

HIA REF:

Witness Name: **SND 136**

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF **SND 136**

1. I, **SND 136** will say as follows –
2. This statement is provided by me voluntarily having been contacted by the police in Northern Ireland through my local police force and after a number of attempts to speak directly to the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry. I made contact with the Sisters of Nazareth and want to give information to the Inquiry based on my time in the care of the Sisters of Nazareth.

Personal Background

3. I was born in [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] I was then removed from my Mother because I was [REDACTED] After sometime at the hospital I now understand that I was then transferred to [REDACTED] (or some other children's home near [REDACTED]) I believe, having talked with my mother, that because she would visit the home and see me, I was (within months of birth) transferred to St Joseph's Home Termonbacca, where I remained prior to its closure [REDACTED] During the process of closure I was fostered out. I think the inference was that whoever made the decisions did not want my mother having contact with me. Whether this was because I [REDACTED] or because I was [REDACTED], or both I think will never be known.
4. I recall a number of the boys and girls that were in Termonbacca: **SND 132** The **SND 241** Family **SND 241** **SND 211** **SND 210** [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] **HIA 69** & **HIA 352** **SND 139** **SND 150** & **SND 148** [REDACTED] **SND 23**

DL 153 and [redacted] SND 137 and SND 133  
 HIA 60 HIA 11 SND 24 HIA 98  
 SND 76 SND 113 DL 48 SND 154  
 and [redacted]

5. I recall a number of the people who worked in Termonbacca as well. I remember a Sr SR 3 [redacted] who was a carer and worked with the sisters and a [redacted] who also helped out with the children. They would have been with the younger children in the nursery area.
6. At about 5 years old you moved up to the older unit which was a large dormitory. I remember SR 2 [redacted] who was with the [redacted] group and SR 6 [redacted] who was with the [redacted] group. An older boy worked in the kitchen, HIA 144 [redacted] There were a number of carers. I recall SND 145 [redacted] (I think that was her name), SND 194 [redacted] SND 214 [redacted] and [redacted] (I can't remember her surname. SND 152 [redacted] and SND 23 [redacted] were [redacted] who helped out in the grounds.
7. I would describe the atmosphere in the home as mixed. I had other friends to play with, mainly SND 132 [redacted] SND 241 [redacted] and SND 23 [redacted] We would play Soldiers outside and in. We had a hobby room with toys and games, such as monopoly. A football pitch to play football and handball alley. We also had two dogs called Roger & Rover, and of all things I remember a donkey for a period of time. I also think that with the changes and comings and goings of some children and Sisters, this proved to be a greater challenge to the overall atmosphere. It was a constant feeling of change which could be unsettling..
8. The food consisted of a full breakfast or cereal in the morning. I could always ask for more. Sometimes If I didn't eat all of my greens I was made to sit at the table until I had. I have never seen anyone being force fed. Sometimes we would have to wait for the food to come up from the kitchen, which it did in a heated proof container so it was always hot. We also got a cooked lunch at the school and in the evening would get another cooked meal and dessert. We also got supper at night. The Sisters would eat in a separate area and time to the main home. Sometimes they would have sandwiches or biscuits for guests and if this wasn't eaten, then we could have it for late night supper. I wouldn't say the Sisters had different food, although their plates were a little more grand.
9. I would say our clothes were more than adequate and did not vary much from those I saw at school. As I was [redacted] my clothes were not really a matter of comment from other kids. I do not think the clothes actual varied much from the other kids so I don't think marked out the Termonbacca boys from those not in the home. Our

clothes were regularly laundered and were clean. I was never made to present my underwear for inspection and did not see any other child being required to do this either.

10. I recall Jeyes fluid or some other sort of disinfectant powder in the home. These were used as cleaning agents. I recall an incident when I was in the cleaning room and tried to clear out a bucket with some of this powder. The powder blew back into my face and, as I am sure you can imagine, it was very painful. I ran screaming for a carer and received attention. I cannot recall who it was helped me but I was helped.
11. I do not recall bathing in disinfectant of any sort. I remember a large bar of soap in the shower and bath areas. I recall these as they would have been used for other chores such as cleaning the skirting boards, the baths, the hallways and so on. The chores were done on a sort of rota and so you changed chores. It was part of the routine and the house was always kept clean.
12. I remember an incident when a family came in and they had to be washed and their clothes were all taken to be cleaned. They had lice and if they were not cleaned these would have spread very fast in the home environment.
13. I was never made to stand in a line naked for a bath or a shower. In fact, my memory is of wearing swimming pants when you went for a shower. I never saw any child standing in a line for a bath and definitely never naked.
14. I do recall an incident when **SND 23** came into my shower while I was in it. He asked me to take my swimming trunks down and I refused and told him to get out. He backed off and went away. I know that the **SND 23** were not allowed in the showers. I spoke to my friend **SND 132** about what happened that night and he said I should report it. I reported it to **SR 1** and she told me I had done the right thing reporting it to her. I do not know what, if anything was done but **SND 23** continued to help around the home and **SND 23**. I recall an incident, not long after the shower incident, where he was driving the tractor and **SND 132** and I were on the back of the tractor and he was driving. There was some comment including us calling **SND 23** names and both **SND 132** and I left the job. We were afraid we would be in trouble but nothing happened. I got the feeling **SND 23** was being monitored more closely but he continued to work around the home. I had no more issues with him.
15. Looking back this is an incident which I think should have been dealt with more seriously but it didn't really bother me too much at the time.
16. I never had an issue with bed wetting myself but it was an issue in the home. I recall children who had wet the bed having to strip their beds in the morning and bring the sheets to the laundry. I never saw a child humiliated or being made to stand with sheets on their heads or any other sort of treatment like that. The children who had wet the bed were made to wash and might have been a bit late down for breakfast. I



recall sitting beside a boy in school who smelt of urine but he was not one of the home boys. I know this is why the boys had to wash before they went to school if they wet the bed.

17. I know chastisement is the correct word but it sounds very harsh. If you had done something wrong you were told off or had some form of punishment. There was a threat of physical punishment but it was not something I received often. I do recall being sent to the kitchen to peel spuds as a punishment once. I can't remember what I did but I know I had done something wrong and just accepted that the peeling duty was a punishment and accepted it. I also remember getting 100 lines of "I should not speak back to **SR 2** I remember this clearly as I was clearly pressing down harder when I wrote **SR 2** and when she saw this she laughed and gave me a hug. I have no issues with that incident.
18. I would say corporal punishment was much more regular in both primary and secondary school. I was slapped and caned in both schools.
19. I recall an incident when **SR 2** slapped me across the face. I had been in the playground and had fallen onto a piece of glass which had embedded into my arm. I was bleeding heavily and was shocked and scared. I was screaming and wouldn't let anyone touch me or look at the wound. **SR 2** slapped me across the cheek with an open hand and this stunned me out of the hysteria. She was able to then calm me down. Because of this she was able to keep me calm and deal with the wound. This slap remains in my memory for a few reasons. It was totally out of character for **SR 2** to act like that but also it was a strange incident where the shock of the slap calmed me down.
20. I recall my clothes having my name on them for the laundry. I never remember having numbers on my clothes or ever being called by a number or any child talking about numbers being used instead of names. I remember **SR 171** (we called her **SR 171**) trying to implement a system where we each had plates and cups and that each piece had a number on them. It was probably for hygiene reasons but the children and carers did not like it and it was very difficult to implement and manage. It never really took off and was not a success.
21. There were regular outings and trips to keep us entertained. I have very fond memories of going to the US Army base to see movies on the big screen and going to a **[REDACTED]** During the summer holidays we had trips to Greencastle I remember days fishing and swimming at the beach at Sharroove..
23. St Vincent de Paul would have hired buses to take us on day trips usually to the beach. I remember singing songs on the buses and even singing in the minibus taking us to school. I remember going on trips to Buncrana and going Christmas shopping in

Strabane. I have a very clear memory of rolling down the hill next to the home inside a huge wheel. I remember this clearly as there was snow falling and the field was completely white. This would probably not be allowed now because of the health and safety aspect.

24. I recall receiving gifts at my birthday and also at Christmas. We all had our own lockers in our bedroom area and also in the main living room. There was an outside area with table tennis, pool table and more storage lockers. We had to tidy up every evening to keep the place tidy and to prevent the toys being broken. I do recall coming back from [REDACTED] house on one occasion and she had given me a bottle of orange cordial. She gave me treats all the time. I hid the orange and mixed up bottles and bottles of diluted orange for myself and hid them. They were found and were placed on the dinner tables and all the kids had some. I recall this lesson in sharing very well. I do also remember coming back from a Christmas placement outing and my presents had been kept for me. It was great to still receive these and very exciting to play with them and to see and play with the toys the other boys had received.
25. I remember birthday parties and all the children enjoyed them.
26. Life after leaving the home was a new adventure. My peers and older ones from the home generally left and moved to the flats in The Creggan where I kept in touch with them. Some of the boys would be sniffing glue or getting drunk and some had moved away. As the home was closing down, I was hastily put into foster care around the age of [REDACTED] years. It didn't work (not that they were bad, it just didn't work out). I ran away and ended up in Harberton House. Then I went to another foster family where I decided to [REDACTED]. I wanted to [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
So I tried the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Belfast which was too far from Derry. I ended up looking at [REDACTED], did my tests and was accepted [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] another journey ensued.
27. Around this time, [REDACTED] years of age, was when I received my Birth Certificate from a social worker at the home. For the first time I had reference to my Mother and a means to try and communicate with her. I had made contact with my blood relations and after some time, my Biological Mother who lived in [REDACTED]. We continued correspondence until I left and moved myself [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. It was when I came to [REDACTED] that I found my Biological Father who resides in [REDACTED]. I also, at this time, had my father added to my birth Certificate to read [REDACTED] **SND 136** **SND 136**, hence the name change. I now go by [REDACTED] **SND 136**. I met my partner, now wife [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and have a daughter [REDACTED] now [REDACTED] years of age. I live and work in [REDACTED].



28. I remember both **SR 2** and **SR 1** as loving, caring and compassionate people. More so **SR 2** than **SR 1** but both were very caring people who took on a mother role for me. When **SR 2** was moved on from Termonbacca I found this a very unsettling feeling. **SR 2** I recall as more authoritarian and not as loving a person. When I look back now at the period of change from the loving and caring feelings from **SR 2** and **SR 1** I may have been rebelling a bit and so maybe **SR 171** was being stricter with me as a result.
29. Almost as a rule, apart from the incident earlier, I would say the lay staffs were good caring people. I have no complaints about them other than the issue above.
30. There were incidents of bullying in the home as there were in school and outside. These actions were always away from the sight of the sisters as they would not have allowed any behaviour like that. I recall an incident when an older boy, I can't recall his name, made me stand against a wall and then shot at me from a slingshot. I was in my pyjamas at the time. I also recall being made to fight my best friend, **SND 132** for the amusement of **SR 2** and **SND 113**. I did not suffer a lot of bullying and it was not a standard thing. The bullies in the home actually looked out for you at school.
31. In some ways I was quite lucky. I got weekends away and some holiday time away with **SR 2** and stayed with her family. I even got to calling her parents Ma and Da. The sisters encouraged visits like this and fully supported it. I also recall staying with a family in **SR 2** and I believe this was the sisters trying to get us to experience life in a non-home family environment.
32. We were always encouraged to take part in activities outside the house as well. There were running clubs football, karate, Irish dancing and bands. I was in a band called **SR 2** and there were concerts at Nazareth House Bishop Street. There was also a local youth club we would have attended.
33. The sisters arranged extra tuition for me before the **SR 2** with **SND 388** of the Christian Brothers. They hoped I would get into **SR 2**. This didn't happen so I went to **SR 2**.
34. I also got to go to **SR 2** three years in a row to stay with a family there for part of the holidays. I remember **SR 2** cooking me a big breakfast before driving from Greencastle to Derry before my trip. I remember **SR 2** and their three children. It really was an adventure.
35. The home was not a bad place but was very regimented in many ways. We all had chores to do such as cleaning cupboards, dusting and even doing dishes. I do recall going to the farm to pick spuds. I recall someone saying we were to get paid for doing this but that didn't happen. **SND 132** and I acquired a big bag of spuds, split it into small

bags and sold them to the carers. One of the carers, I can't recall who, thought this showed great innovation.

36. I was able to get a copy of my birth certificate and after a couple of phone calls tracked down my mother. This was not a difficult task. Looking back I feel there was a major miscarriage of justice here. I was taken from my mother and, because she visited me, was then moved to Derry away from her. She has since told me she had wanted to return for me but this did not happen and she eventually moved to [REDACTED]. I think I heard something in the home about my mother moving to [REDACTED] so maybe they had some contact with her or someone was keeping them informed.
37. I feel as if the state simply abandoned me when they handed me over to the sisters. Someone took the decision to remove me from my mother and then to send me to Derry.. Out of sight, out of mind. The Sisters of Nazareth took me in and cared for me. Having read the material on the website for the Inquiry I would say that I believe there was a clear systemic failing where a child can be placed in a house many miles from his home clearly to inconvenience his family and to separate them and then duck their responsibilities. I do not have ill will towards the sisters who took me in, raised funds to provide my bed and board, education and even entertainment that many children outside the homes simply did not have.
38. I think there is a lot of "passing the buck" being done here. Children came into care for many reasons and the state should have been aware of who was in care and how they got there. Blaming the institutions for failings is not right in my view.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed .....

**SND 136**

Dated .....

*21 Jan 2014*

[REDACTED] register

Name: **SND 136**

Where Born: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Where Baptised: [REDACTED], Archdiocese of Armagh

Parents Names: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Married

Received By: [REDACTED]

Admitted : [REDACTED]

Left: [REDACTED]

Transferred: To St Joseph's Home, Termonbacca



SND 136

Case History.

D. O. B. [REDACTED]

Place of Birth - [REDACTED]

When Baptised - [REDACTED]

Date of Baptism [REDACTED]

Method - [REDACTED]

Formerly, [REDACTED]

Occupation - [REDACTED]

Recommended by - Rev. Mother

[REDACTED], Nazareth House,

Received [REDACTED]

SND 136

was transferred here from Nazareth House, [REDACTED], where he was placed by his mother, who agreed to leave the child in our care and have nothing more to do

Nov 13. **SND 136** went to Lurgan with [REDACTED].

Dec. The [REDACTED] held their presentation here. **SND 228**, among others - attended. **SND 136** was very pleased to be presented with a medal for -

19th **SND 136** has gone to [REDACTED] for a week with [REDACTED]. The remainder of the holidays will be spent with [REDACTED] mother.

I have read this book and have taken it upon my self to write some notes names and addresses ext on the [REDACTED]. I received this book with other information about me and photos.

**SND 136**

ST. JOSEPH'S, TERMONBACCA.

Name; **SND 136**  
Date of Birth; [REDACTED]  
Place of Birth; [REDACTED]  
Baptized; [REDACTED]  
Admitted; [REDACTED]  
Nearest Relative; Mother; [REDACTED]  
Recommended By; Mother Superior, Nazareth House, [REDACTED]  
Responsible Authority; Western Health and Social Services, Derry  
Social Worker; [REDACTED]

CASE HISTORY.

[REDACTED]  
**SND 136** was transferred from [REDACTED] where he had been placed by his mother, who agreed to leave the child in our care and have nothing more to do with him. She is a married woman, but [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] **SND 136** is a [REDACTED] child.

[REDACTED]  
**SND 136** aged [REDACTED] months, was taken out for his first holiday by [REDACTED], who had been visiting here for months before, and frequently helping in the Nursery with the babies.

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] continued to visit **SND 136** and take him out for week-ends. At two and half, **SND 136** was talking well and had lost his fear of strangers.

[REDACTED]  
**SND 136** was transferred from the Nursery to [REDACTED] Group, where he settled in immediately among his new friends. **SND 136** seems to be quite intelligent and behaves very well.

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] has been visiting **SND 136** on her days off, and is now taking him over to [REDACTED] to visit her sister who is working over there.



with him. She is a married woman

SND 136 is a [redacted] boy.

SND 136 aged [redacted]

[redacted] when he

was taken out  
for his first holiday.

Although he was  
inclined to be rather  
hostile to strangers,  
and especially to  
the Photographer  
when this snap  
was being taken.

He was very much at home with  
the lady who took him out. She is  
[redacted] She had been  
visiting him for a few months  
before hand. Frequently helped  
with the children in the Nursery.

## STATEMENT

Name:

**SND 136**

## STATES:

I declare that this statement consisting of 3 page/s, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

1. My full name is **SND 136** and I live at an address known to police. I am [REDACTED] years old. I am employed as a [REDACTED]

2. I was born in [REDACTED] in Northern Ireland on [REDACTED] I was placed into Termonbacca Children's Home in Londonderry when I was very young, about [REDACTED] old. I was at Termonbacca until I was about [REDACTED] years old.

3. I had what I would call a life experience during my time at Termonbacca. I wouldn't say my experience was bad. I had a good experience with the Nuns. They were almost all that I knew, although during my time I did have the opportunity to visit a family home in the country on a regular basis so I had something else to compare to.

**SR 3** looked after me while I was in the nursery, although I hardly remember her. **SR 2** was there for most of my upbringing, and then when I was about [REDACTED]

**SR 2** left and **SR 1** came. **SR 1** left when I was about [REDACTED] years and [REDACTED] came. The home started to wind up after that time and they started looking for foster homes for the children. I got fostered out when I was about [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

4. Other than the normal discipline things, I didn't witness any physical abuse, over and above a smack, at the home. It was acceptable at the time for children to receive the cane or the strap at school for discipline. I never saw this type of punishment being administered at Termonbacca though. I, myself, received the cane or strap at school but never at Termonbacca. I would sometimes hear children being threatened

**SND 136**

**HIA 60 STORY**

Posted by *survivorsni* on [REDACTED] Comments Off

**ABUSE HAS WRECKED LIVES – THE TRUTH MUST BE TOLD**

Recent [REDACTED] interviews with ex-home boys from former Termonbacca Children's Home have detailed varying experiences of Derry's "less fortunate children". This week former home boy **HIA 60** recounts some of the "horrors" he and others were subjected to as a child and remembers fondly the love he was shown by certain Sisters of Nazareth. He recounts how on leaving the home many of the boys got into trouble or developed addictions to alcohol or drugs.

Abuse both physical and sexual was rife in Termonbacca Children's home in the [REDACTED] according to former home boy **HIA 60** who spent more than [REDACTED] as a resident at the institution and became close friends with many home boys.

Now living in [REDACTED] **HIA 60** has decided to speak out about what he calls "the conspiracy of silence shrouding years of abuse" at the Derry home and claims the police and social services failed to intervene – even after receiving complaints. He also fingers the church for failing to stop what he describes as "brutality in the home" at the hands of older home boys.

"I think honestly the nuns didn't know the half of what went on, but they should have known – they were in the business of protecting children" said **HIA 60**. According to **HIA 60** many of the already difficult lives of the Derry home boys were thrown into turmoil and despair due to abuse at Termonbacca. **HIA 60** who also spent time in Fort James's Children home, was first admitted to Termonbacca at the age of [REDACTED] but was removed soon after by his [REDACTED]. He was readmitted at the age of [REDACTED] and recounts his arrival there as a "rude awakening".

"On being admitted to Termonbacca I was soon aware of the culture that ruled there" he said. According to the [REDACTED] year-old homeboy some of the older Termonbacca boys who had left the home, often returned under the auspices of supervising younger residents. He said that within 24 hours of his return to the home he was beaten up by the older boys. But it was to get worse.

"During the next year I learned of another reason why some of these older ex – residents would return. Several of them were involved in sexually abusing the younger residents," he claimed.

"I myself was attacked twice but proved to be too much of a handful for my would-be assailants." He claimed that a lot of the sexual abuse happened in the shower rooms of the home. "Over the years I have become increasingly aware of the extent of this abuse from the accounts of other ex Termonbacca boys," he added. **HIA 60** claims to have attempted to expose some of the violence which he alleges was commonplace at Termonbacca.

"Over the intervening years a conspiracy of silence among ex-home boys and social services has existed. I have spoken to social services personnel, one of whom told me that rumours of what had happened in Termonbacca had spread like wildfire through social services." Despite this, few homeboys came forward nor did anyone within social services seem too concerned, according to **HIA 60**.

"I know of two homeboys who did come forward and made allegations of abuse unfortunately they are both dead." **HIA 60** is now speaking out for his late friends who can no longer speak for themselves.

One of his friends, an anti-child abuse campaigner, committed suicide in [REDACTED] after speaking out about the sexual abuse he had suffered and prior to testifying against a priest who he claimed had abused him. "He told me he was going to speak out about six months before he died. But I didn't meet him to speak about it and I felt I let him down by not meeting him. Because of him I devoted much of my life to making the truth be known and made a vow to myself that I would never turn my back on another homeboy who wants to speak out.

"They have so far been ignored by the clergy and social services thereby compounding their abuse. They were young vulnerable children who needed care and protection instead they were subjected to abuse that was often worse than the reasons why they were admitted into care. Social services owed them a duty of care and were



supposedly acting in loco parentis – well they failed time after time, or perhaps they didn't care about the Termonbacca boys who were after all only boys whose own families did not even care about them anyway?"

Indeed HIA 60 told the [REDACTED] how, at just [REDACTED] years-old with nowhere to live, he was placed in [REDACTED] by social services. "Unfortunately for the Catholic Church and social services this is one homeboy who refuses to go away," he warned.

And the former homeboy believes the silence of the ex-residents only allowed the abuse to continue unchecked. He has appealed for those affected to stand up and be counted against the perpetrators who "wrecked so many lives."

"I challenge every one who know anything about this to do something and come forward and tell the truth.

Lessons can be learned and the suffering of the victims may be eased," he said.

HIA 60 made it very clear that he did not wish to blight the good name of the Sisters of Nazareth and admits that the love shown to him by some of the sisters was very welcome. One nun in particular shines in his memory. "I would like to state that [REDACTED] SR 1 [REDACTED] showed me only kindness, I will always be grateful to her for her care and encouragement."

However, he alleged that there were instances when certain sisters beat the children. "There is one boy who still has the scars on his back from being beaten by the flex of a kettle by one nun in particular nun," he said. He also recounted the ordeal of a [REDACTED] who was "persecuted terribly".

And he claimed that the clergy was at the root of the problem. The clergy have a lot to answer for. There were only two nuns and around 50 children – it was impossible – and they were just left to get on with it".

HIA 60 who is a [REDACTED] currently works as a [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and has pledged to continue to unravel the "conspiracy of silence" which he claims is hiding the truth about abuse in Termonbacca. He hasn't returned to Derry for five years because it is too upsetting to see former home boys who have fallen foul of drink or drugs or hear of those who have passed on through suicide. "This is not meant to be an attack on the sisters of Nazareth however the truth now has to be told," he concluded.

**By [REDACTED] Published in [REDACTED]**

with that type of punishment but I definitely never saw or experienced it actually being given out.

5. I remember another boy by the name of **HIA 69** I remember he had a sister called **HIA 352** I remember him as having a snotty nose. It was always running and the other kids used to tease him. I wouldn't say that we were best of friends. We were roughly the same age so we were in the same circle. I remember that he got in trouble for a few things but I can't remember what they were. I think it was just adjustment sort of things with him needing to get used to a different environment.

5. I remember **SND 23** **SND 23** was an ex-home boy who worked at the home. He took **SND 23** lessons and helped out with the **SND 23** and that sort of stuff. I took lessons with him but I couldn't say how old I was. I think that **SR 1** was there so I think maybe between the ages of **SND 23** years old. **SND 23** scared the living daylights out of me. I can't remember what age I was but I was having a shower. We used to have to shower in our bathers. There were two showers with only a curtain between. All of a sudden he pulled back the curtain and was standing there. He was whispering and indicating for me to pull down my swimming trunks. I remember that it scared the living daylights out of me. I didn't know what to do, but I turned around and told him 'No'. He tried to insist but I still said 'No'. I don't know if he heard something or what but he left.

6. In order to get to where I was, **SND 23** would have had to walk through three partitions, including the other shower. He had no reason to be in the shower at that time. Showers for boys that age were not supervised in any way. There would be a carer in the vicinity who might call out to us to hurry up or whatever, but no one had any reason to be in the actual showers.

7. I didn't know what to do. When I was going to bed I told **SND 132** and he told me I should report it. I went down stairs and I went to see a Sister, **SR 1** I think. I knocked on the door and when she told me to come in I went in and told her what had happened. **SR 1** told me that I had done the right thing by telling her and she sent me back to bed. I don't know what happened after that but he continued to work there.

8. The next I had direct contact with **SND 23** I was working at the farm and **SND 23** was on the tractor. I remember that **SND 132** was with me. Some words were said and I remember **SND 132** made a remark to him about being homosexual or something like that and I told him to fuck off. **SND 132** and I threw spuds him and then we left and went back

to the home. I expected that we would get into trouble but we didn't. I remember that myself and the other kids would give **SND 23** jibes about being homosexual, things like saying 'homo' or stuff like that. **SND 23** never me up for these jibes, so that makes me think that he had been spoken to, even though he continued to work at the home.

9. I remember **HIA 144** from being in the kitchen. He was a **[REDACTED]** man. He always seemed to me to be a normal polite person. I never had a problem with him. He worked in the kitchen so there wasn't a lot of reason for the kids to see him, only if they were sent to collect the food.

10. I remember **HIA 98** He was one of what I would call the older lads. He wasn't in my age bracket. He was a bit of a larrikin. I remember he got in trouble with the police, the RUC as they were in those days, but I don't know what for, nothing serious. I have a photo that was taken after we left he home, I would say from the photo that **HIA 98** was about **[REDACTED]** years older than me. We weren't best friends or anything because of the age gap but I never had a problem with him.



do however draw a distinction between the abuse I suffered in the Home and the periodic consensual sexual contacts I had with other residents while I was also a resident. I can also say that my feeling is that any sexual abuse was confined to isolated incidents rather than being endemic to the Home.

13. I am aware that a number of allegations of serious sexual abuse have been made against me and I will deal with each allegation in turn in the remainder of my statement. I deny all these allegations.

#### **Involvement at the Home from [REDACTED]**

14. I left the Home in [REDACTED]. From that time until [REDACTED] I had no formal role at the Home. I would have helped to run the Home's [REDACTED] and would have acted as [REDACTED] in the Home. This was not an official position and I did not receive any payment. I probably would have been up at the Home every other week to do some chore or fix something during that time. I also looked after the houseplants and painted nativity scenes on the windows at Christmas time. Many ex-residents found it difficult to break completely with the Home as it had been the only home that many of us had ever really known. As such I continued to want to spend time at the Home as this gave me a sense of security and continuity in my life. It was also the community of which I had been a part for my basically my whole life. As such, at that stage, I still wanted to be involved in the life of the Home. I believe that one of the Nuns, [REDACTED] SR 7 instigated some kind of policy to discourage ex-residents from continuing to be involved in the life of the Home because it was considered to be detrimental to their prospects of adapting to life outside the Home. This policy was implemented after I had left the Home.

15. In [REDACTED] I was appointed as an [REDACTED] and that was a short-term seasonal post with no remuneration.

16. I was away from Derry at [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] until I graduated in [REDACTED] with the qualification of a [REDACTED]. I then returned to Derry in the summer of [REDACTED] and started a job with [REDACTED] as a [REDACTED]. I commenced this employment shortly after graduating as one of the tutors secured this position for me. I was dismissed from same on or about [REDACTED] due to high absenteeism. I was finding it difficult to adapt to life outside the Home at that time and could not hold down this job.

17. I continued to be informally involved with life at the Home via the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the summer of [REDACTED] until [REDACTED] when I was the subject of false allegations made by [REDACTED] SND 35. One of the Nuns – [REDACTED] SR 1 – confronted me about these allegations in and around [REDACTED] and advised me to stay away from the Home. I denied these allegations at that time to [REDACTED] SR 1 but agreed that I should stay away from the Home. I did this because I did not want to be exposed to further false allegations. I did not return to the Home since that time and have not returned since.

18. I will now deal with the specific allegations that have been made against me as disclosed by the papers released by the Inquiry.

#### **Allegations of [REDACTED] HIA 69**

19. [REDACTED]

1 is SND136.

2 **A. That's correct.**

3 Q. The Inquiry has received a statement from him, which can  
4 be found at SND-15580, and at paragraph 14 of that  
5 statement he says that he was approached by you in the  
6 shower and told to take down his swimming trunks. He  
7 refused and you backed off.

8 He has also made a statement to the police, which  
9 can be found at SND-16679, which gives some more  
10 details. I am not going to go into it, but he describes  
11 that in paragraphs 5 to 8 of that statement, and I know  
12 you've seen that. I just want to ask you, SND23 --

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. -- what your response is to those allegations?

15 **A. It certainly didn't happen and I didn't even know that**  
16 **they wore toggs in the shower room. I would not have**  
17 **been in the shower room when any of the residents were**  
18 **showering. So ...**

19 Q. Another boy, DL48, described you as a bully, and you  
20 address that in your statement.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You say that this was a perception based solely on  
23 resentment that he had of those in authority.

24 **A. That's correct, aye. DL 48 was a very troubled person,**  
25 **who is [REDACTED]**

# Diocesan Child Welfare



3 FEB

Diocesan Pastoral Centre  
164 Bishop Street  
Derry

Telephone 2475

Dear **SND 469**

Re: **SND 132** B.  
**SND 136** B.  
**HIA 98** B.

The above named boys are at present in St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca. At present the home is receiving no maintenance for any of them. I would therefore request that your Board would take them into care under Section 103 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1968 and maintain them from 1/1/76.

The following is the only information available on them:-

NAME OF CHILD:

**SND 132**

DATE OF BIRTH:

DATE OF ADMISSION:

Came from Nazareth House,  
on

BORN:

MOTHER:

BAPTISED:

\*\*\*\*\*

NAME OF CHILD:

**SND 136**

DATE OF BIRTH:

DATE OF ADMISSION:

Came from Nazareth House, on

**SND 468**

/ Contd. . .

**SND 483**

BORN:

MOTHER:

BAPTISED:

Parish of

\*\*\*\*\*

NAME OF CHILD:

HIA 98

DATE OF BIRTH:

DATE OF ADMISSION:

Came from Nazareth House, on

BORN:

Jubilee Maternity Hospital, Belfast.

MOTHER:

(Married now in Belfast)

BAPTISED:

Holy Family Church, Belfast.

\*\*\*\*\*

Efforts have been made to trace their mothers but have been unsuccessful. In most cases nobody knew of the existence of these children and investigations were stopped when it was found that it may cause hardship or may even break up a family.

Yours sincerely,

SND 483

SND 483

Child Care Adviser

Mr. T. Haverty,  
Riverview Offices,  
Abercorn Road,  
Derry.



BN/PM

[REDACTED]  
SND 483Child Care Advisor,  
Diocesan Pastoral Centre,  
164 Bishop Street,LONDONDERRY.

Dear [REDACTED] SND 483

Re: [REDACTED] SND 132 d.o.b. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] SND 136 d.o.b. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] HIA 98 d.o.b. [REDACTED]c/o St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca.

I refer to your letter of 28th January, 1976 about the above named boys. They have been received into care under Section 103, Children & Young Persons Act (N.I.) 1968 with effect from [REDACTED] For the time being it is proposed that the boys remain in St. Joseph's Home while the possibility of foster care is considered.

Yours sincerely,

SND 468  
[REDACTED]

Senior Social Worker.

cc [REDACTED] St. Joseph's Home.

C/ [REDACTED] SND 154 [REDACTED]

he was ~~2000~~ months old.

Jan 4th **SND 136** returned home, and was delighted to get his parcel which Santa left for him. He also received lots of gifts from [redacted] and her family. The other children were glad to see him back as he is a great favourite among them.

23rd **SND 483** Child Care Advisor applied to the Derry Social Services Dept., for maintenance for **SND 136** as he was admitted under Voluntary leave.

Feb. 16. **SND 136** went to the Contest.

"24th [redacted] was held in St. Columba's Park Waterside, **SND 136** took part, and showed a great interest, it was also a good opportunity for **SND 136** to get to know boys of his own age.

March 15th Mother [redacted] received a letter to day from

Mr. **SND 468** Senior Social Worker to confirm that Michael had been received into care under Section 103, Children & Young Persons Act. (1968) from the [redacted] and for the time being it was proposed that he should remain in care home while the possibility of foster care is considered.

April 13 [redacted] took **SND 136** out for the Easter holidays.

24th **SND 136** returned home after an enjoyable holiday. As you can see from photographs **SND 136** is a [redacted] child. He has nice good dispositions and very good natured. He is at the age now [redacted]

[redacted] It does not hinder him in class or at play [redacted]

[redacted] gave the following report on Michael - he said that "Michael was a very likable child got on well with teachers and pupils."