children's Hostel, Holywood Road, Belfast.	Voluntary Committee	0-15 years	40
Nazareth Lodge, Ravenhill Road, Belfast.	The Poor Sisters of Nazareth	2-15	145
Nazareth House, Ormeau Road, Belfast.	do.	2-18	135
Dr. Barnardo's Home, Macedon, Whitehouse, Co. Antrim.	Regional Officer for Northern Ireland	2-18	50
Dr. Barnardo's Home, Manor House Home, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim.	do.	0-7	23
Sacred Heart Home, Ormeau Road, Belfast.	The Sisters of the Good Shepherd	3-18	28
Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Londonderry.	The Poor Sisters of Nazareth	2-18	149
Victoria Homes, Schomberg, Belmont Road, Belfast.	Voluntary Committee	3-18	17
St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca, Co. Londonderry.	The Poor Sisters of Nazareth	2-18	90
Our Mother of Mercy Home, Kilmorey Street, Newry, Co. Down.	The Sisters of Mercy	0-18	19
Good Shepherd Home, Dungiven Road, Londonderry.	The Sisters of the Good Shepherd	14-17	2
Childhaven, Millisle Road, Donaghadee, Co. Down.	Belfast Central Mission	2-18	27
De La Salle Boys' Home, Rubane House, Kircubbin, Co. Down.	The De La Salle Christian Brothers	3-18	51
Good Shepherd Home, Newry, Co. Down.	The Sisters of the Good Shepherd	14-18+	2

TABLE B

Home	Capacity	Children accommodated on 31.3.65			Weekly charge to Welfare Authorities
		Welfare Authority	Voluntary	Total	
Dr. Barnardo's, Macedon	52	22	16	38	5 yrs. and over £4 0 0
Dr. Barnardo's, Ballycastle	22	5	12	17	Under 5 years £4 16 0
Blackburn House, Belfast	12	8	1	9	£5 0 0
Glendu Hostel, Belfast	35	28	—	28	£7 10 0
Victoria Homes, Belfast	33	22	4	26	£4 15 0
Nazareth Lodge, Belfast	2-5: 50 5-11: 102	29	81	110	£5 0 0
St. Joseph's Babies' Home, Belfast	120	11	56	67	£3 0 0
Nazareth House, Belfast	128	31	88	119	£3 15 0
Nazareth Home, Portadown	13	1	12	13	£4 4 0
Nazareth House, Londonderry	140	7	102	109	£3 0 0
St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca	90	9	79	88	£4 4 0
St. Joseph's Home, Bessbrook	36	—	9	9	£1 15 0
Our Mother of Mercy Home, Newry	25	—	24	24	£1 0 0
*Sacred Heart and Good Shepherd Home, Belfast	135	11	15	26	£3 15 0
*Good Shepherd Home, Newry	50	2	2	4	£1 10 0
*Good Shepherd Home, Londonderry	100	4	4	8	£2 10 0
De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin	80	32	43	75	£5 0 0
Childhaven, Millisle	27	5	11	16	—
Johnston Memorial School, Belfast	24	—	15	15	£100 p.a.
Manor House Home, Lisburn	20	11	10	21	£5 0 0
		238	584	822	

* Accommodation mainly for women and girls over 14 years of age.

During the 1950s the main concern confronting welfare authorities was the dismantling of the Poor Law and Workhouse system. In an effort to expedite the removal of children from workhouses they were endeavouring to obtain suitable houses for conversion into children's homes. By the beginning of 1950, the number of children's homes opened, numbered 3 while 4 had been purchased for conversion and negotiation was underway to purchase further properties.

It was envisaged that each children's home would accommodate between 25-30 children on a temporary basis pending their transfer to foster homes. Only in exceptional circumstances would children's homes provide a permanent home for children who were deemed "not suitable to be boarded-out"

The beginning of the 1950s was, therefore, marked by a high proportion of children who could not be cared for by their own parents and families living in institutional care. There was also a high degree of reliance on voluntary sector providers, who were responsible for the financial support of children placed in their care by parents. The 1950s marked the beginning of the statutory sector making its own provision for children in children's homes to end the use of placement within the workhouse system.

The legislative and policy context

The post-war years saw a dramatic increase in social legislation and the dismantling of the Poor Law and workhouse system, which had been in existence for more than 100 years. The emergence of the notion of a Welfare State in the 1940s combined with the concepts of the provision of social welfare to ensure societal cohesion and the need for the State to become a provider of such services. For the first time, therefore, a comprehensive statutory framework was established which defined statutory and permissive powers in respect of various groups of people, namely, children, elderly persons and people who are either mentally ill or mentally handicapped or physically disabled.



Memorandum by the Home Office on the Conduct of Children's Homes

INTRODUCTION

1. This memorandum on the conduct of children's homes has been prepared for the guidance of local authorities and voluntary organisations, and is intended to be read with the Administration of Children's Homes Regulations, 1951. The contents are based on experience gained by Home Office inspectors in visiting children's homes and on advice tendered to the Secretary of State by the Advisory Council on Child Care. It deals with the needs of children who, for one reason or another, cannot be boarded out and are brought up in children's homes; and it is written in the main with direct reference to children living as members of small groups of mixed ages and both sexes who are in care for an indefinite period and who look to the local authority or voluntary organisation for their upbringing. But most of what is said is applicable to all children's homes; and recommendations relating specifically to large homes are contained in Appendix I.

2. In paragraph 427 of their Report the Curtis Committee stated the main requirements for the substitute home in the following words:—"If the substitute home is to give the child what he gets from a good normal home it must supply:—

- (i) Affection and personal interest; understanding of his defects; care for his future; respect for his personality and regard for his self-esteem.
- (ii) Stability; the feeling that he can expect to remain with those who will continue to care for him till he goes out into the world on his own feet.
- (iii) Opportunity of making the best of his ability and aptitudes, whatever they may be, as such opportunity is made available to the child in the normal home.
- (iv) A share in the common life of a small group of people in a homely environment."

TYPE AND SIZE OF CHILDREN'S HOMES

3. The aim when providing new homes for children in long-term care is to enable each child to live as a member of a small group. The number of children in a home of this kind (referred to in this memorandum as a family group home) may vary from eight to twelve. If the home is a house in a street (perhaps a villa type house or two semi-detached houses, suitably adapted) the children gain by living as members of the local community and by taking a full part in its social activities as do children living with their own parents. Many local authorities are setting up small homes of this kind. Rather larger homes, taking up to about twenty children, are also being established. It is important that homes should be so situated that the children will be able, out of school hours, to mix with their school friends. While every children's home should have a garden, the children should be encouraged to join with others in outside play.

4. In the family group home, the age range should be wide, say from three to fifteen years, with boys and girls growing up together. It will be desirable sometimes to include children under the age of three in the group (for example, where they have older brothers or sisters in the home), or on occasion to keep

- (c) personal case history for each child in the home, with a continuing record of matters of consequence in the child's life ;
- (d) log book of events of importance in the life of the home ;
- (e) records of the food provided ;
- (f) record of weight and height (see paragraph 42 above) ;
- (g) punishment book.

It is intended that the log book mentioned at (d) above should contain not a list of occurrences of everyday interest, but a record of events of importance such as affect materially the running of the home, that is, matters of which an official visitor to the home should take account. (See Regulation 3 (2) and the Schedule as to the records required to be kept.)

CONCLUSION

65. The success of family life within a children's home will be seen in the degree to which a child who has been brought up there feels himself to be an individual with rights and responsibilities, equipped to take his place in the world. Every aspect of life within the home should contribute to this end, since the aim of all that is done is to produce stable, happy and self-reliant citizens.

HOME OFFICE.

July, 1951.

APPENDIX I

(See paragraph 1 of the memorandum)

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING SPECIFICALLY TO LARGE HOMES

1. This appendix contains recommendations relating specifically to large homes, and particularly to those which are organised neither as grouped cottage homes nor as boarding schools. The appendix is to be read in conjunction with the memorandum which, though written in the main with direct reference to children in care for an indefinite period who are being brought up in family groups, applies for the most part to all long-stay children's homes and, with necessary modifications, to short-stay homes.

2. The size of some homes, and the nature of their premises and organisation, are such as to make them in greater or lesser degree institutional in character and thus particularly unsuitable for young children. It is of the first importance that all possible steps should be taken to lessen the disadvantages of the large home.

3. Where the children do not go out to school, the home should be run as far as possible as a boarding-school with arrangements for the children to spend the school holidays with parents, relatives or foster-parents. It will be all to the good if some of those attending such a school are children living in their own homes. In other cases, the home might be organised, after suitable adaptation of the premises, in family groups, each under the charge of a house-mother, so that the conditions of a family group home are reproduced as nearly as possible. Where the nature of the premises makes this impracticable, it may be possible to adopt a house system. Whatever the method of organisation, the aim should be to secure that certain members of the staff have continuing responsibility for the care of certain children, so that constant change is avoided.

4. A defect of some large homes is that there is insufficient recognition of a child's need of occasional privacy, and that the children may never know what it is to be alone. Some small rooms, comfortably furnished and provided with small tables for study and quiet occupation, should always be available. There will be need for rooms with equipment for games and physical exercise, and for play in bad weather.

(2) NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN VOLUNTARY AND WELFARE AUTHORITY HOMES

VOLUNTARY HOMES

Home	Child-places	1953	1954	1955	1956	Home	Child-places	1953	1954	1955	1956
Glendhu, Belfast. <i>Temporary care</i>	40	27	40	40	26	Good Shepherd, Londonderry. <i>(girls and 14)</i> R.C.	20	13	10	2	5
Nazareth Lodge, Belfast. R.C. <i>includes 100 boys</i>	145	229	151	145	132	Childhaven, Donaghadee.	30	32	26	27	27
St. Joseph's Babies, Belfast. R.C.	120		115	100	94	Rubane, Kircubbin R.C. <i>(boys and 11)</i>	66	42	50	51	56
Nazareth House, Belfast. R.C. <i>girls</i>	145	156	143	135	117	Johnston Memorial, Belfast	20	21	16	14	14
Macedon, Whitehouse.	52	46	39	50	50	Kennedy House, Belfast.	Temporarily closed				
Manor House, Ballycastle. <i>Babies Home & Soldiers</i>	23	18	16	23	19	Convent of Mercy, Beasbrook. R.C. <i>(girls of school age)</i>	40	3	3	4	9
Sacred Heart, Belfast. R.C. <i>(girls and 5-18)</i>	33	30	29	28	23	Moyallon, Co. Down.	3	3	Discontinued		
Nazareth House, Londonderry. R.C. <i>girls</i>	154	170	151	149	151	Altavilla, Portadown. R.C. <i>babies home (under 2)</i>	30/3	6	13	13	9
Victoria Homes, Belfast.	20	14	13	17	20	Blackburn House, Belfast.	14	-	5	1	11
Manor House, Lisburn.	Closed for renovations					Good Shepherd, Newry. R.C.	-	1	-	2	Mother Baby Hm
Termonbacca, Co. Londonderry. R.C. <i>(boys 5)</i>	92	86	90	90	89	Thorndale, Belfast.	-	14	Mother and Baby Homes		
Mother of Mercy, Newry. R.C. <i>girls - school age</i>	25	19	19	19	24	Hopedene, Belfast.	-	1			
Totals	849	795	806	796	745	Totals	220	136	126	114	131

$\frac{420}{1069}$ $\frac{136}{931}$ $\frac{126}{932}$ $\frac{114}{910}$ $\frac{131}{876}$

18 places out of every 100 vacant.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Number of children in Vol. Homes } at 31/12/57
 " " " boarded out }

Name of Home	Religion	Accommodation for Children	Number in Home 31.12.57	Number who have been in Home more than 6 Months	Number boarded out
Glendhu Children's Hostel, Hollywood Rd., Belfast.	Protestant	40	36	4	-
Nazareth Lodge, Ravenhill Road, Belfast.	Roman Catholic	145	134	127	-
St. Joseph's Babies' Home, Ravenhill Road, Belfast.	Roman Catholic	120	104	44	4
Nazareth House, Ormeau Road, Belfast.	Roman Catholic	145	110	104	-
Dr. Barnardo's, Macedon, Whitehouse.	Protestant	52	49	47	} 76
Dr. Barnardo's, Manor House Home, Ballycastle.	Protestant	23	19	10	
Sacred Heart Home, Ormeau Road, Belfast.	Roman Catholic	30	24	21	-
Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Londonderry.	Roman Catholic	154	139	137	-
Victoria Voluntary Homes, 306 Belmont Road, Belfast.	Protestant	20	16	13	-
St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca, Co. Londonderry.	Roman Catholic	92	92	82	1
Our Mother of Mercy Home, Kilmorey St., Newry.	Roman Catholic	25	23	21	-
Good Shepherd Home, Dungiven Road, Londonderry.	Roman Catholic	20	4	-	-
Childhaven, Millisle Road, Donaghadee.	Protestant	30	21	21	-
De La Salle Boys' Home, Bishope	Roman Catholic	70	70	48	-

4. What are the age limits of children for whom the home provides?

	Minimum	Maximum
Boys	2	16
Girls		

*exceptional cases are kept until 18 yrs
Children must be mentally
Sound.*

- 5.(a) Are there any qualifications or dis-qualifications for admission?

- (b) Is the decision to admit based on the information given by the applicant only? If not, what additional information is gathered?

*usually on a Parent
reference, or that of the
Welfare Authority.*

- (c) Who collects and collates this information - a member of the staff; a member of the governing body; some other person?

a member of the Staff

- (d) Who takes the decision to admit - the person in charge of the home; a local committee; or central office?

*the person in charge of
the home.*

- 6.(a) Where an application is not made on behalf of a welfare authority, is any contact made with the welfare authority -

(i) before admission?

if necessary.

(ii) after admission?

where child is neglected by

- (b) Where contact is made with the welfare authority, what is its nature and purpose?

*relatives & friends after being
placed here*

- (c) In what circumstances would you regard contact with the welfare authority inappropriate?

*when Parents & Relatives express
the desire to have no such
contact.*

- 7.(a) What is the total number of children who can be accommodated in the home?

90

- (b) How many were on the roll at 31st December, 1963 (including those who may have been temporarily absent on that date)?

Welfare Authority cases	Vol. cases	Total
8	79	87

- (c) Of those on the roll at 31st December, 1963, how many were:

(i) physically handicapped?

Welfare Authority cases	Vol. cases	If none at present would you normally admit them
NONE	NONE	only exceptionally (no facilities)
1	4	
1	-	
-	4	
1	NONE	
"	"	
"	"	

(ii) educationally sub-normal?
and

attending special schools?
not attending special schools?

(iii) ascertained special care?
and

attending day centres?
not attending day centres?

4. What are the age limits of children for whom the home provides?

	Minimum	Maximum
Boys	2	5
Girls	2	18

Under 2 if necessity arises.

- 5.(a) Are there any qualifications or dis-qualifications for admission?

Children must be mentally sound.

- (b) Is the decision to admit based on the information given by the applicant only? If not, what additional information is gathered?

Usually on a Priest's recommendation, or that of the Welfare.

- (c) Who collects and collates this information - a member of the staff; a member of the governing body; some other person?

A member of the Staff.

- (d) Who takes the decision to admit - the person in charge of the home; a local committee; or central office?

The person in charge of the Home.

- 6.(a) Where an application is not made on behalf of a welfare authority, is any contact made with the welfare authority -

(i) before admission?

If necessary.

(ii) after admission?

" "

- (b) Where contact is made with the welfare authority, what is its nature and purpose?

Where child is neglected by relatives or friends after being placed here.

- (c) In what circumstances would you regard contact with the welfare authority inappropriate?

Where Parents or relatives express the desire to have no such contact.

- 7.(a) What is the total number of children who can be accommodated in the home?

140.

- (b) How many were on the roll at 31st December, 1963 (including those who may have been temporarily absent on that date)?

Welfare Authority cases	Vol. cases	Total
		112.

- (c) Of those on the roll at 31st December, 1963, how many were:

(i) physically handicapped?

Welfare Authority cases	Vol. cases	If none at present would you normally admit them
None.	1.	In necessity
1.	9.	Yes.
1.	9.	
None	None	No.

(ii) educationally sub-normal?
and Class.
attending special schools?
not attending special schools?

(iii) ascertained special care?
and
attending day centres?
not attending day centres?

CHILD CARE SERVICE IN VOLUNTARY HOMES

Recd. 27.1.64 T. 761

No. 33
12St Joseph's Home Tottenham
London.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. (a) Please give a brief description of how your home is governed, stating in particular whether your governing body is independent or subordinate to a central organisation.

This Home is run by the Sisters of
Nazareth whose head house
is in Hammersmith
London.

- (b) Give categories of members of governing body (e.g. clerical, lay, male, female, subscribers, non-subscribers) and state whether they are selected as individuals or as representing other bodies.

Superior, Sisters

All members of the Congregation
of the Poor Sisters of Nazareth.

- (c) What relationship (if any) has your home with other children's home(s) or child care organisation(s)?

It has relationship with other
homes under the same
Congregation of Sisters.

2. (a) Do you receive children on transfer from other homes?

Occasionally

- (b) Do you transfer children to other homes?

No

- (c) Have you any link with an adoption society?

..

(NOTE: The word "children" here and in following questions means boys and girls under 18 years of age).

3. From what geographical area are applications for admission normally accepted?

Usually Ulster.
but from other parts if application is made

Name of Home	Religion	Accommodation for Children	Number in Home 31.12.57	Number who have been in Home more than 6 Months	Number boarded out
Good Shepherd Home, Armagh Road, Newry, Co. Down.	Roman Catholic	Inmates are mostly 18 years of age and over (girls)	This is now a "mother and baby" Home		
Johnston Memorial Training School, 5 Green Road, Belfast.	Protestant	22	19	19	-
St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, Bessbrook, Co. Armagh.	Roman Catholic	40	12	12	-
"Altavilla", Corcrair, Portadown, Co. Armagh.	Roman Catholic	13	13	4	-
Blackburn House, Girls' Home, Annadale Avenue, Belfast.	Protestant	14	8	4	-
The Manor House Home, Dublin Road, Lisburn.	Protestant	20	10	-	-
Totals	-	1,075	*903	718	81

* This includes 169 children placed in Voluntary Homes by Welfare Authorities.

64 RC
105 Prot.

† In addition, Dr. Barnardo's Home has boarded out 5 children placed with them by Welfare Authorities.

27, William Street,
Derry City.

21st January, 1957

Ref. F.197/16

Secretary,
Derry Welfare Committee,
Hawkin Street,
Derry.

Sir,

St. Joseph's Home,
Termonbacca,
Derry

I am instructed to make formal application to your Committee for a grant of £250 per annum under Section 118 of the Children's Young Persons Act (N.I.) 1950.

This is a voluntary Home for the maintenance of orphan and abandoned boys up to the age of 14. Most members of your Committee will be aware of the splendid work being carried on for many years by the Community of their complete dependance on local charity but it is worth pointing out that at this moment there are no less than 87 boys of whom 66 were born in the Six Counties. This figure is much lower than average and there will shortly be a further intake to raise the number of boys to the normal figure of around 110.

The grant now sought is but a very small fraction indeed of the annual cost of running this extensive institution and evidence can easily be given that the proposed grant will be expended in purely welfare work.

I shall be glad to supply the Committee with any further information.

Yours faithfully,

E. McAteer

E. McAteer

COPY

HOUSE OF COMMONS
 GREAT BRITAIN AND
 IRELAND

25 William Street,
 Derry City.

20th February, 1958.

By Ref. F.197/16

The City Accountant,
 Guildhall,
 Derry.

Dear Accountant,

St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca, Derry

I give below the number of boys in care at this date:-

Under 2 years	1
Between 2 and 5 years	15
Between 5 and 15 years	76
Total	92

Out of this total of ninety-two, eighteen were born outside
 the Six Counties.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) E. McATEER

Education Act (Northern Ireland), 1947, and local education authorities constituted under that Act may co-operate with welfare authorities in that behalf.

97. The Ministry and the Ministry of Education jointly may make regulations for providing, where a welfare authority under this Part of this Act and a local education authority as such have concurrent functions, by which authority the functions are to be exercised, and for determining as respects any functions of a local education authority specified in the regulations whether or not a child in the care of a welfare authority is to be treated as a child of parents without resources.

Welfare
authorities
and local
education
authorities.

PART VI.—VOLUNTARY HOMES.

98. In this Act the expression "voluntary home" means any home or other institution for the boarding, protection, care and maintenance of poor children or children otherwise in need of help, being a home or other institution supported wholly or partly by voluntary contributions or endowments but not being either—

Definition
of voluntary
homes.

- (a) a school within the meaning of the Education Act (Northern Ireland), 1947; or
- (b) an institution within the meaning of the Mental Health Act (Northern Ireland), 1948.

1948, c. 17.

99.—(1) After the expiration of three months from the coming into operation of this Part of this Act no voluntary home shall be carried on unless it is for the time being registered in a register to be kept for the purposes of this section by the Ministry.

Registration
of voluntary
homes.

(2) Application for registration under this section shall be made by the persons carrying on or intending to carry on the home to which the application relates, and shall be made in such manner and accompanied by such particulars as the Ministry may by regulations prescribe.

(3) On an application duly made under the last preceding sub-section—

- (a) if the home to which the application relates was at the commencement of this Act open for the reception of children, the application shall be granted;
- (b) in any other case, the Ministry may either grant or refuse the application, as it thinks fit, but where the application is refused the

A 913/82.

VOLUNTARY CHILDRENS HOMES

NAME OF HOME	DATE REGISTERED	COPY OF CERTIFICATE HELD IN FILE
NAZARETH HOUSE, ORMEAU ROAD BELFAST.	18 June 1950	YES <i>Closed.</i> <i>De-Registered 31.5.84</i>
1) GLENTHU CHILDRENS HOSTEL HOLLYWOOD ROAD BELFAST 4	14 June 1950	NO <i>Closed 21/2/86</i> <i>certificate not returned. De-registered 25/4/89</i>
1) NAZARETH LODGE, RAYNILL ROAD BELFAST	13 June 1950	NO
4) SACRED HEART HOME GOOD SHEPHERD CONVENT, ORMEAU ROAD BELFAST	29 June 1950	YES: RE-REGISTERED 7.5.56 AS THE SACRED HEART CHILDREN'S HOME: THE GOOD SHEPHERD GIRLS HOME AND MARIANVILLE HOME FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES, THE GOOD SHEPHERD HOME AND THE SACRED HEART HOME RE-REGISTERED 15.5.63. <i>Cancelled - Re-registered</i> <i>on 14/3/83 as 'Marianville Lodge & Baby Unit' only.</i>
5) MACEDON WHITE HOUSE CO ANTRIM 349 SHORE ROAD	29 JUNE 1950	YES - <i>Cancelled 7/7/82. Re-registered</i> <i>as Sharonmore Ballyduff Road Newtownabbey</i> <i>since registration certificate not returned - could not be found.</i>
1) MANOR HOUSE HOME BALLYCASTLE CO ANTRIM	29 JUNE 1950	YES <i>Closed 31.1.85 De-registered w.e.f.</i> <i>1.2.85</i>
1) VICTORIA HOMES 'SCHUMBERG' BELMONT ROAD BELFAST	1 JULY 1950	YES <i>CLOSED 22 NOVEMBER '83. Registration</i> <i>cancelled w.e.f. 23.11.83.</i>
1) ST JOSEPH'S HOME TERNONERACCA CO LONDONDERRY	1 JULY 1950	YES - <i>Cancelled as home closed on</i> <i>28 May 1982. Cert. not returned - cannot be found.</i>
1) MANOR HOUSE HOME WIGGORN CO ANTRIM	29 JUNE 1950	YES No: LETTER D.D. 15/1/88 FROM SECRETARY OF MAN. COMMITTEE OF HOME INDICATING REGISTRATION CERT. IN HIS POSSESSION <i>Closed. De-Registered 1.11.84</i>
1) NAZARETH HOUSE, BISHOP STREET LONDONDERRY	16 JULY 1950	YES
1) THORNDALE HOUSE DUNGAIRN AVENUE ANTRIM ROAD BELFAST	16 JULY 1950	YES <i>De-registered 30.11.82</i> <i>cert not returned - could not be found.</i>
1) HOPEDENE HOSTEL 55 DUNDOLA AVE BELFAST	11 AUGUST 1950	YES <i>De-registered 11/4/85</i> <i>Cert. not returned - could not be found.</i>
1) GOOD SHEPHERD HOME DUNGIEN ROAD LONDONDERRY	6 SEPTEMBER 1950	YES <i>De-registered 27/2/84</i>
1) CHILDHAVEN, DENNIS HALL RD. MILLISLE	27 SEPTEMBER 1950	YES. <i>Re-registered on 10/7/87 as "Childhaven</i> <i>and Cairnmore Children's Home"</i> <i>cert. dated 5/10/50 not returned - cannot</i>

CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF WELFARE AUTHORITIES

T.320

T.523

QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1959

County or County Borough	Population (1951 Census)	Total No. of Children in care	No. of children boarded out				No. in children's homes			New Cases	Child Life Protec- tion	After- care	No. of final adoption orders		
			By Welfare Authorit- ies Them- selves	By Vol- untary Organ- isations	Total	% age of Total No. of Child- ren in care	Welfare Author- ity Homes	Voluntary Homes					Protes- tant	R. C.	Total
								Register- ed Volun- tary Homes	Hostels and other Instit- utions						
Strrim	231,149	203	102	3	105	51.72%	49	43	6	15	90	8	12	1	13
magh	114,254	136	91	3	94	69.11%	36	5	1	13	49	2	6	2	8
own	241,181	218	149	5	154	70.64%	35	25	4	32	152	32	2	4	6
ermanagh	53,044	111	91	-	91	81.98%	12	7	1	17	40	1	3	-	3
ondonderry	105,448	59	30	-	30	50.84%	20	9	-	9	65	-	7	1	8
rone	132,082	144	112	-	112	77.77%	27	5	-	20	56	-	3	6	9
elfast C.B.	443,671	352	155	-	155	44.03%	104	93	-	58	157	11	2	4	6
ondonderry B.	50,092	43	34	1	35	81.39%	8	-	-	3	37	-	-	2	2
TOTALS	1,370,921	1,266	764	12	776	61.29%	291	187	12	167	646	54	35	20	55

N.I. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN BOARDED OUT = 61.29%, A DECREASE OF 1.82% ON THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND

A DECREASE OF 1.43%, AS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING QUARTER IN 1958

Children in the care of Welfare Authorities and who are accommodated in Voluntary Homes.
Numbers as at quarter ended 31st December, 1959.

Home	Child- Place	Antrim No.	Armagh No.	Down No.	Fermanagh No.	Londonderry No.	Tyrone No.	Belfast Co. Borough	Londonderry Co. Borough	Total W.A. Children in Vol. Homes etc.	Remarks
<u>ed Vol. Homes</u>											
<u>Children's Hostel</u>		7		8				12		27	Glenties is in fact meant to be under-mentioned but has a majority of Prot. children & staff.
<u>ndis Homes</u>		9		1	1	1		17	2	31	
<u>Homes & Hostel</u>		5			2		1	12		20	
<u>ur House</u>		2	1		2	1				6	
<u>House, Lisburn</u>		2						1		3	
<u>House</u>						2		3		5	
<u>Catholics</u>											
<u>House, Belfast</u>		1		1				19		21	
<u>Boys' Home</u>		4		1				8		13	
<u>Convent, Bessbrook</u>		3	4	4	2	1	2	5		21	
<u>and Convent (Bessbrook)</u>			1							1	
<u>Babies Home</u>			1		3 <u>Belfast</u>					4	This is at Armagh Road, Henry.
<u>House, Belfast</u>				4				7		11	
<u>House, Liding</u>				4		3		5		12	
<u>House, Liding</u>									2	2	
<u>House, Liding</u>									2	2	
<u>mes etc.</u>										17	
<u>in Boys' Club</u>		1		2						3	
<u>re Abbey</u>		2		1						3	Special Care Institution
<u>me Guest House</u>		1								1	
<u>ndly Hostel</u>								1		1	Special Care Institution
<u>aiming School</u>				1						1	
<u>me, Derryshire</u>				1						1	
<u>iatric Unit</u>					1					1	
<u>House</u>						2				2	This is a Dr. Barnardo's Home.
<u>Totals.</u>		37	7	29	11	10	3	90	6	193	Old People's Home (the 2 ch. are over 18 yrs)

Children in care of Welfare Authorities and who are accommodated in Voluntary Homes
numbers as at quarter ended 31st March 1961.



Home	Child Places	Armagh Co.	Down Co.	Fermanagh Co.	Londonderry Co.	Tyrone Co.	Belfast Co. Borough	Londonderry Co. Borough	Total W.O. Children in Vol. Homes etc.	Remarks
<u>Registered Vol. Homes</u>										
<u>(a) Protestant</u>										
Lynch's Children's Homes		7 ✓		1 ✓		7 ✓	5 ✓		30 ✓	
Victoria Homes & Hostel		3 ✓			6 ✓	1 ✓	11 ✓		21 ✓	
Dr. Barnardo's Homes		25 ✓		3 ✓	1 ✓	1 ✓	17 ✓	3 ✓	50 ✓	
Manservant House, Limerick		2 ✓					6 ✓		8 ✓	
Thornhill House		2 ✓		2 ✓		5 ✓	5 ✓		14 ✓	
Blackburn House			1 ✓	1 ✓		3 ✓			5 ✓	
Mayflower Training Home				3 ✓					3 ✓	
<u>(b) Roman Catholic</u>										
Magarets House		6 ✓		1 ✓						15 ✓
Magarets Lodge		3 ✓		4 ✓			11 ✓		18 ✓	
St. Joseph's Babies' Home		3 ✓		1 ✓			11 ✓		18 ✓	
Good Shepherd Convent, Belfast		1 ✓	1 ✓	6 ✓	2 ✓	4 ✓	4 ✓		8 ✓	
De La Salle Boys' Home		4 ✓	2 ✓	7 ✓	1 ✓	6 ✓	11 ✓	1 ✓	14 ✓	
Bessbrook Convent			1 ✓						34 ✓	
Magarets House, Limerick						5 ✓			1 ✓	
St. Joseph's, Limerick						3 ✓	2 ✓		7 ✓	
Good Shepherd, Limerick						2 ✓			3 ✓	
Sacred Heart Home							5 ✓		2 ✓	
<u>Other Homes etc.</u>										
Amekmore Abbey		2 ✓		2 ✓					4 ✓	Special Care Institution This is a Methodist Hostel
Fort William Guest House		1 ✓		1 ✓					1 ✓	
Malone Training School									1 ✓	This is a Dr. Barnardo's Home Special School in Limerick
Firbank Diabetic Unit					1 ✓				1 ✓	
Methodist College							1 ✓		1 ✓	RC P 8 16
Glenragh Convent School							1 ✓		1 ✓	
West Bay Hostel, Bangor							1 ✓		1 ✓	
Hospital			1 ✓	10 ✓	3 ✓				1 ✓	
		59 ✓	4 ✓	57 ✓	14 ✓	36 ✓	5 ✓	89 ✓	4 ✓	265 ✓

Further information relating to Part I Items 3 and 4

(3) ^{ed} Children accommodation in Welfare Authorities' Children's Homes/Hostels

Name of (1) Welfare Authority (2) Homes	Optimum No. of Child Places	Average daily No. y.e. 31.3.62	No. accommodated at 31.3.62			Information relating to Column (b)
			(a) From own Area	(b) From another Authority	(c) Total	
<u>County Antrim</u>	22	21	21		21	
Clogrennan	16	14	16		16	
Conway	7	6	6		6	
Family Group Home, Carrickfergus.						
<u>County Armagh</u>	33	25	17	1	18	1 Belfast C.B. child
Gleneyre	11	11	8	3	11	3 Belfast C.B. children
Mountmorris F.G.H.						
<u>County Down</u>	30	28	29	1	30	1 Belfast C.B. child
Marmion						
<u>County Fermanagh</u>	24	15	21	1	22	1 Co. L'derry child
Colleshill						
<u>County Londonderry</u>	24	18	23		23	
Dhu Varren						
<u>County Tyrone</u>	41	20	16	1	17	1 Co. L'derry child
Coneywarren						
<u>Belfast C.B.</u>	28	27	26		26	
Bawnmore	50	39	39		39	
Brefne Res. Nursery	30	29	30		30	
Williamson House } Boys and Girls }	5	5	5		5	
Ballysillan Park F.G.H.	6	4	5		5	
New Barnsley Parade F.G.H.	6	4	5		5	
Tyndale Park F.G.H.						
"Ettaville" Working Girls' Hostel	12	6	6	1	7	1 Co. Antrim child
"Kincora" Working Boys' Hostel	10	10	10	1	11	1 Co. Tyrone child
<u>Londonderry C.B.</u>	6	3	-		-	
Mourne Drive F.G.H.						
Totals	361		285		283	9

Place of safety cases accommodated in Children's Homes provided by Co. Antrim - 1
 Co. Down - 4
 Belfast C.B. - 2
 299

(4) Children accommodated in Vol. Homes under Sec. 90(1)(b) of the Act

Welfare Authority Name of Home	Welfare Authority								Totals
	Antrim	Armagh	Down	Fermanagh	Londonderry	Tyrone	Belfast Borough	Londonderry Borough	
Blackburn House	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	4
De La Salle Boys' Home, Rubane.	2	2	7	2	5	-	12	1	31
Dr. Barnardo's Homes, Macedon.	14	-	5	-	-	-	11	1	31
do. Manor House.	6	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	10
do. Barkingside.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
do. Glaselume, Scotland.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
do. Garden City, Woodford Bridge, Essex.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Landhu Children's Hostel	6	-	17	-	1	-	8	-	32
God Shepherd Convent, Belfast, (inc. Sacred Heart Home).	1	1	1	1	5	1	3	1	14
God Shepherd Convent, Newry.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
God Shepherd Home, L'derry.	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	3
God House Home, Lisburn.	1	-	2	-	-	-	5	-	8
Flower Home	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Orth House, Belfast.	2	-	2	-	-	-	25	-	29
Orth Lodge, Belfast.	2	-	3	-	-	-	14	-	19
Orth House, Londonderry.	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	4	8
Joseph's Babies' Home, Belfast.	9	-	1	-	-	-	8	-	18
Joseph's Convent of Mercy, Brock.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Joseph's Home, Temonbacca.	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	4
Orth Homes, Belfast.	3	-	-	-	1	1	8	-	13
Totals	47	6	41	5	14	9	98	13	233

Don. Vol. Home - 4

N.I.

229
233

FURTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO PART I, ITEMS 3 AND 4

Children accommodated in Welfare Authorities' Children's Homes/Hospitals

Children accommodated in Voluntary Homes under Section 50(1)(b) of the Act

Name of (1) Welfare Authority (2) Homes	Optimum No. of child places	Average daily No. year ended 31.3.65	No. accommodated at 31.3.65			Information relating to column (b)	Welfare Authority Name of Home	Antrim	Armagh	Down	Fermanagh	Londonderry	Tyrone	Delfant County Borough	Londonderry County Borough	Totals
			(a) From own area	(b) From another authority	(c) Total											
Co. ANTRIM																
Clarendon Convey	22	28	29		29		Blackburn House	2	-	4	1	-	-	1	-	8
Thornhill Square	16	16	14		14		Chilmead, Donaghadee	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Barwick Avenue F.C.H.	7	6	6		6		De la Salle Boys' Home, Rubane	2	2	-	1	1	-	2	-	10
Green College, Larne, F.C.H.	6	5	5		5		Dr. Bernard's Home, Macdon	11	-	4	-	-	-	7	-	22
Co. ARMAGH							" " Manor House	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Glenties F.C.H.	33	24	26	1	27	Co. Fermanagh child	" " Woodford Bridge, Essex	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Donaghadee F.C.H.	11	12	12	3	15	Belfast C.B.C. children	" " Farm Hill, Killybegs, Essex	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Co. DUBLIN							" " Longbridge, Birmingham	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Marion	30	24	11	6	17	1 Co. Antrim child 5 Belfast C.B. children	" " Mr. Baker Technical College, Goldings, Hert.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Co. FERMANAGH							Finchen Manor, Kent	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Colin Hill	24	20	24	3	27	Co. Tyrone children	Glendhu Children's Hostel	9	2	7	-	-	-	10	-	28
Co. LONDONDERRY							Good Shepherd Home, Belfast	2	-	1	-	2	2	4	-	11
Old Warren	24	20	13	1	14	Co. Antrim child	" " Kewry	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Co. DUBLIN							" " Londonderry	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	4
Convent House	41	23	21	4	25	2 Londonderry C.B. children 1 Co. Fermanagh child 1 Co. Londonderry child	Manor House West, Lisburn	6	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	11
Co. DOWN							Marionvale Home for Mothers and Babies, Kerry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Downside	24	26	23	2	25	1 Co. Antrim child 1 Co. Down child	Mayflower Home	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Breife Residential	14	14	29		29		Nazareth House, Belfast	4	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	7
Williamson House, No. 115	15	15	17		17		Nazareth Lodge, Belfast	4	2	5	-	-	-	18	-	29
Williamson House, No. 118	15	16	17		17		Nazareth House, Londonderry	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Belvidere Park F.C.H.	5	4	6		6		Nazareth House Nursery Home, Portadown	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
New Cemetery, Parade F.C.H.	6	4	4		4		St. Joseph's Babies' Home, Belfast	2	-	3	-	-	-	6	-	11
Tynally Park F.C.H.	6	5	5		5		St. Joseph's Home, Terenure	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	9
Highland Parade F.C.H.	6	6	7		7		Thornhill House	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Donaghadee F.C.H.	45	5	5		5		Victoria Home, Belfast	5	-	4	-	2	2	11	-	22
Littleville Working Girls' Hostel	12	8	6		6											
Elmore Working Boys' Hostel	11	12	8	2	13	1 Co. Down boy 1 Co. Tyrone boy										
Co. DUBLIN																
Mountaine F.C.H.	6	5	5		5											
TOTAL	369	308	293	22	315		Totals	58	8	29	3	5	22	116	6	249

Place of safety cases accommodated in Children's Homes 5

Total 320

* Created 1.1.64. * Item 23 in U.A. returns.

HIAI Question V

Some of the witness statements suggest that there were relatively small numbers of staff working in the Sisters of Nazareth homes and that levels of supervision were accordingly limited. Were there statutory ratios or Departmental guidelines that applied? If so, what were they and what else, if anything, has the Department to say in relation to staffing levels in the homes?

61. The witness statements which have to date been passed to the Department in respect of Termonbacca and Nazareth House span the periods 1949 to 1978 and 1960 to 1986 respectively.
62. As noted above (paragraphs 46 and 47), under the provisions of the 1952 and 1975 regulations, administering authorities of voluntary homes were responsible for ensuring that each home was conducted in such a manner and on such principles as would further the well-being of the home. Decisions by the administering authority regarding staffing levels within each home were therefore required to be taken with this overriding duty in mind.
63. The only information which the Department has to hand in relation to the staffing of voluntary homes during the 1950s and 1960s is found in the reports of the CWC. The 1956 CWC report, which appears to have relied on data collected in 1955, stated that a number of the children's homes (both welfare authority and voluntary organisations' homes) visited by the Council:

"seemed to be seriously understaffed, especially for the care of babies and we feel that this problem affects most children's homes from time to time because of periodic fluctuations in the numbers and types of children who have to be cared for."
64. Rather than increasing the permanent establishment of the home to a level which the Council felt *"would be excessive for a large part of the time"* it suggested that the situation could be best met by the use of *"voluntary help"*. The CWC recommended that the "Matron" should be encouraged to enlist local help to form a "Friends of the Home" committee which might arrange the voluntary help and also befriend children. A number of HIA Inquiry witnesses refer to the use of former residents to undertake tasks in the home – such assistance may well have been regarded as voluntary help in line with the CWC's recommendation.
65. With further reference to the issue of staffing, the 1956 CWC report stated that it was *"difficult to lay down exact ratios which could be applied to all classes of homes especially as most children's homes in Northern Ireland cater for more than one age group"*. Excluding cooks and domestic help, the Council recommended that for children under 5 the ratio of full-time staff to

3.—(1) In these Regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say :—

- "the Act" means the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland), 1950 ;
- "administering authority" means the person or persons carrying on the voluntary home ;
- "child" means a person under the age of eighteen ;
- "Fire Service" means in the area of the County Borough of Belfast the Belfast Fire Brigade and elsewhere in Northern Ireland the Northern Ireland Fire Authority ;
- "home" means a voluntary home as defined by Section 98 of the Act ;
- "primary school" has the same meaning as in the Education Act (Northern Ireland), 1947 ;
- "the Ministry" means the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland ;
- "training school" has the same meaning as in the Act.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889, shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

4.—(1) The administering authority shall ensure that each home in its charge is conducted in such a manner and on such principles as will further the well-being of the children in the home.

(2) The administering authority shall make arrangements for the home to be visited at least once in every month by a person who shall satisfy himself whether the home is conducted in the interests of the well-being of the children, and shall report to the administering authority upon his visit and shall enter in the record book referred to in the Schedule hereto his name and the date of his visit.

5.—(1) The administering authority shall appoint a person to be in charge of the home :—

Provided that any person in charge of the home immediately before these Regulations come into force shall be deemed to have been appointed to be in charge of the home under this paragraph.

(2) The person in charge of the home shall compile the records referred to in the Schedule to these Regulations and shall keep them at all times available for inspection by any inspector appointed by the Ministry.

(3) The person in charge of the home shall be responsible for the custody of the medical records of each child and shall keep them at all times available to the medical officer or to any inspector appointed by the Ministry.

children beyond the age of fifteen. The conditions of normal family life can most nearly be reproduced in this way, and the children will not require to be moved at a specified age to some other children's home and so lose contact with those whom they are fond of and trust. In homes accommodating children of a wide age range and both sexes, the special problems arising in adolescence call for sympathetic guidance and wise, unobtrusive supervision. It will not generally be right to place in a mixed family group home older children coming into care, but this may not apply where several children from the same family are received into care and should be kept together.

STAFF

5. The standard of care provided in a home will be determined by the success with which the staff are able to take the place of parents and to meet the children's individual need for interest and affection. It is essential that the conditions offered to staff should be such as to attract and keep men and women of the high quality needed for this work.

6. It is on the understanding and devotion of the staff, more than on anything else, that the happiness of the children depends. The housemother and members of staff, besides being familiar with the stages of development throughout childhood, should be temperamentally fitted for the difficult task of maintaining the balance between giving the children the affection that they need and being too possessive in their attitude towards them. The housemother in charge of a family group home should be given the fullest possible responsibility, and should not be subordinate to the person in charge of some other children's home.

7. The staffing should be sufficient to allow the housemothers time to join in the children's activities and to talk with them, and thus to provide the children with the adult companionship which is necessary to their normal development. It is undesirable for one housemother to live alone with the children; she needs adult companionship, and a housemother living alone may sometimes be subject to undue strain. In family group homes taking from eight to ten children, a resident housemother and assistant, or two housemothers, should be sufficient, with adequate domestic help. In homes taking eleven or twelve children, it will be an advantage to have in addition one full-time domestic assistant, preferably resident; and in these the employment of a married woman as housemother, with the husband going to outside work, is a good way of securing a man's influence and interest in the household.

8. It is considered that the staff required for a home taking about twenty children of a wide age range and both sexes might be a married couple (the husband usually going to outside work), one resident housemother, one resident housemother/cook, daily domestic assistance, and part-time help with the garden where required.

9. If a home is to be well run it is essential that the conditions should be such as to enable the staff to retain pleasure and freshness in their work. Adequate time off and holidays, giving opportunity for outside interests, and provision for seeing their own friends in the home (see also paragraph 34), contribute to the well-being of the staff and consequently of the children; at the same time, there should be sufficient flexibility in the arrangements to ensure continuity of care. Where relief staff are employed, it should be arranged, whenever possible, for the same people to go to the same homes.

10. It is hoped that local authorities and voluntary organisations will release suitable members of their staffs to take a full course in child care provided through the Central Training Council in Child Care, and will encourage others to attend refresher courses. A valuable feature of the refresher courses is the opportunity they afford to the staff of different homes to meet and discuss their work.

FURNISHING AND EQUIPMENT

11. The aim should be to create an environment, not luxurious but of a reasonable standard of comfort, in which both staff and children will feel at home and which will help the children to develop a proper pride in their surroundings.

ordinarily be divulged or accessible to other members of the staff. Each Matron must exercise her discretion in communicating this confidential information and in deciding whether to do so or not must be guided solely by what appears to be the best interests of the child. Full case records should be kept of each child so as to help her to deal with the child in the best possible way and to provide information for periodic reviews of his case. The information we consider should be available from these records is set out in Appendix E. The records should be available to the After-Care Officer. Personal possessions, especially photographs, should be carefully preserved and given to the child when he is leaving the Home. All children should be provided with the shortened form of Birth Certificate.

Staffing

59. We would urge that particular attention be paid to qualities of character, temperament and outlook in the appointment of staff in Homes. On these more than on paper qualifications depends the whole future of the child who spends his formative years in a Home. Each member of the staff should be capable of taking the place of a mother to the children in her care and her personal qualities will be of immense importance in the development of their character.

60. We commend the Training Scheme recently begun under the Ministry's auspices for the training in child care of junior members of the staff of Homes and would urge that, in addition, as many members of staff as possible should have some experience of Nursery School methods. It is not in our view essential that the Matron of the Home should be a trained nurse, but there should always be one on the staff where there are children under 5 in the Home. We also consider it essential from the point of view of the child's religious upbringing that where the Home contains children of the two main religious denominations, both denominations should be adequately represented on the supervisory staff.

Staff Ratios

61. It is difficult to lay down exact ratios which could be applied to all classes of Homes, especially as most Children's Homes in Northern Ireland cater for more than one age group. However, as a guide, we suggest that for children under 5 the ratio of full-time staff to children should not be less than one to three. Where the children are all older than this the ratio might be reduced as far as one to six. These ratios do not of course include domestic staff, cook, etc., the number of which should always be sufficient to ensure the highest standards of cleanliness and efficient housekeeping without diverting the time of the child-care staff to this class of work.

Staff Shortage

62. A number of the Homes we visited seemed to be seriously understaffed, especially for the care of babies, and we feel that this problem affects most Children's Homes from time to time because of periodic fluctuations in the numbers and types of children who have to be cared for. Rather than increasing the permanent establishment of the Home to a level which would be excessive for a large part of the time, the situation could, we feel, best be met by the use of voluntary help. We suggest that each Home should prepare a register of local voluntary helpers who could be called in to help in an emergency. (See paragraph 76.)

Conditions of Service

63. We suggest that the normal working hours for non-supervisory staff should be 96 hours a fortnight, subject to the maximum continuous span of

1947

Termonbacca

Superior

1st L. C.

Church

Parlour, Farm.

Boys

SR 78

Refectory

Nursery

SR 88

SR 12

Butter

Kitchen

Laundry and
Linen Room.

Workroom.

From Bishop N. Nazareth

21st Feb. 1951

Dear Mother,

Some time ago I had a visit from **SR 78** from Termonabacca. She desired to have a number of the boys put in touch with the Wellfare authority on the ground that very many of them were M.D.'s. I was candidly shocked by her attitude and spoke very plainly to her. At the time I had full information before me about the results of an inspection of all the schools by the authorities on the matter of subnormal children. These results were questioned by the Education Authority - predominantly Protestant - on the ground that too many children were put down as abnormal. Yet in that list there was only one - a girl - from Nazareth.

I told the Sister I would make enquiries and had intended to call on Termonabacca personally. On second thoughts I was afraid that I might be prejudiced owing to the bad taste left behind after the Sister's visit. So I appointed three priests - all experts in Education and acquainted with the workings of Termonabacca - to carry out an investigation. They have reported to me. They say that the children there are quite normal. They are unanimous that **SR 78** is the cause of all the trouble, is completely out of sympathy with the children and is an evil influence. I feel, then, compelled to ask, in the interests of religion and of the good name of the Sisters of Nazareth, that **SR 78** should be removed from Termonabacca to a place where she will have less chance of doing harm.

21st February 1951.

My Lord,

In compliance with Your Lordship's instructions we visited St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca, and enquired into the matters complained of to Your Lordship by [REDACTED] SR 78 [REDACTED] that community.

We have come to the unanimous conclusion that the statement made by [REDACTED] SR 78 [REDACTED] that a large number of the boys of the Home are of subnormal mentality is entirely without foundation; that no exceptional grounds of complaint with regard to the conduct and demeanour of the boys of whom [REDACTED] SR 78 [REDACTED] as charge exist; that [REDACTED] SR 78 [REDACTED] as displayed little understanding, sympathy or tact in her handling of the boys under her supervision.

We feel that the boys would be responsive to a sister with a more sympathetic approach and that, with the removal of any sense of antagonism on the part of the sister in charge, a happier relationship and atmosphere would be engendered between the boys and the sisters.

We beg to remain,

Your Lordship's Obedient Servants,

Joseph O'Shea,
Anthony C. Mc Fadyen,
Joseph B. Mc Carthy,

From Nazareth House, Hammonds, Limerick.

NAZARETH HOUSE
HAMMONDS

February, 27th. 1951.

My Lord and dear Father,

I received your letter, and I am very grieved indeed that you have had so much trouble and anxiety about St. Joseph's owing to **SR 78** attitude towards the boys. I hope, My Lord, that your words have made an impression on Sister, and that they will make her realize her mistake. We are disappointed that she took such an attitude in Derry as she had been very good with the boys in other houses. We have changed Sister to Sligo where, we hope, she will do better after the lesson she has had.

Regretting very much that this has happened in Nazareth House, and asking