HIA REF: 161
Witness Name: HIA161 [redacted]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA161 [redacted]

I, HIA161 [redacted] will say as follows:-

Personal Details

1. I was born on [redacted] It is my view that I was taken in to care when I was two years old. However, the nuns provided me with paperwork that suggested I was placed in care when I was four so there may be a discrepancy regarding dates. It is my belief that myself and my sisters all went into care at the same time. My younger sister was called SJM23 [redacted] and my older sister was called [redacted] The nuns changed SJM23 [redacted] name to SJM23 [redacted] as they said SJM23 [redacted] was a very Protestant name.

[redacted]

3. When [redacted] was old enough she had to work with the elderly residents in Nazareth House and also with the deceased. When they died she had to do their hair and other chores. She would try to get down to see me and every now and again I would try and sneak into see her. One day one of the dead bodies frightened the life out of me because they burped or made some sort of noise and I ran away at once.

4. I did not get to see [redacted] SJM23 as she was in a different section and the only time I would see her was at playtime. She would also be out playing and I could see her through the railings but there was never anything arranged.

5. [redacted] would sometimes sneak down into the dormitory and wake me up just to let me know she was there and thinking about me or to give me a sweet or something. One night she actually put a sweet in my mouth because when I woke up in the morning I didn't know what on earth it was. It was that kind of thing that siblings had to hide from the nuns. When I left the nursery and moved to the infants section I would ask to see my sisters but was rarely allowed. The nuns would call me "the scum of the earth" amongst other things and they talked a lot about the sins of our parents. I never knew my parents and my sisters and I never had any visitors so it was safe to abuse us as we had no-one to tell about our treatment.

6. Every morning a nun would walk up the dormitory and ring a hand hell bell. We had to get out of bed and kneel by our bed to say morning prayer. We then got washed and changed into our clothes and went to mass. After mass we got breakfast before starting our chores. The same routine was followed in the home every day. We would have benediction every afternoon and we had to say the Angelus every evening at 6pm. On a Friday we had to attend confessions and we would often make up stories about any sins we had in order to have something to say. We would also have to do the Stations of the Cross every Friday.

7. There were several priests that used to visit the home, I recall specifically [redacted] and [redacted] they were treated with reverence by the nuns

and they more or less bowed down to them. There was one particular priest who would slap the girls across the face if they did not say Amen in a loud voice. I remember being in the sacristy with a priest and it is unclear to me why but I have a vivid memory of him being dressed in black and offering me sweets. It was a real novelty as we were not given sweets too often.

8. All the children in the home had to know the catechism or they risked being caned by the nuns. I was personally never caned as I knew it but I did witness other girls being whipped and the nuns just would not stop.

9. We never got called by our name we were addressed by our number. I distinctly remember being number four in the baby home and number nine in Nazareth House. Our number was sewn into our clothes and rather than call me HIA161 it was always HIA161 [redacted] was in the home at that time and she had speech problems. The nuns gave her number sixty-six and she had difficulty pronouncing the s each time she tried to pronounce it and it wasn't clear the nuns would wallop her.

10. The nuns discovered that I had not been baptised when I was due to make my Holy Communion. I was punched, kicked and put in a room away from everybody else because HIA161 was a pagan". SR116 [redacted] pulled me up by the hair and lifted me off the floor and she said "your mother is nothing but a prostitute anyway, a drunk and a prostitute and that's how you're going to turn out". That kind of thing was said to me on a daily basis and that was normal for me. I grew up to not expect any more than that. I was never called HIA161 and never shown any love or affection.

11. A lot of the abuse would have been hidden away. It happened in a store room, it was used as a cleaning cupboard and it stank of jeyes fluid and it held wooden items like brushes that SR116 [redacted] used to batter you with. She had a bunch of keys that would rattle as she opened the door and she would get you in there and punish you. SR116 [redacted] did this regularly and when you heard those keys jangling you knew that she was taking you to that room and you knew what you were in for. I prayed just to die.

12. I recall there were benefactors that came to the home and we used to call them "the ministry". We never knew why they were coming; they were friends of the nuns as far as we were concerned. Every year we had to put a concert on for them. I was particularly good at Irish dancing and [redacted] would put us through our paces in the weeks leading up to a concert. We had to smile and answer questions. If we were asked about the good sisters and how good they were to take us in we had to say how happy we were, we were to smile and anybody who didn't do this would be severely punished when these visitors left. I never thought these people could help me anyway as they were so friendly with the nuns enjoying tea, cake and concerts. I never felt I could approach them to get me out of the home. I also felt that there was no way I could complain to the police. There is no way you would have been believed back then as the church was bigger than anything. When we ran away the police took us back and they were always totally on the nun's side, they never listened to us.

13. I recall other people coming to the classes there may only have been two or three of them and I think they might have been inspectors. I was still afraid to tell them anything negative for fear of the reprisal.

14. My sister and I ran away to the docks and the police took us off the boat. We told them why we did not want them to send us back. There were two policemen and although the younger one said he worked with children and wanted to help us the older one said they had to send us back to the home. The younger policeman wanted to take us to his home as he and his wife wanted children but this would never have been permitted. I think I was twelve or thirteen at that stage.

15. My mother never really came to the convent but every year at Christmas the [redacted]HIA161 tea chest" would come from England. It was a tea chest sent by my mother and filled with dolls, selection boxes and clothes. Everyone in the home knew about the tea chest. I don't know where my mother got the money for it as I found out later in life that she was a prostitute in London and

the nuns told me that she was an alcoholic. My oldest sister said she sent it to us due to the guilt she felt for not looking after us. It was the only time of year when my sisters and I were actually called together as sisters. SR116 SR116 would open the box and show us everything. I recall everything being taken out of the box so that we could see it and we were all given dolls but then we were told to go and the nuns retained the contents of the box and said it was going to a better cause. I know that my older sister [redacted] wrote letters to my mother after we would have received the tea chest. But it was never her own words; the nuns controlled what was written.

16. My sister started to make up stories about our parents. She would tell people that our father was John Wayne and that he could not visit us as he was off filming and I believed her up until I was fifteen. We were trying to invent a family, trying to invent some love and to make excuses to explain why no-one ever came to visit us. Those children who had visitors were treated differently because they had somebody on the outside that they could tell or report to if they were treated badly by any of the nuns. The nuns knew this and treated the children with parents differently.

17. The nuns also had favourites, we called them their pets. When they became more senior they acted like the nuns and they would bully you as much as the nuns had done and the nuns would turn a blind eye to their behaviour. SR116 SR116 for some reason used to walk around with fruit and she would give this fruit to her favourite's right in front of you knowing that you were not going to get any fruit. I knew where I stood in the pecking order. There were also Christmas parties and some companies would invite the children in the home and SR116 [redacted] also attended. Your number had to be on the list to be able to attend and I just always knew my name wasn't going to be called out. I did however get to one of these parties. I recall being on the bus and SR116 SR116 sat behind me and slapped me around my head for no reason. That treatment has left me to this day nervous of anyone coming up behind me or walking behind me. Some of the girls loved to see my sisters and I being picked on. They would laugh because it wasn't them.

18. There was also a pecking order for the doctor. A doctor did visit the home but the reason I do not really remember him is that only certain girls would be called to attend with the doctor. The girls who were beaten and had marks on their body were not asked to attend with him. I saw a doctor very rarely as he might have attended the day before I had my head punched into a wall or I had marks on me for some reason. We never received any medication for our injuries and I recall us trying to soothe the wounds with spoons from the dining room as they were cold on our skin. You weren't allowed to cry because if the nuns caught you they would give you something to cry about. As a teenager and a young adult in my twenties I had an attitude where I wouldn't cry for anyone and I would not show any emotion. I put up a wall that people could not penetrate and unfortunately that shut people out including people who were trying to be kind to me in later life like my ex husband. I think that inability to trust others will never go away. I do not think I will ever have a partner. I always feel that I will be alone with no religion and no faith in anything. I envy people who still have their faith, at least they have something.

19. Another resident called NHB 29 would have received similar treatment to me from SR 116 and SR 31 Myself, NHB 29 and another girl, I think her name was [redacted] were on our hands and knees scrubbing floors on numerous occasions when the other residents were given time for recreation and were not expected to do hard work at this time. SR 116 also abused NHB 29 I never kept in touch with anyone from the home so I do not know how NHB 29 got on in life.

20. I was picked on by other residents. They would put me into a sheet and throw me up in the air which always scared me because if the sheet broke you would just go through it. If a nun saw this going on instead of coming to my rescue she would just walk out of the room as "it was only HIA 161 and they would not care about what happened to me. I was terrified of some of the senior girls; they had the authority of the nuns to abuse you and get away with it. They just became like the nuns, exactly like them.

21. I went to school in the convent but I was very rarely in the classroom. I would get messages from SR 116 during class that she wanted me to scrub floors, polish shoes and do chores and SR 134 would release me from class and tell me to go to her. My IQ test carried out in later life showed that I was intelligent but my education was constantly interrupted. I have always wondered what I would have been capable of given the chance instead of the menial jobs I was made to do in the home and after leaving the home. With my level of education I had to work as a waitress and clean toilets. I had a brain but no confidence or self esteem to use it.

22. I was taught by SR 31 for a while. She had a blackthorn stick that she used to keep in her classroom and she would whack you with it along your legs and back. I remember once an inspector asked about the stick and SR 31 called it her pointing stick for pointing to the blackboard. I think that was the first realisation for me about nuns actually lying after telling us that we would go straight to hell if we lied yet there she was in front of this inspector saying that it was her pointing stick. SR 134 also used big silver serving spoons to whack the back of your knuckles and they would swell up and you couldn't move your hands and that happened regularly.

23. There was another nun who was also vicious; I think she was called [redacted] SR 189 She would get your head and smack it up against the wall. I have had blood pumping from my head following an incident like this with her and she just told me to get up to the dormitory and clean the mess up. I never received medical treatment. It was not just SR 116 who abused me, it was all of them but as I was in [redacted] group which SR 116 was responsible for I had the most abuse from her. She was my nightmare and the one mostly in my head. In my view the other nuns were just as bad. We came from bad people, bad homes, we were the scum of the earth, children of drunks and prostitutes and goodness knows what and so we had our parents sins to answer for and that had to be beaten out of us.

24. There were also occasions of being nearly drowned in the bath, being pushed under the water in the bath. We were bathed in four big baths and one girl

would be sitting dipping her feet waiting on the other to get out. The water was always brown because of the jeyes fluid. I don't remember the nuns having towels but they used bath sheets to dry us. There was no privacy and the after effects of the jeyes fluid meant that my skin was sore and itchy. However I never complained as the nuns would just make it worse.

25. There were lots of different incidents with different nuns and it happened daily so it is difficult to describe the detail of every incident. It was what you came to expect from them and it was just how they were. It was exactly the same in Middletown which was run by the St Louis Order so this order of nuns believed that was how you brought children up.

26. During holidays and on occasions I was sent to stay with the NHB 30 family on their farm in [redacted] They had pigs and hens and I was sexually abused quite badly every time I went to their house by both the father in the home and his brother who also lived there with them, NHB 30 and NHB 31 I want to know why the nuns did not carry out any inspection of the homes we were being sent to in advance of any child being placed there. The NHB 30 lived in a three bedroom bungalow and they had eight children and as their uncle also lived with them there weren't even enough beds for their own children. The uncle, NHB 31 used to lift me at night and put me in his bed and he would sexually abuse me in the bed at night. When I was in the bath the husband, NHB 30 sexually abused me. He would also take me to the barn to look at kittens and then sexually abuse me there. Once when I returned to the convent I told one of my older sister's friends, I can't remember her name now but she knew something was wrong with me when I came back and I told her about the abuse. I really liked Mrs NHB 30 and I really liked the food she cooked for me and I loved spending time with the other children in the family so I was reluctant to tell and did not feel there was anyone I could tell. It was ironic but I would try to run away when SJM22 the social worker, came to pick me up to take me back to the home. I was being abused there but still felt as if Mrs NHB 30 was a bit of a mother figure to me and it was better being abused there than going back to be abused in the home. I told this girl anyway and word got back to SR 116 who

gave me the biggest beating of my life for telling tales on a good Catholic family. I got my mouth washed out with carbolic soap. I got dragged by the hair and ended up under one of the beds in the dormitory with my hair was all stuck to the springs and it was being pulled out as she was still grabbing me out from under the bed and hitting me and my head hurt for ages afterwards. I learned then that you cannot report abuse to anyone.

27. A man turned up at the convent one day when I was very young and took me out to Lurgan. I was then taken out quite regularly by him and one day, I don't remember why, they took me to a convent in Newry and whilst we were talking to the nuns they remembered me and my sisters. One of the nuns took me to a nursery and showed me a cot that she said I had stayed in. This memory is very vivid and this nun knew exactly who we were. She knew my mother's name and she told me that we had been in that home prior to going to Nazareth House but I do not recall being in a convent in Newry at any stage.

28. My sister and I eventually ran away from the home. We broke into a house that was still under construction to keep warm overnight but we were freezing and found by the police. We ended up in court after being caught and we were sent to Middletown remand home. We were not really aware of what was happening at the time and did not even realise that we were taking part in court proceedings. SR 31 and the social worker, who took us, SJM22 SJM22 told us what to say in court. If asked we had to say that the nuns were good to us. We viewed SJM22 as being on the side of the nuns. If we had understood what was going on and why we were there we perhaps would have had a chance to explain why we ran away but we just sat there like dummies. We never went back to Nazareth House after that. I was about thirteen at the time and my sister was eleven.

29 SJM22 came to visit me in all of the various homes and also at the NHB 30 She always came across as very nice but I would never have told

[redacted]

Middletown Remand Home (In/around 1967 – In/around 1970)

31. We were in with the criminal element at Middletown so you had to watch your back. The nuns there were also horrendous. I recall when I arrived I heard screaming as some girl was in the bath being scrubbed with a deck scrubber, cleanliness was next to godliness and I remember that screaming and thinking to myself that I had gone from bad to worse. The girls were in there because either their parents could not cope with them or they had been sent by the criminal court so you had to watch your back in case they attacked you or stole your belongings from right under your nose. My sister made friends easily but I did not mix well with people and did not trust many people. I was often bullied. The abuse in Middletown was awful but for some reason you expect that in a remand home but you do not expect it in an orphanage. SR239 [redacted] was a young nun there and she was nice to us but SR238 SR238 [redacted] was another nightmare. I was in her dormitory and you got slapped, beaten and punched by her regularly. There was no-one I could think of in life that I could have gone to for help, no-one who would have believed me or done anything for me.

32. We also tried to run away from Middletown but it was out in the sticks so it was harder to run away and you had to keep to the fields. On one occasion we ran away with the help of the other girls who all tied their bed sheets together to make a rope that we could use. We got as far as Derry and met a guy called [redacted] who had escaped from borstal. He put me in touch with [redacted] who was an up and coming MP then. She listened to my story and I begged her not to send me back to the home but

she said she had to even though I told her all about the abuse I had suffered. I told her about the canes and sticks that would be broken over us but she said nothing would happen to us upon our return. I think it was because of what I told her that I ended up getting out of Middletown and being placed with a family in [redacted] By this time I was viewed by the home as a troublemaker and very defiant and perhaps more trouble that I was worth. I think I left Middletown just before I was sixteen. I was there for nearly three years.

33. My placement only lasted a few months. The father was a [redacted] and they took Catholic girls because they knew we were hard workers. They used me as a skivvy. I had to work until late at night and look after seven children getting up early and taking them all to different schools, scrubbing their clothes by hand and cooking for them. The father acted a bit weird around me. He used to come home from work and get me to help him count the money even though it was very late and I thought he was smarmy and did not trust being around him. I hated it so I asked SR240 [redacted] if I could go to another family but she did not arrange this for me so I got on a bus and I went to [redacted] Just before I left Middletown I discovered that my mother's sister, [redacted] lived in [redacted] SR240 [redacted] told me that she had wanted to take my sister SJM23 [redacted] and me out over the summer holidays. We did stay with her one summer but I did not realise that the nuns paid her to take us for the holiday. She never really got on with my mother and so she didn't really want anything to do with us either. I went to my [redacted] in [redacted] but they did not want to know me and [redacted] told me to go back to the nuns.

34. SJM23 [redacted] remained in Middletown. I went back and forward to visit her and to leave her some money but she wasn't very grateful. She was very damaged by being in care and she began shoplifting, drinking and hanging around with lots of men and this is how we became estranged. She would end up at my door or the police would pay me a visit because she had left stolen property where I was living. She just went mental after care. In the end, she committed suicide. I recall asking [redacted] when I was campaigning to

help me to locate my sister's grave. He was willing to do so in front of the media but he did nothing in reality.

35. I made contact with SJM23 son and I would visit him. I have been able to answer questions he had about his mum. We established that SJM23 was cremated and we planted a fir tree in the [redacted]'s in her memory.

Life after care

36. I left care with no self esteem and up until the last ten years I still felt that I had no self confidence. I knew no-one else in [redacted] so I went round every door that I could looking for work. I called at the home of Dr [redacted] looking for work and told him that I had been raised in Nazareth House. He put me in touch with his friend, [redacted] who was a [redacted] in [redacted] and I went to work for this family. Dr [redacted] became my doctor and he always checked up on me after that.

37. I was nanny to seven children for [redacted] and everyone in the family was very good to me. [redacted] discovered that I couldn't read when she realised I was avoiding all the books in the nursery. [redacted] gave me a cheque to pay for adult literacy classes at [redacted] College. Unfortunately, I was not able to complete the course because I was so embarrassed by my inability to read and write. My older sister [redacted] could not read or write either and she had to mark an X at the dole office for her name. Other girls in the home did receive an education and some of them even studied for the 11+ exam but I wasn't one of them. [redacted]

38. I was raped and got pregnant while I was at the [redacted] and despite it coming about as a result of rape I was pleased to be having a baby and becoming a mother. In fact I married the man who raped me because that is how it was in those days and I had two daughters and a son to him. I was seventeen when I had [redacted] my first daughter. I had to get the nuns consent

to get married and I cried the whole way through the ceremony. When we got outside the church my first husband said "you're my wife now, you'll bloody do as you are told". I had my second daughter [redacted] eleven months later. It was an abusive relationship. He did not want my sister coming to the house he would beat me if I allowed her to visit. I went from being abused by nuns to being abused by my husband so I decided after he took a knife to me when I threatened to leave him that I would not endure it anymore and I left him. [redacted] my second husband, was good to me but I pushed him away. We had two sons together [redacted] and [redacted] I thought I could get married again and be normal but I bottled everything up and put on a front of being happy and carefree but eventually things came to the surface and I had a nervous breakdown. I also suffered from severe eating disorders. I felt violent towards people; the rage within me manifested itself by me being angry and violent towards others including those closest to me. I always had a fear that the nuns would put me in Muckamore Abbey and I had to put up a front that I was always fine otherwise I would end up in a mental institution.

39. I moved in with a friend in [redacted] but SJM23 turned up there also and stole from my friend and SJM23 ended up in jail. My sister [redacted] kept getting involved in abusive relationships so in the end I stopped going to [redacted] to see her.

40. I had another sister, [redacted] but I have only ever met her once. She was in the Good Shepherd home across the road from us but we never knew each other. By the time I met her she was just such a mess and such a wreck that I could not relate to her as a sister at all. In fact I lost contact with all my sisters as they were a constant reminder of my time in care and in due course you want to give up those memories and not be reminded of them each time you come in contact with your family.

41. We all came out to different lives, my older sister ran away before us and was put into prostitution by my mother and she kept going downhill and my younger sister just went nuts and became very violent. She ran around with a tough gang who were in and out of jail so I stayed away from her after a while. Although they are still my sisters I can no longer deal with being around them.

42. I have a sixteen year old grandson and although he needs me now as he is going through exams I know a time will come when he no longer needs me and I don't know what my reason to live will be then.

43. I have attended therapy and counselling. I found it hard to cope with the court case I took against the Order. I felt that the judge belittled me, my life was in his hands and he was just dismissing me like I was a nobody. My case settled [redacted] It was not the outcome I wanted, I wanted my day in court to face the nuns and I thought it was a bit of a slap in the face really for what I had been through and for all the expense of litigation in the preceding years.

44. I reported the abuse I suffered to the police at Lisburn Road station. I spoke with [redacted] at the Child Rape Unit and he took a statement. I think he found it hard to believe that I was talking about nuns and priests. [redacted] also drove me and my ex husband back to the [redacted] farm and I spoke with a nephew and one of the children of the family who recognised me immediately and was able to tell [redacted] that they had fetched me out of the home. He told us that both [redacted] and [redacted] were now deceased. There may have been other children abused by these men after me but they messed up my life.

45. My ex husband for years said that in every relationship I had, even with him, I would push people away. I cannot take a compliment and am suspicious of anyone who tries to give me a compliment and think that they want something from me. I was always defensive throughout my life and had very little trust in people. Even today I have no faith in police, teachers or anyone in establishment and I reserve my trust for my children and grandchildren. My ex husband explained that I was not the only victim as my children were also victims of the abuse I suffered. Finally I decided to speak to a solicitor.

46. I pursued litigation for ten years and found the court case very dramatic. I felt very unsupported at the time. There were no priests being arrested or word out there despite my having reported the matter to the police. In the end I did not have my day in court. When we were told by the PPS that they were not going to bring charges against them as they were too old now I felt so betrayed. I went through the whole criminal court system to get nothing and they got away with it.

47. One thing to note is that they at times change the names of nuns. I think SR 116 is referred to now as SR 116 and she is based in [redacted] this is what I did find out through the courts, that she was in Nazareth House, [redacted] During my court proceedings they said that SR 31 was senile and was based in Nazareth House, [redacted] and she was now [redacted]

48. I attended a reunion years ago where some of the survivors of abuse had turned to alcohol, drugs or prescription tablets but there was almost competition between them for who had the most tragic story. I decided I could not allow them to drag me down. Even at the reunion I attended I thought some of these girls were suffering from Stockholm Syndrome as they were praising the nuns and it made me angry because the nuns did not do their best by us. They collected money every Saturday and we never saw it, we were fed poor quality food whilst they ate meat and we were force fed. If we refused to eat it we were forced to with one of them holding you down and the other one grabbing your nose and shoving it down your throat. It left me suffering from eating disorders throughout my life.

49. I went with a few other women to visit the wall of Nazareth House that is still located on the Ormeau Road. I suppose I wanted to confront my past. One of the ladies with me picked up a brick up and wanted to put it through the window of one of the flats that are now built on the site of the home. I found myself having to hold her down. I understand however that she, myself and the others were all damaged as were my two sisters as a result of our time in care.

[redacted]

51. I considered it was time for change when my last child moved out. That was when I attended a psychiatrist and a psychotherapist and I realised that I wasn't actually living for me, I was living for my children so when my last child left home all purpose had gone from my life. Things then caved in around me. Every morning when I woke up I felt as if I did not want to live any more, I just didn't want the pain of it. Certain things stuck and replayed in my head, things that were said to me as a child by the nuns. They often said "you're nothing HIA 161 there's no place for you in heaven, you come from the gutter and that's where you're going back". Some days I was so bad I would believe it. It took a great deal of counselling and therapy for me to start believing this was not true and to start believing in myself. I was a child so I could not have been that bad yet I was told nearly every day the devil was in me and the devil had to be beaten out of me.

52. I feel a fitting tribute would be a statue of an orphan or orphans with a plaque attached to it. I don't believe that a gathering of former residents would be suitable as I feel it would be taking a step backwards for me personally. Not alone did I suffer abuse but I have carried that through to my own children not in a physical manner but emotionally in how I brought them up. I was always extremely protective of them.

53. I believe that any apology thus far from the Order has not been heartfelt. The State also bare responsibility for the care that we should have received. We were let down not only by the Order but by other human beings and nobody has shown us empathy. Our crime was being born and who are parents were.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed HIA 161

Dated 30/6/2014

SJM-882

HIA Ref: 161
Witness Name: SR240 [redacted]
Date: 22nd January 2016

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 – 1995

RULE 9 WITNESS STATEMENT OF
SR240 [redacted]

I, SR240 [redacted], will say as follows:

1. I have prepared this statement in response to the witness statement of HIA161 [redacted].

2. I am a religious Sister of St Louis. I am a qualified primary school teacher and completed a Diploma in Social Work at the University of [redacted]. This included a module on residential care of children and young people. I was the Chairman of the Board of Governors at [redacted]. I was awarded the [redacted] in 1993 for services to young people. I worked in St Joseph's Middletown ('St Joseph's') between [redacted] and [redacted].

3. I have reviewed the statement of HIA161 [redacted]. I have also considered HIA161 [redacted]' personal file, daily diaries from 1963 to 1982 and a log book from 1st November 1970 until 19th March 1973.

4. HIA161 [redacted] was admitted to St Joseph's on 23rd December 1968. I attach a copy of her admission record, which I have marked 'CM1'. I have no specific recollection of HIA161 [redacted]. I do have some memory of her sister, SJM23 [redacted] but I have no memory of HIA161 [redacted].

5. HIA161 [redacted] was admitted to St Joseph's pursuant to a Training School Order. Her sister SJM23 [redacted] was also admitted on 23rd December 1968. Reference is made to their admission to St Joseph's in the attached diary entry dated 23rd December which I have marked CM2.

6. In paragraph 31 (SJM-010) HIA161 states that girls were in St Joseph's because their parents could not cope with them or because they had been sent there by the criminal Courts. St Joseph's Training School generally accepted girls between the ages of 12 and 17 years. Girls were admitted via the Court system. On occasions, girls under the age of 12 would be admitted to St Joseph's, but this was rare. To my knowledge, the youngest resident was 11. Girls were sent by the Courts to St Joseph's for a variety of reasons. Some had committed criminal offences such as shoplifting or having been carried in a stolen car. However, a referral for a criminal offence was not the main reason for referral. Most girls were referred by the Courts via their own social workers, who considered that the girls were a risk either to themselves, or to others and needed a safe place to reside. Children who were out of control in other residential facilities, or were beyond the control of their parents, had been expelled from school, or if they had physically harmed themselves or others would be admitted to St Joseph's by the Courts.

7. In paragraph 31 (SJM-010) HIA161 states that when she arrived at Middletown, there was a girl in a bath being scrubbed with a deck scrubber. The girls in St Joseph's were teenagers. Although I was not in charge of St Joseph's at the time, I have no recollection of any of the nuns having to bath any of the girls. The girls dealt with their own hygiene.

8. HIA161 states that she was often bullied by other children, that she did not mix well or make friends. I can find no entries in either our log books or our daily diaries to either accept or deny these allegations. HIA161 states that the abuse in Middletown was awful and that she expected it in a remand home but not in an orphanage. I am unclear if she is suggesting that St Joseph's was a remand home or the orphanage. However, in any event, St Joseph's was a training school. We did not permit bullying and we always discouraged fighting and arguments between the children.

9. I am pleased to note HIA161 has fond memories of Sister SR239 who was also a qualified nurse and provided care in St Joseph's. HIA161 has negative memories of Sister SR238 She claims that Sister SR238 slapped, beat and punched her regularly. HIA161 was 14 years old when she was admitted to St Joseph's. At this age, it is likely she would have been in the Immaculate dormitory. We have no record to confirm which Sister was in charge of the Immaculate dormitory. It is possible that Sister SR239 was responsible for this dormitory at some point. If HIA161 was

beaten, slapped or punched by Sister SR238 then I had no knowledge of it. If I had witnessed such behaviour I would have put a stop to it. My recollection of Sister SR238 goes back to my first days at St Joseph's. She was small and slight and affectionately referred to by some of the girls as SR238 Even if HIA161 felt she was not able to complain, as there were approximately eleven other girls in the dormitory, I would have expected someone else to raise the complaint.

10. The diary logs confirm that on 28th March HIA161 and SJM23 were taken by Sister SR237 and Sister SR239 to the dentist in Armagh. After the dentist, they went shopping to buy plants. The diary also confirms that on 13th April 1969 HIA161 was taken to hospital by ambulance at 10pm. She returned on 16th April. On 2nd May 1969 Sister SR239 took HIA161 to the hospital for an x-ray. I have attached all relevant entries from the daily diaries, which I have marked 'CM2'.

11. In relation to paragraph 32 (SJM-010) our records confirm that on 1st November 1970, HIA161 and another girl called SJM88 absconded from the Immaculate dormitory. The police in Tynan, Armagh, Omagh and Belfast were informed. We then discovered that there was a possibility that they had travelled to Derry. The Police in Derry were contacted but they informed us that it was not safe for them to enter the Bogside area to search for them. The records confirm that SR239 and I travelled to Derry to see if we could find them. At about 10.30pm that evening, St Joseph's received a call from a SJM98 who confirmed that she had come across two girls who had absconded from Middletown. The note suggests that HIA161 was scared to return to Middletown in case she was sent to a borstal. Father SJM70 was a local priest and he subsequently telephoned to say that SJM99 had contacted him and that the girls would come back if she could accompany them. We agreed to this proposal but when they failed to turn up Father SJM70 agreed to go to SJM99 's home in and pick them up. HIA161 and SJM88 returned at between 5am and 6am. The record confirms that the following day we had to obtain a statement from the two girls on times and routes taken. The police wanted to interview them about a break in at a house in Middletown. I have attached all relevant entries from the log books marked 'CM3'.

12. Our diaries confirm that at about 1.20pm on 16th November 1970 HIA161 and five other girls, including her sister SJM23 absconded. The police were called and the girls were returned to Middletown. HIA161 was returned to Middletown around 4pm.

13. In paragraph 32 (SJM -011), HIA161 states that she informed SJM99 that she had canes and sticks broken over her all the time. Apart from the reference to Sister SR238 (paragraph 32 SJM010) HIA161 does not give the names of the individuals who she claims perpetrated this abuse. There is no record in the logs of any such abuse. When HIA161 returned from the first incident on 1st November she was interviewed by the Police. After the second incident her sister and two others were found to have stolen clothes and they were also interviewed by the Police. There is no mention of any other punishment. There was no link between these two attempts to run away and HIA161 leaving Middletown. HIA161 was due for discharge at the end of 1971 so it was natural for attempts to be made in the months before this date to find suitable employment.

14. On 9th January 1971 HIA161 was taken to Omagh Hospital for observation. On 14th November 1971, Sister SR270 and her sister SJM23 went to Omagh to visit HIA161. She had already been discharged from hospital so I presume she was staying in Omagh with a relative. HIA161 had an Aunt who lived in Omagh. On 17th February 1971 HIA161 was interviewed by the Licensing Committee. The Licensing Committee was a review committee made up of two Board members and three or four external professionals who were responsible for reviewing girls two or three months before they were due for release. The remit of the Licensing Committee was to interview each girl, relevant members of staff from St Joseph's to ensure sufficient preparation had been made to enable her to transfer from care. In particular, the Committee would have focused on what job opportunities and accommodation was available to her and what further support could be given to her so that she could be released on license. It was confirmed that she could be licenced for discharge as soon as a suitable job became available. By this date HIA161 was 16 years old. HIA161 was taken to hospital by Sister SR239 on this date to have her eyes cauterised

15. On 3rd March 1971, it is noted that HIA161 and SJM23 were going to Omagh for the weekend. They got the bus from Monaghan on 4th March and returned on 7th March. I presume they were staying with the Aunt referred to in paragraph 33 of HIA161' statement.

16. It is recorded on 9th March 1971 that the [redacted] did not want HIA161 or SJM23 to visit them in Omagh again. SJM3 who was a social worker and employee of St Joseph's agreed to contact the [redacted] and discuss the matter. It was also proposed that they ask the [redacted] to allow HIA161 and SJM23 to go for St Patricks'

day and Easter. It was also agreed that a live-in family was sought for HIA161. These records suggest that visits to Omagh occurred before HIA161 work placement was arranged in Portadown and not the other way around as referred to in paragraph 32 and 33 (SJM -011).

17. On 10th March 1971 it is recorded that a [redacted] from Portadown rang and asked if there was a girl who could work with her. On 11th March 1971 the outcome of the discussions between SJM3 and the [redacted] are recorded. They did not want HIA161 or SJM23 to live with the family on a permanent basis and it is also recorded that this arrangement could have been unstable. It was agreed on 12th March that HIA161 would accept the job in Portadown with the [redacted] family. She started on 19th March 1971. On 13th March 1971, HIA161 was taken out by Sister SR270 to buy new clothes which I presume was for her new job. HIA161 went back to Omagh for St Patrick's day and returned at 5pm on 19th March. She was then picked up at 7pm by [redacted] to start the job in Portadown.

18. On 1st April 1971, the records confirm that HIA161 returned from Portadown for an overnight visit. At some time after this date HIA161 did return from Portadown and left this first job but there is no evidence in the diary log of when or why this happened.

19. In paragraph 33-37 (SJM -012) HIA161 describes her live-in job with the [redacted] family. The next relevant entry is dated 8th November 1971 and it states that HIA176 ran away from her job with the [redacted] Family in Omagh. It is noted in the log that she was staying with [redacted]'s uncle. I recall [redacted] was the boyfriend of HIA161 and he visited her faithfully at least once a week, mostly on Sunday. SND504 [redacted] a senior social worker from Omagh, contacted all parties and it was agreed that HIA161 could go back to the [redacted] if she wanted to until she found another job. Although HIA161 was due for formal release the following month we were still trying to secure her employment before she left care.

20. I presume HIA161 did return to the [redacted] family for a period of time as the next entries are dated 26th and 27th January 1972 when a request was made for us to sign the necessary forms to permit HIA161 to get married. The records confirm HIA161 was married a few days later.

21. In paragraph 34 (SJM -011) HIA161 confirms that she returned to Middletown to visit SJM23. There is no mention of these visits in the log. SJM23's admission record also states that SJM23 left St Joseph's on 18th October 1971 to live in [redacted].

22. During my time in St Joseph's I have always been against any form of physical punishment and I did not witness the type of beatings described by HIA161. By the end of the 1960's I believe we had stopped using the cane as a form of punishment. I read HIA161's statement with great sadness and I regret that she was not happy in St Joseph's after such a difficult time in other residential facilities. I can only point to the documentary records which record that she was provided with considerable support in finding employment and making the transition to independence, which are not consistent with all of her recollections.

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

Signed SR240 [redacted]

Dated _____

SJM-039

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

RESPONSE BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA161

I, Karen Pearson, have been authorised to make this statement on behalf of the Department of Justice. I am the Deputy Director for Criminal Justice Policy, a senior civil servant in the Department. The information contained in this statement is based on a review of files undertaken by staff under my supervision.

The Department of Justice will say as follows:

1. The Department notes that HIA 161 gave evidence to the Inquiry on 25 February 2015 in relation to her time at Nazareth House (Module 4).

2. We have conducted searches of records relating to St Joseph's Training School. However, we have been unable to locate a personal file for HIA 161.

3. The Department notes HIA 161's comments at paragraphs 31 and 33 of her statement to the Inquiry. To date we have no personnel file for Sister SR238 but we do have a file for a Sister SR240 who commenced working in St Joseph's in [redacted].

   [redacted]

   (see Exhibit 2 – further supplementary response in relation to HIA 198).

4. The Department, to the best of its knowledge, has supplied all the relevant information that it could find in its possession in relation to HIA 161. If additional relevant information is discovered by the Department, it will be drawn immediately to the attention of the Inquiry.

5. The Department has not received a civil claim in respect of HIA 161.

6. The Department has not received a request for disclosure of personal data (Form 81) from the PSNI.

7. The Department condemns without reservation any act of abuse which may have been perpetrated against any individual at St Joseph's Training School. Those who were placed in that facility had every right to expect that they would be cared for with dignity and respect, treated compassionately and protected from abuse. Those who operated the St Joseph's facility on a day-to-day basis or who were responsible for its management, ought to have been fully aware of the high standards expected of them when caring for young people. They should have known that acts of physical, sexual or emotional abuse were unacceptable. They ought to have known that allegations of abuse, where they were raised, should have been reported to the appropriate authorities. The Department condemns the perpetrators of any such abuse as well as those who may have ignored the abuse or tolerated its occurrence.

Statement of Truth

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

Karen Pearson

Date: 14 December 2015

SJM-074

HIA REF: [HIA 161]

NAME: HIA161 [redacted]

DATE: [6 January 2016.]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of the Health and Social Care Board

Marian Hall, Children's Services Project Manager, assisted in the drafting of this statement.

The Health and Social Care Board (the "Board") will say as follows: -

1. This is the second response statement submitted by the Board in relation to the Applicant , HIA161 [redacted], born [redacted], the first statement being dated 9th February 2015 (the "First Statement") and which can be found at **SNB 6251 – SNB 6252**

2. Paragraph 3 of the First Statement sets out the Board's responses to the issues raised by the Applicant in relation to her time spent at St Josephs' Training School, Middletown (Middletown).

3. No further information / documentation has been identified by the Board since the submission of the First Statement and therefore, the Board is unable to provide any further assistance or exhibit any further document in relation to the Applicants experiences as described in her statement in relation to Middletown ,

Statement of Truth

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

Signed Marian Hall

Dated 6 January 2016

SJM-480

HIA REF: [161]

NAME: HIA161 [redacted]

Response by HSCB

DATE: [9 February 2015.]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of the Health and Social Care Board

Marian Hall, Children's Services Project Manager, assisted in the drafting of this statement.

The Health and Social Care Board will say as follows: -

1. HIA161 [redacted], born [redacted], was admitted to Nazareth House, Belfast, on 20 September 1958, see SNB 4178 containing the Sisters of Nazareth's admission log. The Applicant remained in Nazareth House until 10 August 1967 when she was discharged to the care of her Mother, see SNB 4180 containing the Applicant's mother's certification that she received the Applicant into her care on that date.

2. The Board notes that the Applicant does not detail her recollection of how she came into care. The Board further notes SNB 4176 which details: 'Mother mentally ill. Father unable to care for children'. SNB 4178 records that the admission to Nazareth House was recommended by the Reverend B Magee of Castlewellan. There is no reference to any statutory Welfare Authority involvement in the Applicant's initial placement in the home.

3. In paragraph 26 of her statement, the Applicant details her contact with a social worker called SJM22 [redacted]. The Applicant recalls being boarded out with the [redacted] family and being sexually abused by NHB 30 and NHB 31. She states that she would try to run away when SJM22 [redacted] would pick her up to bring her back to Nazareth House. In paragraph 28 of her statement, the

Applicant details being brought to court by SR 31 and SJM22 prior to being placed in Middletown Remand Home. In paragraph 29 the Applicant states that SJM22 came to visit her across all of the Homes and when she was with [redacted] and that although she was very nice, she would not have told her of the ill-treatment as she knew it would be reported back to the nuns. It is not clear who SJM22 was or whether she was in fact a Social Worker and who she was employed by. The fact that the Applicant recalls being told to say that the Nuns were good to them might suggest that SJM22 [redacted] was not from the Welfare Authorities. The Board is unable to confirm whether or not there was involvement at this stage from statutory authorities and if so which agency was involved.

4. Based on the information provided to the Inquiry by the Sisters of Nazareth and the Applicant, the Board believes it is likely that the Applicant was initially a private placement within Nazareth House. No files relating to the Applicant have been found in the possession of the Board and consequently the Board is unable to comment on whether or not the Welfare Authorities later became involved with the Applicant. The Board notes that the Applicant was discharged from Nazareth House to the care of her mother on 10 August 1967, see SNB 4180.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed Hall

Dated 9 February 2014

Register No. S 99 Name [redacted] HIA161

PARTICULARS OF ADMISSION.

[redacted]

Date of Birth [redacted] Age 14 yrs [redacted] Date of Admission 23rd December 1968

Religion Catholic Legitimate or Illegitimate

Charge Care and Protection Court Belfast Sentence of Detention T50 Section 59 (Offence)

Previous Court Proceedings

Local Authority Responsible for Maintenance Belfast Corporation

Probation Officer (if any)

PLOYMENT.

PARTICULARS OF HOME.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT.

Parents :—
Father (name) Deceased

Address —

Fair

Mother (name) [redacted]

Address [redacted]

6 81

Occupation

Character

, CONDITION
N.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITION
ON ADMISSION.

Family History Not known

N.

DESCRIPTION.

Brown
Short
Brown

Height [redacted] Eyes [redacted]

Figure Nose

Complex Hair

Marks on Person

Parental Attitude Uninterested

Possible Local Friend

NG THE SCHOOL
SCHARGE.

Miscellaneous

PARTICULARS AS TO LEAVING THE SCHOOL
BY LICENCE OR DISCHARGE.

[redacted]

71

Licensed 22.3.71 — To Live in Foh. Portadown — Moved to new Foh. in Omagh.

Discharged 22.12.71 — Living in Omagh.

Married [redacted]

April 9th. The five children and some of the Staff Sisters went to Portadown on an Outing. On their return journey they went to Coalisland to collect [redacted]

10th [redacted] SR239 and [redacted] took [redacted] to the City Hospital Armagh.

12th [redacted] SR237 went to collect [redacted] and [redacted]

13th [redacted] SR238 went to Belfast at 3.0 c p.m to collect the children, returned at 7.0 c p.m.
[redacted] HIA161 went to hospital Dungannon by ambulance about 10.0 c p.m.

16th [redacted] SR240 and [redacted] left at 7 a.m by car for the airport. They are going to Lourdes for a few days. (to attend meetings etc) [redacted] HIA161 returned from hospital to day.

17th Mr Fitzgerald, Dentist here to day. Fillers discovered

18th The Sergeant visited this evening. S.M.P. spoke and advised [redacted]

19th Rev. Fr. Hamill phoned and asked if some of the girls could go to Belfast to contribute some items to an entertainment they were giving to the elderly people in the vicinity. Fourteen girls were sent. After the concert 4 girls absconded [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

April 29th SR238 went to Armagh to collect [redacted] and paid many bills.

May 2nd. SR239 took HIA161 and [redacted] to the Hospital, Armagh for an x-ray, also [redacted] and [redacted] to the Dentist.
SR240 went to Hospital, Belfast to collect [redacted], she took [redacted] and [redacted] will be. [redacted] phoned re. Mary Rose

" 3rd A past pupil [redacted] (now [redacted] and her husband came and spent nearly all day here. Rev. Fr. McNiece said Mass in the hall at 7.10 p.m.

" 5th. [redacted] back on Remand for another two weeks.

" 6th Dr. McElroy in and examined [redacted] The Sergeant in. SR237 got word that [redacted] is in Cork Sisters and [redacted] left here at 9.15 p.m.

" 7th. [redacted] [redacted] and [redacted] came on Remand. [redacted] phoned again.
SR237 [redacted] and [redacted]
returned about 2.20 a.m. very tired.

" 8th Mr Fitzgerald, Dentist in today. The Sergeant interviewed [redacted]
Fire Drill Practice at 5.0 p.m.

" 9th Dr. Sullivan in and interviewed [redacted] called on business.

[redacted]

1970

Nov. 1

Before Mass [SR240] and [SR273] reported that two girls - [HIA161] and [SJM88] [SJM88] were missing from Immaculate Dorm. The police in Tyrone, Armagh, Omagh and Belfast were informed and descriptions of the missing girls were given.

During the day the girls in the dormitory told how the "escape" had been arranged and worked out. All were implicated except [SJM89] who slept through. It was also ascertained that [HIA161] had written to [redacted] Derry and had said that she might be in Derry at the Hallow Een weekend. Since the Derry police admitted that it would not be easy for them to enter the Bogside area it was decided that [SR240] and [redacted] should go and check at [redacted] home. The Sisters left for Derry at 4 p.m.

About 10.30 p.m. [SR270] had a ring from [SJM98] [SJM98] said that she had come across the two girls who had absconded from Middletown. She said they were in a

near hysterical state and refused to go to a police station. They refused to come back to Middletown on the grounds that HIA161 was afraid She moved he sent to Borstal. SJM98 said that the girls had recognized SR240 and had run away. Fr. SJM70 rang at 11 p.m. to say that SJM99 had contacted him & she said that the girls would come back if She would accompany them. This she agreed to do. SR270 contacted SR240 in Derry but the sisters there had no way of getting in touch with SJM98. When there was no sign of SJM98 by 1 p.m. Fr. SJM70 said he would go to Cookstown as he felt sure these people would need to get back home as soon as possible. SR270 went with Fr. SJM70 to SJM99 home. It was between 5 – 6 a.m. when the car arrived back with the two girls sound asleep in the back. As they had had a meal in SJM99 they went straight to bed.

Nov. 2nd

The girls had a late sleep as there was no school. In the afternoon SR240 took the group to games. The girls played well and seemed to have enjoyed themselves. Supper was early as [redacted] was to show a film "The Jam of the Sixth Happiness" at 4.30. Everyone enjoyed the film.

The girls who had gone home for weekend returned: SJM90 [redacted], SJM91 [redacted], SJM92 [redacted] SJM93 [redacted] SJM94 [redacted]. SR270 [redacted] went to Newry for [redacted] but SJM95 was out playing since the early afternoon and her mother couldn't find her. Sister told [redacted] that she would be back for SJM95 at 9 a.m. Tuesday. HIA161 [redacted] and SJM88 [redacted] wrote a statement. Since they admitted to having spoken in a derogatory manner of school to SJM98 [redacted] and SJM99 [redacted] they were asked to write out the menu here, etc.

The police were informed that the girls were back. Ready Police asked us

to get the girls to write an accounts of times, roads taken etc. The girls will be questioned regarding the breaking and entering of [redacted] (Middletown) house on Sunday afternoon.

Nov. 3rd S.M. Malachy feast. Girls away at Mass. SR270 went at 8.15 a.m. for SJM95 SR270 came out and said that SJM95 had been ill during the night and Doctor McAteer had to be called in. [redacted] said he would ring the school when SJM95 was ready to come back.

SR238 found dentists' syringe hidden in St. Joseph's washroom. SR240 spent most of the day investigating SR270 rang Dr. McAteer to confirm [redacted] story. It was true & the doctor said he would have a certificate in the mail next day.

SJM96 SJM97 & SJM89 SJM89 sly-smoked again - the two former in the afternoon, HIA161 SJM95 in the dormitory. [redacted] rang to ask for a practice net-ball game with girls of Donaghmoyne Convent on 4th.

[redacted]

Nov. 16

Monday.

SR270 [redacted] and SR240 went to Belfast at 8.45 a.m. They took SJM92 [redacted] who was due for appointment at 10.30 in [redacted] Hospital ([redacted]). The sisters intended to look over "Kinnara" - the house proposed for pre-Release Hostel. SR273 [redacted] was left in charge. SR238 [redacted] reported during breakfast that there seemed to be a general air of unrest. This unrest became apparent to staff during the morning and they were especially vigilant during "Break." SR272 [redacted] noticed that some girls ate very little at dinner but she overlooked this. When the dining-room was cleaned and ready for tea the girls went outside to walk around. About 1.20 six crossed Quinn's Wall and went towards Monaghan road. The six were:

SJM91 [redacted] SJM93 [redacted] HIA161 [redacted]

SJM23 [redacted] SJM100 [redacted] SJM101 [redacted]

[redacted]

The police were informed and the Sergeant came as soon as he could. SR273 and SR272 went in convoy car to try to locate the girls. SJM101 tried easily and SR272 brought her back. A little later SR272 HIA161 and SJM91 were apprehended. About 4 p.m. the two sisters found the three missing girls by the riverbank on Republic side. They were dressed in obviously borrowed or stolen clothes. With difficulty they were persuaded to return - the legal implications of this did not occur to anyone.

SR240 & SR270 returned from Belfast about 6.30 p.m. They were informed that four girls had locked themselves into a classroom and were smoking. SR270 asked SJM93 to open the door — this was when the girls did not appear in dining-room for supper. SR240 rang and asked him to contact the school. SR270 and SR240 interviewed some of the girls and heard the full story. Cigarettes were stolen after dinner. About 9:00 p.m. the four "recalcitrants" opened classroom. They were left sitting there for about 60 minutes when SJM93 and SJM100 SJM100 were interviewed. They told of stealing

[redacted]

January 1st 1971

Social Worker, [redacted] SJM3 went officially on staff. Her time and salary to be divided between St. Joseph's and Armagh Orphan Society: 75% - St. Joseph's and remaining 25% - Armagh Archdiocese.

[redacted] SR276 and [redacted] SR277 visited [redacted] at Good Shepherd.

Jan. 7th [redacted] brought back by Belfast Police on request of [redacted] sister. However, except for one episode [redacted] got on very well with sister and family. Police arrived about 10 p.m.

Jan. 8 [redacted] arrived from England. She was met at Aldergrove by [redacted] and [redacted].

Jan 9th [redacted] HIA161 taken to Armagh Hospital [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] began work. Did not make her bed or tidy up washroom.

14th [redacted] and [redacted] SJM3 came today. Father [redacted] stayed half-day, [redacted] SJM3 whole day. Girls in very good form. [redacted] has improved - is now more organized.
Sister [redacted] and [redacted] went to Omagh to see [redacted] who came out of hospital on Tuesday.

15th [redacted] has replaced [redacted] this week in Primary School. Several girls in bed with flu.

16th [redacted] returned on Ulsterman Express at 5 p.m. met in Monaghan by Sister [redacted].

18th [redacted] arrived in Belfast from Birmingham. Arrangements made to have [redacted] SJM3 visit her.

19th Sister [redacted] started work. Went to Portadown with [redacted] SR240 for materials and patterns for summer dresses.
Sister [redacted] (substitute) took up work in

[redacted]

[redacted] HIA161

[redacted] one year here

The first four-named can be licensed as soon as suitable jobs are available.

Members of committee stayed for supper.

Sister [redacted] took [redacted] HIA161 to the hospital to have her eye cauterized; she also took [redacted] to the dentist.

The job offered by [redacted] was considered for [redacted] came and interviewed [redacted]

18th

Two girls [redacted] and [redacted] appeared in court. Police arrived for them about 9 a.m. Girls did not return - both had received favourable reports.

19th

Fourteen went home for weekend on good behaviour. [redacted] SR240 went with Belfast group; Sister [redacted] took [redacted]

[redacted] rang to say that interviews were being held on Friday in Omagh for prospective workers in factory. If [redacted] eye is O.K. then he would like her to come by bus Thursday.

Sister [redacted] took [redacted] to catch the Derry bus.

3rd

Sister [redacted] took [redacted] to the clinic. Eye better. HIA161 and SJM23 told that they could go to Omagh for the weekend.

Girls in very good form.

4th

[redacted] here today - arrived at 10.45 a.m. Had coffee, inspected the building site - were joined by [redacted]. They then visited the School buildings, hall, dormitories, T.V. Room, Kitchen, dining-room, Classrooms, Office and Needlework room. Mr. Wilson asked to talk to SJM3 who was also here today. Lunch at 12.45. Later, looked at some of Office files, and asked about completion of data Report (sample) presented to Licensing Committee soon. Our opinion asked re

[redacted]

8th [redacted] (Omagh Childrens' Officer) brought [redacted] and [redacted] to visit their daughters. They arrived about 11.30 a.m. and stayed for lunch. [redacted] and [redacted] will be due to leave next Tuesday - job opportunities were discussed. [redacted] will meet the bus (Derry Express) in Omagh Tuesday.

[redacted] came around 1.15 p.m. She made her reports and [redacted] case was discussed further.

[redacted] rang to invite Manager and Deputy to a meeting in Whiteabbey on Thursday, March 25th. Further information will be sent later.

9th

[redacted] SJM3 here. [redacted] rang from Omagh with distressing information - the [redacted] do not want either [redacted] HIA161 or [redacted] SJM23 to visit them again. The [redacted] case was discussed in detail with [redacted] SJM3 - She will visit [redacted] on Thursday and ask that they take the girls for St. Patrick's Day "break" and Easter Vacation. Meantime it was decided that a bag-in "family" job

[redacted]

13th [redacted] went with HIA161 to do the Shopping for clothes etc. Late Saturday night Doctor rang to say that [redacted] had "disappeared". His wife had taken her out shopping with some of the children; supposedly [redacted] had met her boy-friend and had gone off with him. Too late to inform [redacted]

14th

SR237 visited [redacted] and was quite impressed with the house. Pocket-money and rewards, including the home-break, was discussed with the girls. There were some tears.

15th

Rang [redacted] re [redacted] - and asked her to deliver [redacted]. Mrs [redacted] offered to take [redacted] home. Phone call from [redacted]

16th

Early dinner. [redacted] took the Belfast children home. [redacted] left

[redacted]

[redacted] SR240 and [redacted] SJM3 went to Killarney for Seminar.

[redacted] met [redacted] at 5 p.m. bus (Monaghan) [redacted] came for [redacted] around 7 p.m. [redacted] and [redacted] visited [redacted] (St. Luke's)

21st - Children returned. [redacted] went to Belfast. [redacted] SR238 and [redacted] to Newcastle and Loughinisland. [redacted] friend rang to say that [redacted] had missed the bus from Derry and that she would return on Monday. [redacted] bought a kitten

22nd

Classes as usual. [redacted] returned via Monaghan. [redacted] SR240 and [redacted] SJM3 returned on evening bus. [redacted] SR238 received word that her mother is dying. Sister left for home. [redacted] hurt her finger, while, apparently fighting with [redacted] HIA161

23rd

Sister [redacted] left [redacted] in hospital for X-rays. Bone broken in hand. Miss Forrest rang re the proposed hostel. Mrs. [redacted] rang re the house in Cushendall for summer holidays. Armagh Police rang

[redacted]

morning, then went on to Enniskillen ([redacted]) and Dungannon ([redacted]). She reported on progress of [redacted] HIA161 [redacted] stayed overnight and went back to Portadown Thursday morning. [redacted] and [redacted] arranged to take Team on an outing Saturday.

[redacted] - auditor.

[redacted] rang re Exemption from Rates (Hostel)

[redacted] taking week-end off.

SR240 took [redacted] to the City Library.

[redacted] here for James. Sister [redacted] replaced

[redacted] - 3.00 - 4.00 p.m. (James).

7th

[redacted] called to the Convent. She is very perturbed about [redacted] behaviour during the Hallowe'en break - staying out at night especially. It was decided that [redacted] will have to forfeit part of her Christmas vacation but that the family should be united for Christmas Day.

SJM3 [redacted] will be asked to visit and see if [redacted] is conforming to rules - if not she is to return here. Girls enjoyed walk. Were present in the Church for a baptismal ceremony.

8th Nov

[redacted] (Omagh) rang to say that [redacted]

HIA161 had absconded from her job in Omagh - is staying with [redacted] uncle.

[redacted] is to visit [redacted] this evening.

[redacted] was contacted and is quite

March 28th [redacted] and [redacted] took [redacted] and [redacted] to the Dentist, Omagh. S. M. P. did a lot of shopping. She also got men potted to decorate the grounds especially around the hall.

31st. The Sergeant in. Preparations are being made for the Meeting of the Governing Body which is being held tomorrow.

April 1st. The Meeting of the Governing Body was held at 4 o clock p.m. The usual members attended.

3rd Dr. Sullivan visited interviewed [redacted]

4th. [redacted] took [redacted] to the hospital for a xray. In the evening [redacted] and [redacted] went home for Easter. They were accompanied by [redacted]

5th. The children from Ballymoney, Derry and Omagh went home today accompanied by [redacted] The children from Belfast went home also. They were accompanied by [redacted]

6th. Easter Sunday. A nice pleasant and enjoyable day for all. The children left here are [redacted] and [redacted]

8th The sisters took the five children out on a picnic. [redacted] phoned.