

HIA REF:

Witness Name: [REDACTED] SR 2

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] SR 2

1. I am preparing the statement on the request of the Inquiry and in response to a number of allegations which have been made against me.

2. [REDACTED]

3. I was professed in [REDACTED] and I took the name of [REDACTED] SR 2 /hen I was first professed I went to [REDACTED] where I worked with a group of boys and then I spent some time in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

4. I came to Termonbacca in [REDACTED] as an assistant house parent. I stayed there until [REDACTED] when I was sent to [REDACTED] Here I worked with a group of young boys who had particular needs. I came back to Northern Ireland and spent time in both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] In [REDACTED] I came there to work with mainly teenage boys and girls, some of whom were sexually abused and had been addicted to drugs and or solvent abuse. With my past training I was in a better position to deal with these young people to help them open up and tell their story.

5. As a result I was approached by a senior Social Worker to open a unit for sexually abused children and young people. I did not think this was a good idea as I felt that this would stigmatise the children and young people further. They needed individual help in a specialised unit. Looking back now my experience at this time could have helped me in my earlier work in Termonbacca to diagnose and help those young boys to express themselves and open up and tell their story which could prevented much damage that they now expressing.

6. I then went to [REDACTED] where I undertook a certificate in Social Work and then returned to Derry where I worked in Bishop Street from [REDACTED] During my time in Bishop Street, I was approached the Department to provide funding for social work qualifications and also it was at this period too that Social services upgraded funding for the children's income support for their needs and also proper wages for our staff.

7. It was here that I continued to do further courses including receiving a certificate in counselling from the [REDACTED] and other training. This helped me further gain an insight into the needs of children. When our children's Home in Derry Bishop Street closed the Superior General asked me would I go [REDACTED] I spent [REDACTED] years in [REDACTED] in a Nazareth House, [REDACTED] It was in [REDACTED] that I opened a home for caring for [REDACTED] which was a very painful and stressful period in my life.
8. I recall Termonbacca very fondly. I do think of my time there a lot and I would say that it was an emotional time for me. When I first arrived in Termonbacca I had only recently taken my final vows and the day after I had taken those vows I was told that my father was in fact dying [REDACTED] This was just before I came to Termonbacca and therefore my arrival was one which was shrouded in competing emotions. I recall arriving one evening at around 7.00pm or 7.30pm and recall a corridor which was leading through the house. I remember going into the junior dormitory where the junior boys were all in their beds. I do recall being met by [REDACTED] SND 24 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] SND 65 [REDACTED] they gave me a bunch of flowers which were a bit dishevelled but the gift itself was very emotional for me.
9. I then went down to visit the older boys who were in their living room area which was a large spacious hall with a large table and only a few benches around the television area.
10. My first impression of them was happy open faces and very welcoming. I do remember the boys being quite big and some of them would have been aged up to seventeen years or so.
11. I know some of the boys would have left earlier than that, but when the boys finished school at that time there were no jobs so some of them would have stayed on in the house until they could find accommodation or a job. Some of them would have helped out around the farm or the house and would have remained on maybe for a bit longer.
12. I do recall sometimes that parents simply could not afford to keep the children at home and would have left them in the home until they were older. I recall one incident when a mother came to collect her son but when she found out that he was still in school she decided to leave him with us. The times were not good and people simply could not afford to feed everyone in their family. If a boy was old enough to work and could contribute to the family then the parents may well have brought them back into their home to try to boost the family. I do not say this in any negative way and I fully understand the difficulties faced by these parents.
13. I will try to deal with the various statements which have been provided to me by the Inquiry. I have looked at the various statements and there are certain themes which are repeated in some of the statements and I will deal with these as best I can. If I have made a point I will not necessarily repeat it on every occasion.

HIA 67

14. I remember [REDACTED] HIA 67 [REDACTED] remember him as a pleasant young boy. My memory is that he was around [REDACTED] when I met him. I cannot be absolutely accurate but it is my memory that he was in his [REDACTED] I would not have described him as an aggressive boy. I would in fact remember him more as a studious boy who worked hard at his school work, maybe in fact more than some of the other boys around him.
15. I was devastated to read about the physical and sexual abuse in [REDACTED] HIA 67 [REDACTED] statement. I found this very difficult to read and to appreciate [REDACTED] HIA 67 [REDACTED] is right in that I did have a small room at the end of the [REDACTED] dormitory. It was a small room created by partition walls and was not a solid room as such. The walls were very thin and I would have been able to hear boys moving around in the dormitory if they were up or if a boy was sick during the night.
16. I can confirm that I was never aware of boys climbing in or out of the windows in the [REDACTED] dormitory. With regard the allegation that during the day younger boys were taken out of the junior dormitory window by older boys and abused: the junior dormitory windows were fixed so that they had limited opening, preventing a child's head going through them ; children did not have access to dormitories during the day and the senior dormitory door was normally locked.
17. [REDACTED]
18. [REDACTED]
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19. The young boys in the home would not have got up at 6am to go and work on the farm. They would not have got out of bed at 6am as suggested by [REDACTED] HIA 67 [REDACTED] The older boys/men who lived in the cottage and who were working on the farm may have got up at 6am and began work.
20. To my memory the boys would have risen at the normal time and would have had their breakfast and then they would have gone up to the farm. I do recall a few occasions when I went to the farm to supervise the boys but I would not say I was

particularly good at this. From time to time the odd potatoe would be thrown which I felt was not a big issue. The boys would only have helped out on our farm and would not have been sent to other farms nearby. To some extent part of the purpose of sending the boys up was to help out the farm and to assist the Sisters but also partly to give the boys something productive to do during the holiday breaks when there would have been less for them to do during the day.

21. The boys would only have been working on the farm during their breaks from school and would not have been taken out of school to do this work.
22. I do not remember any incident where HIA 67 was complaining of problems of the sort described. I do not remember or recall any incident where he had to go to hospital for any difficulty regarding the sticker gun or any sort of physical or sexual abuse.
23. I do recall two boys called SND 153 who I clearly remember and the other as [redacted] only have a vivid memory of him. I will deal with one of the SND 153 statements later on. I do remember HIA 98 and SND 16 and I was aware that SND 16 had [redacted]
24. I never witnessed any boys kicking any of the other boys as described by HIA 67. I have no doubt at all that the boys fought but do not have any particular recollection of that. I do not think that it is because I have blocked it out. I think it was probably a fairly common occurrence for teenage boys to get into fights and it simply does not register with me as a major issue. I do not recall any issue such as that described by HIA 67 [redacted]
25. The only time I would not have been around would have been if I was helping out in the laundry or perhaps at times when I was saying prayers. I do agree that we did not have the staff that we would have wanted. We simply could not afford to pay staff and relied heavily on people from the local area helping out or volunteering if they could.
26. I did not see anything like the matters described by HIA 67. I have to accept that it is possible that events such as the bullying described, whether it be physical or sexual abuse, could have happened. I was not informed or advised of anything like this. We were not trained or given any instruction on things to look out for which would have indicated that anything was happening and I did not see or hear anything from any of the boys which would have given me concern.
27. I can neither deny nor confirm that there was a SR 4 who may have worked in the nursery. When I worked with the boys SR 3 worked in the nursery with the babies. SR 3 worked with the boys, she was eventually changed but during my time she worked. She did not work in the kitchen. She may have helped out on occasions but this was not her normal place and she would not have been involved in the kitchen work to my memory.

28. I remember [redacted] HIA 44 very well. He worked in the kitchen along with Sister [redacted] SR 8. Both [redacted] SR 8 and [redacted] HIA 44 worked extremely hard in the kitchen as they had to ensure that the meals were prepared for all of the children and the Sisters. There was a boy called [redacted] who may have worked in the kitchen with [redacted] HIA 44 around the same time. I do not recall anyone else being required to help out in the kitchen.
29. The kitchen was out of bounds to the boys for their own safety. I recall two older boys would have gone to the serving hatch to carry up the meals etc and return the dirty dishes. We continued to use the large tea urn until we moved to the temporary buildings.
30. I cannot really comment about what went on in the schools. I find it very disturbing that the boys would feel that they were not taught properly at the school. My memory would be of [redacted] HIA 67 being a good student. I recall him working hard and always did his homework and would have seemed to be working harder sometimes than the other boys.
31. The boys would have obtained the best uniforms that we could provide for them. The uniforms would have been similar to those that the other children from the local areas would have been wearing. I recall Desmond's factory supplying us with clothes and also occasions when Desmond's factory would have sent us pieces of fabric. This would mean that we were able to make clothing for the younger children and mend some of the clothing that we had that would need repair. We were always very grateful for the generosity of Desmond's factory.
32. In regard to the suggestion that perhaps that the food the Sisters had was better than the boys, I have to deny this. I note that [redacted] HIA 67 says that the meat we received made his mouth water. The food was cooked at the same time in the kitchen. I am sure the food was basic by modern terms but it was always nutritious and it was always the best that we could afford. The Sisters would have eaten the same food as the boys. Separate meals were not cooked for the Sisters and we did not get meals other than the same meals that the children had.
33. I have no recollection or any information regarding a priest(s) giving the boys sixpence or any sum of money for doing the Mass service. I also have absolutely no information or knowledge of money being taken from the boys. I think that that is unlikely to have been the case. However, that is only a comment based on my belief as I would have no information or knowledge of that.
34. I can confirm that the clothing we provided was the best that we could. We had little money available to us but that was no different to the rest of society at the time. The boys would have worn 'hand me downs' as we simply could not afford to replace clothing or to throw clothing out simply because someone had grown out of it. If clothes could be repaired and mended and given to a younger or smaller boy then that was what was done. I know that things started to improve with the provision and quality of the clothing in the middle of the [redacted] but again this comment is made on my own experience. My one ambition was to make the children as respectable as possible going out to school

35. I note that HIA 67 refers to a large black belt as part of the Sisters' habit. To my recollection the belt described by HIA 67 was about an inch & half in width fastened round your waist off which a large rosary beads hung. The end of the belt hung down at your side. The belt would only have been worn in the mornings when we were at Mass or on other occasions when we would have been saying prayers. During the day we did not wear a scapular or belt instead we wore an apron as it would have been restrictive. We would not have worn it during the day when we were working with the children or if we were working in the kitchen or laundry. At no time did I ever hit any child with my belt. I can also confirm that I did not at any time see anyone strike a child with their belt.
36. I do recall that the boys would have had their belongings, noted with numbers stitched inside them. These numbers were simply to identify each child's clothing after laundry. The boys would not have been called by their number. The boys' names would have been remembered and they were called by their first names. I am sure, and I recall, the numbers were called out when clothing was returned from the laundry. The child would then come and collect their belongings. This was not a substitution for their name. I can only assume that it is the use of the numbering for laundry what is being remembered here.
37. HIA 67 has alleged that the main corridor was polished by the boys on their hands and knees. To my memory the corridor was washed with a mop as the boys would often be in and out from playing on the playing field often leaving trails of mud behind. I remember on a number of occasions mopping the corridor myself and some of the older boys would help me. This could also have happened on days when it was wet outside and the corridor may have been wet and slippery when the boys could have been asked to dry the floor off. This would have prevented accidents from occurring. I have no recollection of anyone being asked to work in the corridor on their hands and knees with any form of red polish.
38. HIA 67 refers to a man by the name of SND 181 the name SND 181 is one which I recall as he worked but not during my time in Termonbacca.
39. I remember the father of the coming in to teach the band. The boys would have had training in the instruments as part of their musical tuition. It is true that the boys would have been involved in a show when the Bishop had come to visit particularly at Christmas. The boys would have received gifts at Christmas thanks to the charity of the local people in Derry and also in particular from the St. Vincent De Paul Society.
40. Yes it is true that a number of the boys who left Termonbacca went into the . Some also went over to England and I do recall that at least one . There is suggestion here is that the boys were placed in by the Sisters. I strongly disagree with this statement it was the boys own personal choice to the and we supported them in their decision. I am happy to say that some boys would have returned to visit us on several occasions and appeared to be happy. This would have been a decision the boys would probably have taken as it

involved a career with prospects, employment and an income. Life was difficult at that time and there were little other prospects for them. I certainly was not involved at any time in recommending a boy [REDACTED] or doing anything to place a boy in [REDACTED].

41. I do recall that I did speak to HIA 67 around a year ago. That is correct. During a conversation with [REDACTED] HIA 66 informed him of [REDACTED] HIA 67 [REDACTED] HIA 66 [REDACTED] gave me [REDACTED] HIA 67 phone number and address and I did contact him because of the [REDACTED]. It was something which I felt very sad about and wanted to sympathise with him.
42. HIA 67 did speak to me briefly about the abuse that he says occurred. HIA 67 did tell me that he had been approached by [REDACTED] HIA 151. HIA 67 told me as he said in his words 'I shouldn't be talking about this but' [REDACTED] HIA 151 indicated to him that if he came forward with his story, the least he may get would be £10,000. HIA 151 had been in contact with a number of the former residents encouraging them to come forward and tell their stories.

HIA 102

43. I recall [REDACTED] HIA 102 did not beat [REDACTED] HIA 102 nor do I recall [REDACTED] SR 1 [REDACTED] eating [REDACTED] HIA 102. I have to say that I do not recall [REDACTED] HIA 102 is a particularly troublesome child and would have known him as a reasonably pleasant child.
44. I know nothing about his family and did not and, in fact could not, have said anything negative about his mother as he suggests or at all. I simply did not say anything of that nature to him.
45. I have no recollection of [REDACTED] HIA 102 having worked in a hotel in [REDACTED]. I know a number of the boys did work in the [REDACTED] but I do not know if [REDACTED] HIA 102 was one of them. I am not aware of any incident where [REDACTED] HIA 102 came back from the hotel making allegations of physical and sexual abuse or that he had quit his job in any way. I did not at any time tell him that he was 'an ungrateful brat', nor did I refuse to listen to him about the abuse. He did not report any abuse to me and I therefore did not report it to anyone else.
46. I do recall an incident when I had to take him to Altnagavern hospital where as a young boy he had been out playing and got over a barbed wire fence and got his [REDACTED] caught on the wire. [REDACTED] HIA 102 [REDACTED] release him by cutting the wire. I took him to the hospital but I cannot recall the outcome.



HIA 11

47. I remember HIA 11 very well. I do recall an incident where he and some of his [REDACTED] (his words not mine) sent me £500 or so when I was in the Nazareth House in [REDACTED]. He sent that to assist me with the work that I was doing. I recall him very fondly. Again, I do not understand why HIA 11 is making these allegations against me. He previously rang and spoke to me about allegations. He told me that he recalled me beating him with a flex of a kettle. I deny this absolutely. I did not beat HIA 11 and I did not hit him with the flex of a kettle. In fact my memory is that at the time when HIA 11 was in Termonbacca, we got our hot water from a large urn which was located in the children's kitchen and we did not in fact have an electric kettle. We did not have electric kettles until we moved to the temporary area where our new home in Termonbacca was been built.
48. I recall HIA 11 fondly and do not know why this allegation has been made. As I have previously said, I have no knowledge or information about the allegations of abuse between the boys. I do not know how this happened but again, I would say that it is possible that it could in fact have happened. We were understaffed and could not physically watch all of the boys for twenty-four hours a day. None of these allegations had surfaced until the very recent times and in particular in regard to the allegations made to this Inquiry.
49. I note that HIA 11 refers to SND 9. I do recall SND 9 and recall that he visited the Home on a number of occasions. I do not recall him ever coming as a Chaplain or to say Mass. I did not see or witness anything about his attendances or behaviour which I would say was inappropriate. No-one has ever raised any concerns with me about his behaviour and no-one ever suggested to me that anything had happened which was inappropriate.
50. I recall SND 10 as a very pleasant young man and qualified in Belfast as a [REDACTED]. I recall that he [REDACTED] and this was very sad. [REDACTED] I would recall him as being a well behaved child when he was at Termonbacca.
51. I also recall SND 11 as a very genuine, pleasant hard working student. He [REDACTED]. He came back to Northern Ireland and went to [REDACTED] to try to find his mother. He did find his mother and I was extremely happy for him. He would have come and kept me informed of what was going on in his life. It was during one of the visits [REDACTED] that he was [REDACTED]. Again I do not recall him as being a troublesome or difficult child.
52. I remember SND 6 as he had already left Termonbacca and later got married and started a family. [REDACTED] I think that he may have been [REDACTED] but I cannot say that I was fully informed of anything he did. He did keep in touch with us. I think that he is still alive and that he is living in [REDACTED] but I cannot be certain.



53. The boys would have been asked to do chores around the house. The chores would have been the sort of chores that children in houses would have been asked to do, dusting, cleaning, mopping etc. They would not have been given any particularly difficult chore and they were definitely not beaten in the way described or at all in regard to these chores.
54. I never recall children being bathed in Jeyes fluid. I do recall Jeyes fluid being used around the home and in particular it being used in the bathroom for cleaning around the toilets. I did not at any time put Jeyes fluid in a bath and I do not in fact recall any incident when Jeyes fluid was put in a bath.
55. HIA 11 went to Derry City Council to petition to get me the Freedom of the City. He sent me a plaque of that nature which I still have. I am surprised at the allegations that HIA 11 is making as we seemed to have had a very good relationship. He kept in contact with me and it was not until very recently that these allegations have arisen.

HIA 13

56. I recall HIA 13. He was a lovely child. He [redacted]. I remember him coming with the [redacted] at Bishop Street when I was there. Local [redacted] would have attended to see the children and this was a treat for the children particularly at Christmas. HIA 13 would always have been there. I have a limited recollection of him at the Home though. I repeat that the boys would have been called by their Christian names and not by numbers. Numbers were used, but this was more as a labelling for clothing and not as a way of naming or monitoring the boys. I deny that I would ever have beaten him with a cane or a stick. I do not believe that I have ever struck a child with a cane or a stick. It is possible, although I cannot remember, there may have been incidents where a child may have been slapped or their hand or bottom and, it may be possible that a ruler would have been used for that. I cannot specifically remember anything like that but I have to accept that it could have happened.
57. I recall HIA 13 coming to see me after Mass in Derry just before I moved to [redacted]. The Sisters had a Mass for the closure of the children Home and HIA 13 came to that Mass. He came to speak to me after the Mass but there was so many people about that I did not have time to sit down and talk to him. He had said that he had a lot of things that he wanted to talk to me about. I regret to this day that I did not have the time to sit and talk with him and I have not seen him since.

HIA 68

58. I do not recall HIA 68 having us to go to [REDACTED]. I don't recall him too well as he was one of the older boys. I cannot comment on any of the allegations he has made as I only have very vague recollection of him as he was not in the children's group where I was working.

HIA 130

59. I recall HIA 130 as a pleasant and harmless child. I recall that after he left Nazareth House he went to [REDACTED] to try to find his mother and he did in fact find her and I was delighted. He kept in touch with me after he had left Termonbacca. He would have kept in touch after he had left us.
60. I have absolutely no recollection of any incident involving custard or that HIA 130 was in fact allergic to custard or any other food. The food we had was limited in choice and the children would have been encouraged at all times to eat what was put in front of them. We would not have wanted the children to be hungry and the food was as nutritious and balanced as we could provide. I have never forced fed a child and I do not recall any incident when a child was sick on me either in the dining room or anywhere else. I do not understand where this allegation comes from.
61. When I look back I have to agree with HIA 130 We did not have the staff that we needed to look after so many children. It would have been better to have a significantly larger number of staff although we simply could not have afforded them. I think that the lack of staff was unfair to the Sisters who had to look after the boys. This often meant long hours where the Sisters had to get up early to sort the boys out with their breakfast and so on in the morning, getting them off to school and then ensuring that the house itself was kept clean and tidy, clothes were laundered and repaired.
62. We would often be working into the night. I recall on occasions waking up in bed with sewing or darning in front of me, where I had simply fallen asleep in my bed whilst trying to do some of the repairs. I also think that it was unfair on the children who could not be shown the level of care, love and affection that they needed, bearing in mind where they came from. The need to maintain a proper and efficient system probably meant that the children did not have the freedom that we would have liked to have given to them.
63. I note that HIA 130 alleges that I struck him but I can confirm that I never struck a child across the face. I cannot recall striking HIA 130 with any implement at all.
64. I do recall HIA 194 HIA 194 would have been a girl who volunteered from the local school and she would have come up to help with homework and sometimes on Saturdays to take the boys out into town to go shopping. We would have referred to this as 'shopping' but in reality the boys would have had very little money and would not have been doing a lot of shopping. I recall that HIA 194 also came over to

assist me when I was in [REDACTED] and she was a very helpful and caring young lady.

65. I note the allegation concerning the checking of the boys' underwear and that is simply not something I recall at all. This was not our practice.

HIA 66

66. I do recall [REDACTED] HIA 66 is a lovely pleasant young man. I recall him as being one of the older boys. He was one of the boys who went to work in the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. He and his wife [REDACTED] still keep in touch me. His wife [REDACTED] sent me a Christmas card every year. Last year I received a phone call from [REDACTED] asking me what was the meaning of all the allegations and I responded saying 'so far I have only seen the allegations in the paper'.

67. I can confirm that when the boys had their baths I or [REDACTED] SR 1 would have been in the bathroom area to supervise these bath times. However, the baths themselves had curtains around them to allow the boys some privacy. I would not have been standing over the boys in the bath.

68. I recall instances when boys would have had to wash in cold water in the morning. If there was no hot water available we simply had to make do with what we had. If a boy had wet his bed the previous night it would have been important for them to wash to ensure they were clean before they went to school.

69. The Sisters themselves also had to wash in the morning and would have washed in the same water that was available to the boys. If there was warm water then that would be pleasant but if there was only cold water, then that was the water which was available to everyone in the house, whether they are a resident or a Sister.

70. I can recall going to visit [REDACTED] HIA 66 in [REDACTED]. I remember seeing him the night before his wedding. I was not a guest at the wedding as it was rare in those days for a Sister to be released from the house. I also visited both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] HIA 66 at their home in [REDACTED] on two or three occasions.

HIA 22

71. I can recall the groups in the house dividing and I think [REDACTED] HIA 22 was in Sister [REDACTED] SR 1 group. I do not recall him as a troublesome child. I do not have any strong memory about him so I have to assume that he was in [REDACTED] SR 1 group and not my own.

72. I do not believe that I would have beaten [REDACTED] HIA 22 at all. I definitely would not have beaten any child if they had fainted whether that was in Mass or anywhere else. If a child had fainted clearly there would have been something wrong with them. That would have been more of a concern to me as that they needed to be treated for whatever was causing

them to faint. Again I would deny that I hit HIA 22 or any child with the flex of a kettle or any length of wire which could in anyway be described as the flex of the kettle.

HIA 98

73. I recall HIA 98 as being one of the boys in my group. I would describe him as a shy lovable little child you could only love. He kept in touch with me and continues to keep in touch. He has visited me on occasions with [REDACTED] I do not know why he says he saw me beat HIA 94. I cannot understand why he would say that because it did not happen.

HIA 94

74. I am extremely surprised about the allegation brought by HIA 94 although it is not new to hear it. It is one which he has said before and which he has brought to my attention before. For some reason he thinks that he was my pet but that I also beat him made it even more hurtful.

75. I recall HIA 94 coming to visit me when I was in hospital. We had a long conversation. He seemed very caring and it was nice of him to visit. He told me that he had bought a [REDACTED] and he was employed by [REDACTED]. He was telling me about how difficult it was to keep a business going.

76. I never beat him with sticks or any other implement as he describes. It is possible, and I would have to accept, that children could have been smacked but it would never have been with sticks or straps. I am sure that in schools children could have been slapped with rulers or even a strap. I did not at any time ever have any form of strap to use as implement to slap a child. I have no recollection of having hit a child with a stick or any other implement such as described.

77. I am completely amazed that he felt that I blamed him for everything. To be honest my memory of HIA 94 is that he would never have been blamed. I think that he could have twisted me around his finger and could have gotten away with murder. I remember him being in St. Patrick's. At that time he was under the care of the Brothers. He would have run away on a number of occasions and always reappeared up to me. I remember one occasion in particular when he arrived and his feet were absolutely soaking. I remember giving him a pair of shoes to put on his feet while I got his socks and shoes got dried. They may not even have been a matching pair but it was something warm and dry to put on his feet. When I telephoned the Brothers and told them where he was, he said that he would rather have his feet wet than have the Brothers told where he was.

78. HIA 94 has come to see me to say that I had hit him with the flex of the kettle. This was at a time when a number of allegations had started to come out but they were still very rare. I told him that it would not be proper for me to speak with him but that he should bring his complaint through the proper channels, through someone who could advise him such as Social Services

79. I had a request from [REDACTED] prison if somebody could help to get him out of the prison as it was a not suitable place for him. A young couple whose name I am unable to recall offered to give [REDACTED] HIA 94 home. I felt that [REDACTED] HIA 94 was too much for a young family to take on. I approached St Vincent De Paul who purchased a mobile home with the results [REDACTED] HIA 94 had his own space and the family had their own privacy.

[REDACTED] HIA 125

80. I vaguely remember [REDACTED] HIA 125 I think he was an older boy at the time I was there. I do not have any strong memories about him. I believe that he may have obtained a job at a [REDACTED].

81. I deny that I systematically beat the boy's everyday as described by [REDACTED] HIA 125 [REDACTED] HIA 125 as not in my group and as our groups were completely separate I would not have had any responsible over [REDACTED] HIA 125

82. The boys were not made to stand in line naked in the bathroom waiting for their bath. However I cannot say what occurred because I was not in that group. I did supervise bath times and in our group the boys would have come in one by one to have their baths

83. As stated previously, I have no recollection of any incident where I would have checked the boys' underwear.

[REDACTED] HIA 196

84. I do not remember [REDACTED] HIA 196 at all. I have no recollection of [REDACTED] HIA 196 or anyone of this name and I cannot recall [REDACTED] HIA 196 coming to see me to obtain details from me. This is quite possible as former residents would have come to visit and if I was the person whom they spoke to I would have assisted them.

### General Comments

85. I am aware of a number of complaints which have been made about the houses.

86. I have already said that the food which was cooked and served to the boys was the same food which was cooked and served to the Sisters. The same would have applied at Termonbacca as it was in Bishop Street. The house in Termonbacca was very lucky to have a farm where fresh vegetables could be grown to add to the food which the children were given. The food was limited in its scope. This was more a reflection of the times and finances available to the Sisters than any kind of comment on the preparation of the food itself. I would say that the food was always of a nutritious and balanced nature. I would not have thought that the boys were hungry and they were always given the meals during the day.

87. I do recall that Jeyes fluid was used around the house mainly for cleaning the toilet area. I do not recall Jeyes fluid ever being used in a bath and I did not do so myself.

88. There were a number of incidents which I think are important to bring to the attention of the Inquiry. At this time in Derry there was a lot of trouble and it was something which caused the people in the area great distress and also upset the Sisters. We were determined to try to keep the 'troubles' as far from the boys as we could manage.

89. I recall speaking to representatives of the local IRA leader at the time and discussing with them my desire to keep the boys away from the IRA. I had contacted the local commander and asked if he would come to see me and he sent these people down. After my discussions with them I believe that the number of boys involved from Termonbacca were very limited. I can recall only one boy who may have been involved and I am delighted if anything I said or did may have contributed to a reduction in their activity within paramilitary organisations.

90. I also recall an incident where the local St. Vincent De Paul Society wanted to create a hostel for some of the older boys for when they left Termonbacca. I spoke to a representative from [SND 228] office as I was strongly opposed to that. My view was that if we could arrange accommodation for the boys it should be some form of independent living arrangement to try and remove them from the institutional nature of the care environment. It was important for them to learn how to make friends and how to develop normal social friendship groups outside of the institutional environment. Unfortunately, with the facilities that were available, [SND 228] was only able to assist in providing the hostel facility that had been proposed. With the help of local priests they helped us get in touch with local families to give a boy a home for year or so until his eighteenth birthday. It also gave the young boy an experience of family life.

91. I recall the change in attitude towards the children in care and the way in which the understanding of abuse changed. The best example I can recall is that during my time in Bishop Street. We had a very hardworking employee called [SND 38] [SND 38] showed great promise and I managed to get extra funding for training for [SND 38] through Social Services to get him his social work qualifications and also to get him a pay rise within the operation. I recall the first allegation which came to light. This did not seem to go very far but shortly after the first allegation another allegation was received. The more I looked at the nature of the allegations the more I realised that the opportunity for the allegations to have occurred as described was there. [SND 38] would have known the children in care and would have had the opportunity to do the things which were alleged against him.

92. It is in light of this incident that I look back and think that our own arrangements did allow for the opportunity for some of the type of abuse alleged to have occurred. In particular peer bullying would have been fairly easily managed among groups as we simply could not maintain oversight of the children. I think that the development into smaller units where there were higher numbers of staff and better funding was a great advancement to the provision of care for children although in reality it is my believe that no child should ever end up in care. The environment in which a child is brought up is very important and the lack of a close intimate family is always going to be damaging to a child.

93. I would be happy to try to recall any further material which comes to my mind and will keep in touch with the Inquiry through the Sisters' legal representative.

Statement of Truth

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

SR 2

Signed

Dated 3 December 2013



HIA REF:

Witness Name:

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 – 1995

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WITNESS STATEMENT OF SR 2

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I, SR 2 will say as follows –

1. This is a further statement provided by me to the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry, to assist the Inquiry in regards to recent allegations made.
2. HIA 411  
I spent many years in Termonbacca, from [REDACTED] and I only have vague memory of HIA 411 who was there for approximately [REDACTED]
3. HIA 411 has spoken of the extensive chore of waxing the corridor of Termonbacca. There was a long corridor in the house but it would not have been waxed or buffed; the corridor was a concrete floor with red paint. As the children would come in and out from school and from playing in the fields, the floor would have been brushed and mopped but never waxed.
4. I do not accept that children who had wet the bed were ridiculed; rather SR 1 and I were sympathetic to the children. There were times when we had a rota to waken boys who wet the bed to go to the toilet during the night. This was in an effort to help them avoid bedwetting and to save their embarrassment amongst the other boys.
5. Whilst no missionary priests came to Termonbacca, there was a retreat from a priest and he would hear the children's confessions. The children would not have been left unsupervised apart from the hearing of these confessions.
6. HIA 411 recounts an incident in which I chased four boys out of the laundry room after he had been sexually assaulted. I do not recall this incident. I had no knowledge of peer sexual abuse in the home. The laundry room was in a separate building and young boys would not have been allowed in this room. I do not recall moving HIA 411 to the farm after the incident he described.

7. [REDACTED]

HIA 150

8. As a young child, HIA 150 was very quiet and timid . My memory of him is that he could have been easily pushed around by the other boys. I was always wary for the younger boys and I looked out for them. I would not have sewn boys pockets closed but I remember making boys shorts without pockets as I did not know how to make them at the time.

9.

HIA 237

10. I do recall HIA 237 but he never told me about any abuse. If I have been informed of any abuse, I would have acted to protect the victim and investigate any such complaint. I would never have beaten a child or used bad language towards them.

**Ex-Residents**

11. Before I came to Termonbacca, I do not know if ex-residents had been stopped from visiting the home. I did my best to help ex residents as I knew some were living in squats and I was concerned they were vulnerable, particularly given the ongoing PIRA campaign. SR 1 decided we needed expertise to assist us with the needs of residents and former residents and she arranged for the recruitment of a social worker which resulted in the employment of SND 332 who was a great asset to the home.
12. I reiterate that I never contemplated a risk that ex residents would sexually abuse boys in the home.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

SR 2

Dated

26.03.2014

**SISTER**

31 January 2014

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

|                  |      |              |      |
|------------------|------|--------------|------|
| Religious Name   | SR 2 | Secular name | SR 2 |
| Place of Birth   |      | ID:          | 128  |
| DOB              |      | Notes        |      |
| RIP              |      |              |      |
| First Profession |      |              |      |
| Final Profession |      |              |      |

  

|             |  |            |                   |
|-------------|--|------------|-------------------|
|             |  | Child Care |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
|             |  | Collecting |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
|             |  | Child Care |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
| Termonbacca |  | Child Care | In-Service Course |
|             |  |            |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
|             |  | Child Care |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
|             |  | Child Care |                   |
|             |  |            |                   |
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|             |  |            |                   |

|                       |                         |                |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | Child Care              |                |
|                       |                         |                |
|                       |                         |                |
|                       |                         |                |
| [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | Studying                | Certificate in |
|                       |                         | Social Studies |
|                       |                         |                |
|                       |                         |                |
| [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | Child Care              |                |
|                       |                         |                |
|                       |                         |                |
|                       |                         |                |
| [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]              |                |
|                       |                         |                |
|                       |                         |                |
|                       |                         |                |
| [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | came here on [REDACTED] |                |
|                       | Convalescent            |                |
|                       | Nursing Care            |                |
|                       |                         |                |
|                       |                         |                |

THE CHILDREN AND STRUCTURE OF THE HOME

The first children in the home were boys, who had previously resided in Nazareth House, Bishop Street. These first residents were in effect the overspill from Bishop Street, who had been initially referred to the Sisters by the local clergy.

It was a feature that was to remain part of the structure of the home that it would be for boys, and it was not until the 60's that this policy changed.

Reasons for admission are somehow vague; referrals came straight from the parish priest and it would seem that initially the bulk of residents had either or both parents dead. (See Fig. 1)

It would be fair to assume that social conditions at the beginning of the century made it difficult for a single parent to support a child or children, if the breadwinner had died or there was no extended family to help.

It is interesting to note that less than 25% of admissions in the first 20 years of the home were because of illegitimacy. Most of the cases referred were long term, so in effect one had a growing population which within the first ten years or so gradually increased until the number approached 100; this figure was maintained and indeed surpassed right up to the early 60's.

SECTION 4

Changes and Present Situation.

It wasn't until the early 60's that the main changes took place in the structure of the home. Whereas before, referrals were principally from clergy, Statutory bodies began to refer children to the home.

Welfare Authorities, N.S.P.C.C.

Some children in care were supported by voluntary aid in the past but gradually the emphasis was more and more on welfare referrals until the present time, when all referrals are the responsibility of the Welfare Agencies.

The completion of the new purpose-built home at the back of the main building was a major step forward for all concerned. There was obvious delight and expectancy at moving to what was indeed in comparison to past conditions, luxurious surroundings.

The following is an account by one of the past residents who lived in Termonbacca and was there for three years after the new building was opened. His feelings are expressed in his own words.

"St. Joseph's Termonbacca: For as long as I can remember, this has been home for me. I grew up in this environment and have been associated with this house all my life.

- 2 -

- 1935 A new dining room was proposed by Mr. Madden and with the help of the older boys was completed. It is a fine airy building with 6 large windows and three skylights. There is a scullery attached with hot and cold water. The Committee presented a set of silver-plated instruments to the boys.
- 1936 Mr. Madden gave £105 to help to buy a new car as the old one was costing too much to run.
- 1938 The building of the 'Nursery' began. Again Mr. Madden provided the necessary material and the boys the main bulk of the labour.
- 1939 Mr. Madden, the homes' most generous benefactor died. Before he died he requested his brother Michael to see to the completion of the nursery.
- 1939 In February, two of the boys set sail for Australia.
- 1940 Nursery completed. Mr. M. Madden was present. Boys reunion, some were on holidays from the army and navy.
- 1941 Few gifts were received this year due to the war restrictions.
- 1944 A cheque was received from Ministry of Agriculture as subsidy on potatoes grown - £122.10.0
- 1953 St. Eugene's Y. C. came at Christmas to entertain the boys. 16 boys, this year, left for Australia. All the children can now go to St. Columb's Hall pictures, every Saturday free of charge.
- 1954 December - A reunion of ex-boys - a big number from England - some with their wives and families.
- 1955-56 St. Vincent De Paul society seemed to have become more involved. The boys are gradually going on more outings, some sponsored by St. V. de P. On each boys birthday the society gave them a little gift.
- 1956 A large senior committee was formed of the principle business men in the city who gave large subscriptions, and a Junior Committee was formed mainly to try to encourage the young people in the city to have more interest in the work carried out by the Sisters. They arranged for an Annual Ball which raised £1,000. Initially this was divided among three Nazareth Houses.
- 1957 Ministry officials from Stormont visited.
- 1959 Certain aspects of after-care were going to be seen to by Committee.

/ Contd. . .



- 3 -

- 1959 Fire appliances installed at the request of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Cost £188. A new laundry was built.
- 1963 Miss Forrest and Mr. Parkes (Stormont) visited. Next day, members of the Child Welfare Council called to see the children.
- 1964 Government officials, Dr. Simpson and Miss Hall were most anxious that we would build dormitories more sleeping space was required.
- 1967 Stormont officials visited again and discussed the proposed new building. It was agreed that the architect should provide sketches.
- 1968 Many individuals came forward when they heard of our plans for a new home and offered their services.
- A Committee was formed - Termonbacoa Aid Committee to raise money for the proposed new building.
- Money raised: £50,000.00 approx. (Functions, raffles donations, etc.)
- Government: £25,000.00
- Contractor: Linton & Noble.
- Building opened: November 21, 1972.

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| YEAR      | TOTAL<br>ADMISSIONS      | ILLEGITIMATE | REFERRAL                                    | REASONS<br>FOR<br>REFERRAL   | DISTRICT                                 |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------|---|--|--|
| 1914 - 18 | 28<br>Admitted<br>(1921) | 6            | Private Church<br>Bodies,<br>Parish Priests | Generally one parent dead/<br>other unable to cope/<br>Family Crisis | Derry/<br>Donegal                        |
| 1918 - 22 | 21                       | 3            | "   | "  | "  |
| 1922 - 26 | 66                       | 12           | "   | "  | "  |
| 1926 - 30 | 98                       | 12           | "   | "  | " + Tyrone                               |
| 1930 - 34 | 63                       | 7            | "   | "  | "  |
| 1934 - 40 | 85                       | 42           | "   | "  | "  |
| 1940 - 45 | 104                      | 43           | "   | "  | "  |
| 1945 - 50 | 106                      | 47           | "   | "  | "  |
| 1950 - 55 | 80                       | 47           | "   | "  | "  |
| 1955 - 60 | 94                       | 34           | 10% Welfare                                 | Family Crisis - Illegit-<br>imacy Court Order                        | All counties<br>+ S. Ireland             |
| 1960 - 65 | 117                      | 35           | 25% N.S.P.C.C.<br>Dept.<br>Welfare          | "  | "  |
| 1965 - 70 | 201                      | 41           | 75% Stat.<br>Welfare                        | Mostly Family Crisis<br>S/T & L/T Removal -<br>Court Order           | Mostly<br>W.H.S.S. Bd.<br>Dist. & others |
| 1970 - 78 | 380                      | 40           | Almost 100%<br>Ref. Welfare                 | "  | All Board<br>Dists. mainly<br>W.H.S.S.   |

ABOVE FIGURES INDICATE GENERAL TRENDS OF ADMISSION SINCE 1914.  
THERE IS LITTLE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON OWN RECORDS TO GIVE CLEARRER  
REASONS FOR ADMISSION



# EXERCISE BOOK



SND 136

Case History.

D. O. B. [REDACTED]

Place of Birth - [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]When Baptised - Parish of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date of Baptism 16/12/65.

Mother - [REDACTED]

Formerly, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Occupation - Assembly worker.

Recommended by - Rev. Mother

Joseph Catherine, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Received [REDACTED]

SND 136

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

He went to the [redacted] family to  
and will be out until the end  
August. HIA 130 enjoys going out  
He also settles in well when he  
is home.

He was sent home from school today,  
suffering from a sore throat. The  
doctor prescribed a bottle for him, after  
a day he was back on his feet.

He took a packed lunch this morning -  
and went to Bundoran for the  
week with the School. He arrived home  
at 3.30 p.m. after an enjoyable day.

Today HIA 130 went to Buncrana with his  
father for horse country racing.

He went to the Dentist.

HIA 130 was off school for a week with the  
Mumps - he saw the Doctor who prescribed  
a bottle for him. He is now well and  
back at school again.

HIA 130 received a Christmas card and £1  
from the [redacted] family who take him  
out for the Summer holidays - Incidentally  
[redacted] is an X Termonbacca Boy.  
He is very happily married and has got  
a lovely family.

HIA 130 received many gifts for Christmas  
among them was an old craft which he  
built himself and attached an engine  
to it which he took from another boy.

HIA 130 is very useful with his hands.  
He hopes to be an Electrician one day.

Back to school today.

PRIVATE

food out the hatch in the canteen along with **SND 57**. If a child wanted extras there was no food left to give them.

15. There were a few children in my group that wet the bed. When this happened **SR 6** would have told the child off and made them take the sheets down and put them in the washing machine. I told **SR 6** that bedwetting was a result of feelings of separation and loss which I had learned from my course. She just looked at me and wasn't interested in what I had to say. On occasions I washed children's wet sheets and showed them how to do it so they would not get told off again. When **SR 6** was on holiday I made the children's beds and helped them as much as I could. I couldn't do this while she was there or she would have told me off.
16. Punishments in Termonbacca consisted of children being made to go to bed early, being deprived of things or not being allowed outside to play. The nuns commonly said to children 'I am in charge of you because you have no-one else'. I thought this was a cruel thing to say.
17. Children were made to do chores in the home. These included washing dishes, cleaning the kitchen, hoovering, making beds and cleaning floors. The children had to do chores from a young age.
18. I do not think poverty was the reason why the nuns ran Termonbacca in the way they did. I was of the view that the nuns were money led rather than needs led. One time I was in the convent and the nuns used the best china and had excellent furniture. They didn't eat with the children. They ate in their own dining room and I believe they ate better food than the children.
19. **SND 332** was employed by the nuns as **[REDACTED]**. I thought it was a good thing that he joined. He had an office of his own and I believe that some of the older boys were close to him.