

HIA REF:

Witness Name: **SND 482**

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 – 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF **SND 482**

1. I, **SND 482** of [REDACTED] will say as follows –
2. I was born on the [REDACTED] and I was taken to [REDACTED] Home immediately. From there I went to the Boys' Home in Termonbacca. I don't remember being in the nursery but I recall being in the junior dormitory. There were twenty four beds there and there was a little cubicle at the end of the dormitory where the nun in charge slept. The first nun I remember there was **SR 11** and there was also a **SR 12**. I was in that dormitory until I was seven or eight. The seniors and juniors were not in the same dormitory but there would have been a senior boy in a corner bed in our dormitory at night. I had no problems in the junior dormitory and I never saw anything happen that caused me any concern while I was there. We had good bedclothes, good clean pyjamas and the place was warm.
3. I transferred to the senior dormitory when I was about eight or nine. While I was there we were sometimes aware of a fear of the older boys. We were aware that some of them were bullies but **SR 11** always took care of that and I am sure that younger boys were not afraid to go to her if one of the older boys interfered with them in anyway.
4. I was aware that some boys did wet the bed sometimes and they would then gather up the wet clothes and get dry ones and dry pyjamas. I was not aware of any boy being humiliated by any of the nuns over bedwetting.
5. We were always well dressed and we got decent food. For breakfast we got porridge and maybe toast or bread and I recall too having cornflakes. We got a packed lunch which we brought to school with us. I started school in Nazareth walking there with the other boys and a [REDACTED] **SND 15** came with us. He was a real gentleman. Later we transferred to the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. I felt that the education standards dropped when we left the Sisters in Bishop Street and went to the [REDACTED].
6. After school we went back to Termonbacca and always got something small to eat and then we got our dinner around 6 o'clock or so. This was always a hot meal. We had play time before dinner and then we did our chores like washing the dishes and putting things away.
7. There were times when we helped out on the farm at the Home but this was by no means a daily chore. We did pick potatoes for example when they were being harvested. At weekends, particularly on Saturday, we had to clean the dormitories and make beds and polish the floors. Again this was not an all-day affair and we had plenty of free time to play at the weekends.

8. Our daily routine was to get up at about 6 o'clock and there was Mass at 7 and we then got our breakfast. At night the seniors went to bed at about 8 o'clock. In the summer however and at holiday times we could stay up until 9 or 10 pm.
9. We also had a band and choir at the school and choir practice and band practice was in the evenings and some children also did Irish dancing. The Sisters tried to keep us occupied with various activities. We competed at the feis in Derry and I remember that we played at the Derry City Carnival and also at the opening of the [REDACTED]
10. We had a bath at least once a week but we also had wash basins in which we could wash every day. At bath-time we were given a brown towel to wear in the bath itself for modesty reasons as there were a couple of people in the bath at the same time sometimes, especially when we were young. There was plenty of hot water and it was changed after a few people had been bathed. There was a small tin of Jeyes fluid holding about one gallon and a splash of it would be put in the bath at the beginning. We also had a big bar of soap to wash ourselves in the bath. When we got out of the bath we each had a dry towel to dry ourselves with and to wrap around us before we got dressed either in our pyjamas or if we were putting on other clothes.
11. It has been reported that the nuns called us by numbers but this is just not true. The fact was that we had a number given to each boy for his clothing and this was sewed onto the clothing so that when the clothes had been washed or cleaned the number of the clothes would be called out so that we could identify our own clothes. I was number [REDACTED] but no-one actually called us by a number.
12. Some of the senior boys would have been physically violent but I didn't see a lot of violence. It certainly was not a constant thing. I personally never witnessed any sexual misconduct. I think that [REDACTED] SR 11 [REDACTED] would not have stood for any physical or sexual misconduct.
13. The Sisters did give us pocket money and we could spend it in the tuck shop. I think that this was to teach us how to handle money.
14. I left the Home in [REDACTED] as the Sisters got me fixed up with a [REDACTED]. It was sad leaving Termonbacca as it really was my home.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

SND 482

Dated 10TH February 2014

The Catholic Child Welfare Council

(Incorporating all the Catholic Child Rescue Societies of England and Wales)

EMIGRATION COMMITTEE

Secretary :

The Very Rev. Wm. Canon Flint

COLESHILL,

Telephone Coleshill 3187
grams

BIRMINGHAM.

Office Hours : 9 to 5

Saturdays : 9 to 1

Rev. Mother Superior,
St. Joseph's,
Termonbacca,
LONDONDERRY.

Dear Reverend Mother,

I herewith return birth and
baptismal certificate of **SND 203**
SND 203 who was rejected for emigration
some time ago.

re **SND 482** born **SND 224**

I shall be pleased to hear
whether these two boys are still
available for emigration, also if you
have any other children under twelve years
of age to put forward, as we have several
nominations in hand at present.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary.

SND-17834