

WRITTEN SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF **SND 67**
[SND67]

1. The allegations made by witness HIA 108 against SND 67 are unsubstantiated and lack credibility.
2. She has alleged that numerous episodes of the most serious sexual abuse occurred at three different locations within a relatively short period of time, between the summer of 1980 and 1st December, 1980.
3. The locations referred to by this witness are Strabane Parochial House, St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca Children's Home and Fort James Children's Home.
4. Although the location at which the witness alleges the abuse first commenced, namely Strabane Parochial Home, is outside the remit of the Inquiry, it is relevant because her allegations detail her first alleged contact with SND 67 and this alleged contact serves to explain why SND 67 would have reason to specifically ask about her when she was admitted to Termonbacca Children's Home later that year.
5. However, her attempt to set the scene in this manner is undermined by the fact that SND 67 was not even based in Strabane at the time when HIA 108 alleges that this first episode of abuse occurred. In her evidence to the Inquiry [Day12, Page 77, lines 5-7] this witness attempts to retrieve the situation and in doing so contradicts her earlier written statement by claiming that SND 67 was a visiting priest and was not attached as a curate to the Parish at Strabane at the time of the initial alleged episode of abuse. This was her response when confronted with the evidence that SND 67 only went to Strabane as curate after she had already been admitted to

Termonbacca.

6. In his statement SND 67 refers to the letter of appointment to Strabane Parish which states he should be in his new Parish by Saturday 27th September 1980 and that he should take up residence in the Parochial House by Saturday 4th October 1980. Witness HIA108 has asserted she was first admitted to Termonbacca on 22nd September 1980.
7. In addition, this witness has also incorrectly identified the parish priest at that time [see para 11 of SND 67's statement and appendix 2].
8. In her evidence [Day 12, Page 81, lines 13-25 and Page 82, lines 1-17], this witness further contradicts her statement [see para.41] by backtracking on her claim that she attempted suicide one morning after she saw SND 67's picture in a newspaper.
9. SND 67, in his statement has said he has no recollection of any contact with this witness at Strabane Parochial House, St. Joseph's Termonbacca, or at Fort James. Furthermore he has stated he does not recall ever visiting Fort James in any capacity and only recalls visiting Termonbacca on one occasion as a student priest before 1974. No person has made a statement and no evidence has been provided to demonstrate SND 67 could have had any contact whatsoever with HIA 108 at any of the locations during the period referred to above. This is the case despite the fact all three locations were places where other adults would have been present during the time the alleged visits occurred.
10. In paragraph 27 of her statement, this witness has specifically referred to **SND 501**, [REDACTED] based in Harberton at that time who allegedly commented on the alleged visits of SND 67 to Fort James to see HIA 108 in terms that it was "nice of the priest to call and see if I was ok." This comment was also referred to during the oral hearings [Day12, Page 66, lines 20-25]. Statements have now been served from **FJ 7** [REDACTED] the Deputy in Charge of Fort James at the relevant time and **SND 501** [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] referred to in HIA 108's statement. Neither individual has any recollection of priests visiting the Children's Homes where they worked. **SND 501** [REDACTED] never worked in Fort James.

11. Despite the fact that Social Services were closely involved with this family and HIA 108 in particular, this witness never made any contemporaneous complaints to Social Services and indeed states in paragraph 17 of her statement that she told a social worker everything was great at Termonbacca. In paragraph 27 of her statement she alleges that she informed **SND 501** that a priest came to visit her in Fort James but despite the seriousness of the abuse alleged, made no allegation about the conduct of the priest at that time.

12. In essence, no weight can be attached to the evidence of HIA 108 in relation to any allegations made against SND 67.

Dated 24th April 2014