

HIA REF: 198

Witness Name: HIA 198

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 198

I, **HIA 198**, will say as follows:-

Personal Details

1. I was born on the [REDACTED] and lived with my family in [REDACTED]. I am the youngest of four children. I have one brother, [REDACTED] and two sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Both my parents are still alive.
2. I have suffered medical problems since an early age. I did not meet any developmental milestones as a child. A doctor diagnosed me as 'a very bold, disobedient child' and I was referred to the Royal Victoria Hospital due to hyper activity, disrupted sleeping patterns, delayed speech, poor co-ordination and mobility. When I was four I was diagnosed with hearing difficulties which had caused my developmental delay. Throughout my primary school years psychologists were involved in my care and often visited my home to offer help and advice. When I was thirty years old I discovered that I had been diagnosed with a minor degree of cerebral palsy when I was a child. This diagnosis was not disclosed to myself or my parents.
3. I attended secondary school but I struggled massively. I was always being told off and sent to the Headmaster's office. I seemed to spend most of my time in

detention. I could never concentrate on my homework. I did not mean to be bad but no one understood the underlying problems I had. I was diagnosed with severe Attention Deficit Disorder when I was twelve. I never left my mother's side as that is where I felt safe and protected. I did not have any friends my own age when I was growing up as I did not know how to be around other children or how to communicate with them.

4. My mother contacted social services in August 1990 to report possible abuse of myself and my two sisters to Social Services. They closed their investigation after three weeks which exposed me to the abuse for another year. I was being abused by a [REDACTED] called [REDACTED]. He would make me perform sexual favours for money and he raped me. He was about five or six years older than me. [REDACTED] admitted minor abuse on me but he was never convicted. I never told anyone that he raped me because I felt awkward and embarrassed as there was a male social worker present during the interview.
5. My mother renewed contact with social services in October 1991 as she was not coping with me and I was placed in Orana House.

Orana House, Newry (25/10/1991 – 12/03/1992)

6. When I was initially placed in Orana House it was for an assessment period of three days. The period was extended to five weeks and then further extended to five months.
7. When I was in Orana I was throwing terrible temper tantrums because I didn't understand why I was being taken away from my mother. I would have been restrained a lot and held down by staff. Usually between three and six staff members would be involved and I would have had my arm forced up my back. I have problems with my back and shoulder to this day and I believe it is a result of the physical restraint.

8. On one occasion whilst I was being restrained my mother was present. [REDACTED] and 4 other staff members held me face down. I believe [REDACTED] took delight in restraining me.
9. There was a member of staff called [REDACTED] who restrained me with so much force that I would have been sore afterwards. When he restrained me he always seemed to clamp my hands between his legs. After being abused I did not feel comfortable touching a man near that area. I complained about him to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
10. A man called [REDACTED] used to sit outside my room at night to stop me wandering as I did not sleep at night time. I believe [REDACTED] was specifically chosen as other staff knew he terrified me.
11. I threw a tantrum the day that I left Orana as I did not want to go home to be near the boy that had been abusing me. I was held on the floor by a psychiatrist and [REDACTED]. I can remember [REDACTED] lying on my back and thumping my head of the ground. I was just twelve years old.
12. Despite the fact that I was physically restrained a lot in Orana, I kept running back there after I left as it was somewhere I felt safe. I begged to go back in to care again as I could not live near my abuser.
13. While in Orana House, Dr [REDACTED] from Craigavon Area Hospital prescribed me with medication to help me sleep with and with concentration.

St Joseph's Training School, Middletown (05/05/1992 – 05/06/1992)

14. I was admitted to Middletown for a period of 5 weeks and then I was returned home.

Kilnahalla House, Hilltown, Kilkeel (24/05/1993 – 01/12/1993)

15. I was then sent to Kilnahalla. It was a therapeutic community for young people and I loved it there. I was given independence and I was being listened too. I felt that I was wanted, however, my social worker was a trainee and my mother felt that she was inexperienced to deal with me. This trainee social worker stopped the medication that I had been prescribed by Dr [REDACTED] without his knowledge. She also told my mother that all my problems stemmed from a lack of maternal bonding with me.
16. I was home schooled for 4 hours per day as I had been expelled from school due to my bad behaviour and no other school was willing to take me.
17. I left Kilnahalla, due to a lack of funding and I went home for a while but I always felt like a bad child that nobody wanted. I ran away from home and a man called [REDACTED] took me up to his house and sexually abused me. I reported it to police and social services but he was not prosecuted. I understand that he is now dead.

Bocombra Lodge, Portadown (15/03/1994 – 22/08/1994)

18. I was placed in Bocombra in March 1994. A Fit Person Order was made on 15th April 1994.
19. I just wanted out of Bocombra. I wasn't wanted at home or at school or in the children's home and I could not understand what was wrong with me. I just wanted to die. While I was in Bocombra I was admitted to Craigavon Area Hospital numerous times after overdose attempts.
20. I was placed in Middletwon on a Place of Safety Order following an overdose attempt in August 1994.

St Joseph's Training School, Middletown (22/08/1994 – 03/11/1994)

21. Children who had committed criminal offences were sent to Middletown so I do not understand why I was sent there. Everybody smoked and used the cigarettes as a bargaining tool.
22. I ran away from Middletown quite frequently. On one occasion SR247 caught me and slapped me across the face. If someone ran away the other residents were given a treat, like an extra cigarette, when the run-away was caught. After I ran away a few times I was placed in the secure unit in Middletown. I only got to see one staff member for one hour a day. The remainder of the time I was locked in my bedroom. I was just fourteen.
23. One of the times I ran away from Middletown I ended up at Daisy Hill Hospital. I was attracted by the lights as I knew I would be safe. I was hungry, tired and cold so I broke into a car looking for money. There was a key in the car so I started the car. I did not know how to drive and ended up crashing the car into a bollard. I was charged with seven separate offences as a result of this incident.
24. During my time in Middletown I was aware of the rumours that SR240 slapped other residents.
25. After I left Middletown on 3rd November 1994 I spent nearly a month in Craigavon Area hospital Adult Psychiatric Unit and then three weeks in a secure unit in St Luke's Hospital, Armagh before I was admitted to Rathgael.

Rathgael Training School, Bangor (22/12/1994 – 20/08/1997)

26. I was initially placed in Rathgael under a Fit Person Order and then a Training School Order was made on 17th February 1995. When I was in Rathgael I was moved around several different houses.
27. Some of the staff in Rathgael were kind and others used to antagonise children to the point that the children required to be physically restrained. There was a

member of staff called **RG 2** and I used to dread him working because he would flirt with all the teenage girls. As a result of everything that had happened in my life I had learned by this stage to keep my head down.

28. Three specific boys who were regularly pinned to the floor by staff members using chairs. When the boys wanted released the staff refused. This resulted in the boys getting angry and having to be restrained. A member of staff called **RG 2** was renowned for this.
29. A senior staff member called **RG 41** had a favourite female resident. She would punish and threaten to punish the other residents if this girl was annoyed in any way.
30. We were taken to the shop once by a member of staff called **RG 20** to spend our pocket money. I was mouthy to him in the shop and when we returned to Rathgael I refused to go into house 3. I was sitting outside on the grass. He came back out of the house and I told him to "fuck off". He grabbed me with both his hands around the chest area and pulled me into the house. I yelled for him to stop but he did not.
31. On one occasion I remember falling down the stairs in House 3. I was clumsy with stairs. I was fined some of my pocket money as when I had fallen I used bad language. Staff did not help me up nor check if I sustained any injuries.
32. The secure unit was called Shamrock House. I spent around six months in Shamrock House. In my bedroom I had a plastic mattress and a plastic cube to place my clothes on. I found the bed extremely uncomfortable to sleep on and the bed sheet would always slide off the mattress. When I was in Shamrock House the doors were locked and I had to ask for permission for everything. If I wanted to go to the toilet or get a drink I had to ask permission and a member of staff came with me, I always had to wait. We all had to stay in the one room and watch television. We were never allowed to be on our own. The only time we were allowed out of the unit was to have a cigarette. Our bedroom doors were locked at night time. During my time in Shamrock House I attended school, although at most I would have coloured in pictures, completed crosswords

- puzzles and played games on the computer. I did not receive the same education as children in mainstream education.
33. The food I was received in Rathgael was disgusting; I do not believe the food was fit for human consumption. When I was in Shamrock House the meals I received were nearly cold and had a rubber texture.
34. There was no medical or dental care. There was a Matron called **RG 75**, but she just seem to dispense Strepsils for every ailment. On one occasion I had an injury to my foot and I was given a Strepsil.
35. I never received a hair cut during my time in Rathgael.
36. Despite all my problems I was not given any medication or any help. I had very little education as no-one understood my problems.
37. I did not receive any life skills during my time spent in Rathgael, for example, how to look after my appearance or respect myself. I was not prepared for life when I left care.

Life After Care

38. I left Rathgael when I was seventeen years old. I was deemed 'high risk' and discharged to the care of my father. My parents had since divorced and my father had no knowledge of how to manage me nor did he want to manage me. My father, brother and sister were drinking heavily. I contacted Rathgael and social services regarding this and I was told 'it's a good home', 'there is nowhere else for you to go' and that social services had no legal obligation towards me. I believe my family had a huge resentment for me as I was blamed for breaking up the family. To this day I feel consumed with guilt and find it very difficult to accept that I deserve a future.
39. I registered with a dentist when I left Rathgael. I required eight fillings as my teeth had been neglected throughout my childhood.

40. I had no coat and my mother had to buy me a new coat and new underwear. This task was undertaken by my mother when I was in care otherwise I would not have received a properly fitted bra or decent underwear.
41. Throughout my childhood I felt as though I was always being punished. I was not a bad child. I was an abused child who was placed in the care system and left to feel vulnerable and exposed to further physical, mental and sexual abuse.
42. I left the care system with mental health issues. I felt that anyone could do anything to me and it didn't matter if I complained as nothing would be done about it. I was promised after care services on leaving the care system. I had to make a complaint as I had not received the relevant forms. It took six months for me to receive these forms.
43. Feelings of not being wanted, not being normal and not being good enough extended into early adulthood. I began to use alcohol as a means of coping. I attempted suicide on numerous occasions. On one occasion I jumped off a bridge and was sectioned under the Mental Health Act.
44. In 2008 my sisters disclosed that they had been sexually abused. This was during the time my mother had reported possible abuse of us to social services in 1990. Social services closed their file three weeks after my mother had reported this. My sisters did not want to report the abuse as they did not want to be put in care having seen how I had been treated. My sisters were subjected to a further year of sexual abuse because of this.
45. It has taken almost five years to obtain all my files from the Department of Health and Social Services. I spent a further five years reading and trying to make sense of the neglect and failures of the department. I found it heartbreaking to read that a psychologist who had assessed me when I was around nine years old had written in a report that I had wanted to be sexually abused.

46. I entered into correspondence with social services, highlighting their failures in my care, however they refused to accept this and stated 'I received the best care'.
47. I want social services to apologise to my mother for making her feel like a bad mother and for ruining her life.
48. I truly believe that my experiences in care will haunt me for the rest of my life. I believe there is no recovery for me as the past cannot be changed.
49. I struggle to have relationships with men as I have issues with intimacy, trust and authority. I have a problem with asking for help. I have a two daughters and I own where I am today to my mother.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

HIA 198

Dated

20th April 2015

HIA Ref: 198
Witness Name: SR234
Date: 31st December 2015

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 – 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF
SR234

Introduction

1. I am a religious sister of St. Louis. I was attached to St. Joseph's Middletown ("St. Joseph's") between 1977 until 2000 when St. Joseph's closed.
2. I was a qualified teacher attaining my BA Honours degree in 1963 from Queen's University and Higher Diploma in Education in 1964 from University College Dublin. I studied in London at the Richmond fellowship for mental welfare and rehabilitation from September 1975 until June 1976. On completion I was awarded a Diploma in Human Relations in 1976
3. During my time at St. Joseph's I was responsible for admissions and later when we had professional psychological services in place, I also acted as the liaison person for this service. I was initially a member of the four person senior team and then became Deputy Director of St. Joseph's and I held this position of responsibility until 1997 when I retired. Although I retired from my position as Deputy Director I continued to help out on voluntary basis until 2000 when St Joseph's closed.
4. I can confirm that during the periods when HIA198 was resident I was Deputy Director at St. Joseph's. I am making this statement in response to HIA198's statement (HIA ref: 198). I have read HIA198's statement and I

confirm I have considered the personal records which we retain relating to [HIA198] to assist me in making this statement.

Details of admission and discharge

5. [HIA198] s first period of residence at St. Joseph's commenced on 5th May – 5th June 1992. The authority to place her in St. Joseph's was granted by a Magistrate pursuant to Section 99 of the Children and Young Person Act (NI) 1968 in order to ensure her safety. I have attached the Authority to Remove to a Place of Safety Order which I have attached marked [REDACTED] 1'.
6. The second period of residence for [HIA198] at St. Joseph's commenced on 17th June 1994. I attach the relevant Court Orders and our available admission record which I have marked [REDACTED] 2'.
7. Prior to [HIA198] s second admission to St. Joseph's, our records confirm that she had been placed in the Bocombra Children's Home on 14th March 1994. Our file contains a copy of a report for Newry Juvenile Court which was prepared by a social worker from Newry & Mourne Health and Social Services Trust on 19th October 1994. The report appears to have been prepared for the purposes of an interim application for an Order for detention before Banbridge Courthouse. The social worker stated as follows:-

[HIA198] was placed in Bocombra on 14th March 1994. During this period [HIA198] was made the subject of a Fit Persons Order on 15th April 1994. All parties had agreed that [HIA198] was to remain in long term care.

[HIA198] s placement in Bocombra Children's Home was fraught with difficulties. [HIA198] presented with very disturbed and impulsive behaviour. [HIA198] was

unable to settle for any lengthy period. During her placement [HIA198] had absconded approximately 30 times. She had attempted 13 overdoses, with six of them life-threatening. It was following an overdose on 19th August 1994, when [HIA198] took approximately 50 paracetamol that she was removed under a Place of Safety to St. Joseph's Training School".

I have attached a copy of the report to my statement marked [REDACTED] 3'.

8. At paragraph 21 (SJM – 034) [HIA198] states that she does not understand why she was sent to St. Joseph's as it was for children who had committed criminal offences. Girls between the ages of 12 to 17 years were admitted to St. Joseph's via the Court system. Some of the girls would have been sent to us by the Courts having committed criminal offences but most were referred by the Court via social workers who considered that the children needed a place of safety because their parents were not able to cope with them or other residential homes were not able to cope with the girls or there were other reasons that they were in need of care and protection.
9. Initially, the girls would be admitted to St Joseph's for a five week period by a Court Order known as Authority to Remove to a Place of Safety. This was known as remand. I appreciate that this is an unfortunate term as it does imply that all girls were admitted due to criminal activities but this was not the case. The girls would then return to Court and the remand period could be extended for up to two occasions before they were admitted permanently via a Training School Order or discharged. The Court would permit one Place of Safety Order up to 5 weeks and then two interim Orders if required.
10. St Joseph's was organised around a house system. There were four separate houses called House 1, 2, 3 and 4. Each house had capacity for eight girls. House 1

was for girls on short term stays/remand. Houses 2 – 4 kept long term residents. There was a school in the grounds of Middletown close to the houses and the girls walked to school every day.

11. **HIA198** recalls at paragraph 22 (SJM – 034) that “everybody smoked” and that cigarettes were used as a “bargaining tool”. She also refers at paragraph 22 to the residents being given a treat such as an extra cigarette if someone had run away from St. Joseph’s. It would be fair to say that a lot of the girls who were admitted to St. Joseph’s smoked. Most of the girls who were admitted were aged between 13 and 15 years and would have already been smokers by the time they came to us. We did not encourage smoking but the reality was if the girls had already developed a smoking habit it was very difficult for us to stop this. Most girls bought cigarettes on a Monday evening with their pocket money and we had a policy that once purchased they were handed in to the house staff where the girls resided and they rationed them out over the course of the following week. It is not correct to say that cigarettes were used as a bargaining tool or as a reward or a treat by staff if a girl who had run away was subsequently returned. With the benefit of hindsight I accept that smoking should not have been permitted.

12. There was an established reward system at St. Joseph’s throughout my period working there. This measured each girl’s behaviour and also the behaviour of the house to which she belonged. At the beginning of the week each girl started with 100 marks and she could lose or gain marks throughout the week. We measured such things as attitude and general behaviour whilst at school and in the house and also whether girls had completed their chores. On Saturday evenings we had the reading of the marks in each house which took place in the presence of the Senior Staff member who was on call for the weekend. When awarding or deducting marks staff tried to be fair as all staff including teaching staff worked at building relationships with the girls. Whilst the reward system was important it was not the only method of

maintaining discipline within the house system. Ongoing dialogue, the imposition of boundaries and daily care was how we kept the houses working properly. I attach a letter from [HIA198] dated 4th June 1992 marked [REDACTED] 4' which confirms that she was aware of the reward system and the fact that she lost marks for bad language.

13. Part of the weekend routine for the girls was staying up late to watch TV on a Saturday night and having a treat such as sweets, crisps and lemonade. If the staff allowed an extra cigarette on this occasion there was a different treat for girls who did not smoke.
14. All the girls had chores and one of the chores was to help with the breakfast. If they were not allocated to the breakfast/kitchen then the girls would tidy their bedrooms, do the washing up in the kitchen or prepare the fire. The girls did have to make their own meals but this was with the assistance of a staff member. The girls were not asked to do any more chores than they would have done in a family home setting.
15. At paragraph 22 (SJM – 034) [HIA198] refers to running away frequently from St. Joseph's. The records from her personal file confirm that she did frequently abscond and because we were unable to ensure her safety when she did run away, this was one of the principal reasons why she left St. Joseph's in November 1994.
16. Also at paragraph 22 (SJM - -036) [HIA198] refers to one occasion when she ran away but [SR247] caught her and slapped her across the face. [SR247] was a St. Louis Sister between 1994 and 2000. She was a trained teacher and taught in St Patrick's High School in Keady. She left the Order in 2000 and I have no evidence to enable me to respond to this allegation on her behalf. This is the first time I have been made aware of any allegation of slapping against [SR247]

Corporal punishment was not permitted in St Joseph even as early as 1977 when I started working there.

The Intensive Care Unit at St. Joseph's ("ICU")

17. St. Joseph's was required to have a secure unit by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) to provide secure accommodation for children who absconded and were potentially a risk to themselves and to others. The NIO had a blue print for how the secure accommodation was to be built, fitted and furnished and our unit was 100% funded by the NIO. The ICU at St. Joseph's was used by staff for very short intensive periods of assessment and treatment through counselling and psychology therapies where the behaviour of girls could not be managed within the house environment. A girl would also have been admitted to the intensive care unit if she came back to St Joseph's in the middle of the night and we did not want to disturb other girls in their house. When this happened a girl went back to her own house in the am.
18. The ICU had three bedrooms, two for the children who had been sent there and one for the member of staff who was allocated to stay with the child. Although there were three bedrooms, I never recall having two children in the unit at the same time. It also had a living room, a kitchen with a dining area and a bathroom. A girl was never left alone in the ICU. A member of staff always stayed with the girls. If she was on duty the key worker went with the girl to the ICU or staff who worked in their House so that they were familiar with the individual who was staying with them. If the key worker was not available or staff allocated to their House then myself or another member of the Senior Team would have stayed with the girl in the unit.
19. As I have stated above we were aware at the time **HIA198** was admitted to St. Joseph's that **HIA198**'s behaviour at Bocombra was difficult for the staff to manage. From a report on **HIA198**'s file dated 19th September 1994 I note there is

reference to the concern of our management that St. Joseph's would not be an appropriate placement for [HIA198]. The report references discussions between St. Joseph's staff and Social Services on 7th June 1994. It was acknowledged that St. Joseph's was not an appropriate placement however it was also agreed that when [HIA198]'s behaviour required it, she would be given "time out" in the secure unit in St. Joseph's. Copies of the report dated 19th September 1994 and the note of concern are attached marked [REDACTED] 5'. I do not recall a written policy on the use of the ICU but we only used it for emergency situations or as a last resort when there was no other way to keep a girl safe.

20. I have set out below further details of [HIA198]'s periods in the Intensive Care Unit at St. Joseph's:

(i) **21.08.1994 – 22.08.1994**

The notes record that [HIA198] was admitted to ICU after a serious overdose and absconding from her placement at Bocombra. She was admitted to ICU at St. Joseph's for observation and then returned back to House 1 at St. Joseph's on 22.08.1994.

(ii) **23.08.1994**

[HIA198] absconded at 6.30 p.m. She was later found and admitted to ICU until lunchtime on 24.08.1994.

(iii) **30.08.1994**

[HIA198] absconded at 5.30 p.m. and was returned to St. Joseph's by the Police at 2.05 a.m. on 31.08.1994. She was admitted to ICU and was returned back to House 1 on 01.09.1994.

(iv) **02.10.1994**

HIA198 absconded while on an overnight home visit with her parents. The Police returned **HIA198** to St. Joseph's however we found evidence that medication may have been taken by **HIA198** and she was subsequently taken by me to Craigavon Area Hospital where she was admitted.

(v) **12.10.1994**

HIA198 absconded and was found on the 15.10.1994 after intensive searches by staff from St. Joseph's, Police and Social Services. My notes record that **HIA198** told me that she had taken an overdose of Anadin and Hedex and showed me fresh cuts on her arm. Her eyes were glazed. I took her straight to Craigavon Casualty. She was discharged in the middle of the night on 15.10.1994 and returned to ICU.

(vi) **16.10.1994**

HIA198 absconded again. The records note that **HIA198** was still missing on **HIA198** however information was passed to us that she had been arrested and questioned about a stolen car and a burglary which would be consistent with the information that she has provided at paragraph 23 (SJM- 034) of her witness statement.

(vii) **18.10.1994 – 03.11.1994**

HIA198 was returned to ICU because of the seriousness of her overdosing and following consultation with the Chairman of St. Joseph's Board, Paul Cunningham, Senior Social worker and Michael Barbour, Psychologist. Michael was a member of the Adolescent Psychologist Services Team (APRU) which serviced all the training schools in Northern Ireland. It was agreed that we could no longer risk having **HIA198** living in an open environment. She was placed in the ICU until Friday 21st October 1994 when a ruling was due to be sought from the Juvenile Court. I have

attached to my statement marked " [REDACTED] 6" the report which Michael Barbour Psychologist had prepared on [REDACTED] HIA198 following his assessment of her on 18th October 1994. He refers to the fact that she had repeatedly absconded and reported taking overdoses of melleril and pain killers. It was Michael's opinion that:

"She is currently posing an unacceptably high level of risk to herself. Although I am unsure whether she genuinely wishes to kill herself, there is always a chance of an inadvertently fatal overdose. The cumulative effects of her numerous overdoses over the past two months has also caused concern.

On [REDACTED] HIA198's return from absconding it would be my opinion that she should be placed in a secure/close supervision setting for a period of up to 4/5 weeks in an effort to break her present cycle of absconding and self-injury and allow her ongoing management/treatment to be addressed"

21. I would also make reference at this point to a letter in [REDACTED] HIA198's file dated 26th October 1994 which is appended to this statement marked [REDACTED] 7". This letter was sent to [REDACTED] SR240 (Director of St. Joseph's) by Paul Carlin Principal Social Worker from Newry & Mourne Health and Social Services Trust. Mr Carlin refers to a meeting which took place on 25th October 1994 between representatives of St. Joseph's and Paul Cunningham Senior Social Worker responsible for [REDACTED] HIA198. He acknowledges the difficult task being undertaken by the staff of St. Joseph's with respect to the management difficulties being presented by [REDACTED] HIA198. He refers to there being no viable alternative to [REDACTED] HIA198 being contained in a very secure situation given her state of mind regarding self-harm. Mr Carlin confirmed that the Trust was urgently pursuing the possibility of a placement in Rathgael and any suitable alternatives elsewhere would be explored. Mr Carlin referred to the

“very real dilemmas which this situation presents to your facility and the dedication and commitment by your staff to [HIA198]’s care”.

Our records confirm that [HIA198] left St. Joseph’s and was admitted to Craigavon Psychiatric Unit on 3rd November 1994. The records confirm that we continued to visit [HIA198] when she was admitted to the psychiatric unit.

22. Subsequently we know that she was admitted to Rathgael Training School on 25th November 1994. I attended a number of case conferences on behalf of St. Joseph’s regarding [HIA198] which were held in Rathgael between January 1995 and July 1995. Copies of the Case Conference notes we retained are attached at “[HIA198]”.

23. It was agreed at a case conference on 14th June 1995 which was attended by representatives from Rathgael, Psychology and Newry & Mourne Social Services that because [HIA198]’s period at Rathgael was due to expire, visits should commence at St. Joseph’s with a view to exploring if [HIA198] could return to St. Joseph’s.

24. My handwritten notes of the case conference review on 17th July 1995 at Rathgael record that [HIA198] had two visits to St. Joseph’s between June and July 1995. The notes go on to record that [HIA198] enjoyed these but that she had said she was fearful that she might “go off the rails again” if she went back to St. Joseph’s. [HIA198]’s mother was particularly anxious that [HIA198] should stay in Rathgael and it was agreed that it would be in [HIA198]’s best interest to remain there.

25. I regret that [HIA198] had to spend so long in our ICU but as the reports show we had no other way to keep her safe. We tried various options to avoid her having to go into the unit or to prevent her from absconding. During her time in ICU we were

actively seeking an alternative placement and it is confirmed in the records that I expressed my concerns to social workers at the time about **HIA198** having to spend time in the unit.

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

Signed **SR234**

Dated 30.12.2015

HIA REF: [198]

NAME: HIA198

Response by HSCB

DATE: [6th 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 will say as follows: -

1. HIA198, born [REDACTED] was initially admitted to St Joseph's Training School, Middletown on 5 May 1992 under a Place of Safety Order, see **Exhibit 1**. She remained there until 5 June 1992 when she was discharged home to the care of her parents; see exhibit 2. The Applicant was subsequently admitted to Middletown under Place of Safety Orders on the following dates; 17 June 1994, see **Exhibit 3**, and 15 July 1994, see **Exhibit 4**. A further Place of Safety Order was granted on 21 August 1994, see exhibit 5 and two interim Orders of Detention were granted on 19 September 1994 and 21 October 1994, see **Exhibit 6**. The Applicant remained in Middletown until 3 November 1994 when she was admitted to the Early Treatment Unit in Craigavon Hospital, see **Exhibit 6** above.
2. The Health and Social Care Board has previously submitted a statement regarding the Applicant's familial and social care history as well as her time in Rathgael, see RGL 289.
3. As detailed at RGL 291 the Applicant was placed in Orana Children's Home on 25 October 1991 and was discharged home to the care of her parents on 12 March 1992. The Applicant's parents then requested that she be removed

into care and following consultation, it was decided to admit her to Middletown Training School for a period of assessment and to defuse the situation at home. The Applicant was then admitted to Middletown on 5 May 1992 under a Place of Safety Order, see exhibit 1 above. **Exhibit 2** above notes that the Applicant's behaviour within Middletown had improved, although she could be 'extremely verbally abusive' to staff and residents. **Exhibit 2** further notes that the Applicant had made progress within Middletown as a result of which Social Services wished to discharge the Place of Safety Order so as to pursue a care plan in the community. The Applicant therefore returned home on 5 June 1992. The Board notes that the Applicant makes no complaints regarding her initial placement in Middletown.

4. The Applicant was then placed with foster parents in [REDACTED] from 28 July 1992 until 18 August 1992. She was then discharged home where she remained until 24 May 1993 after which she was placed in Kinnahalla Children's Home until December 1993, when she returned home once more, see RGL 294 – 295. The Applicant was thereafter admitted to Bocombra Children's Home on 15 March 1994 under a Place of Safety Order, see **Exhibit 7**.
5. In paragraph 21 of her statement, the Applicant says that she does not understand why she was sent to Middletown as she thought it was reserved for children who had committed criminal offences. As detailed in the Applicant's statement at paragraphs 18 to 20, her placement in Bocombra was characterised by absconsions, self-harm and overdoses. Initially, management at Middletown felt a placement there would be inappropriate for the Applicant however it was agreed that, if the Applicant's behaviour required it, she would be admitted for a 'time-out', see exhibit 8. The Applicant was then admitted to Middletown on 17 June 1994, see **Exhibit 3** above, for an overnight stay following her swallowing correction fluid which, when mixed with her medication, caused the Applicant to go into a semi-conscious state, see **Exhibit 9**. **Exhibit 9** further details that time was taken to explain to the Applicant that she was not being punished by admission to Middletown but rather, her admission was due to 'risk taking behaviours'. **Exhibit 10** notes that

the Applicant appeared to respond to her placement in Middletown and that discharge was to be viewed as 'a new start'.

6. The Applicant was once more admitted to Middletown on 15 July 1994 for twenty four hours, see exhibit 4 above, after absconding from Bocombra, attempting to stab police with a knife, returning and then absconding again with a second knife, see **Exhibit 11**. **Exhibit 11** further notes that the Applicant had cuts on her arm when apprehended. She was then returned to Bocombra the following day. Following complaints by other young persons in Bocombra, Social Service staff met to discuss the Applicant's placement and agreed that a 'long-term' one was required, see **Exhibit 12**. The report noted that, taking the Applicant's wishes into account, Social Services would approach Orana Children's Home in order to assess viability. It was also noted that if the placement at Orana was not possible, the only other option was Training School.
7. Following two consecutive overdoses on 12 and 13 August 1994, the Applicant was admitted to the Early Treatment Unit in Craigavon Area Hospital. **Exhibit 13** records that she was not diagnosed with any psychiatric illnesses but rather her actions were due to behavioural difficulties. The Applicant was discharged on 19 August 1994 after which she again overdosed. It was concluded that given the Applicant's intent to commit suicide, a placement in Bocombra was no longer possible. As a result, the Applicant was removed to Middletown Training School on a Place of Safety Order on 21 August 1994, see **Exhibit 5** above. The report at **Exhibit 13** concludes by commending all Bocombra staff who gave the Applicant a great deal of help and support during her placement.
8. The Applicant was initially placed in the Assessment unit at Middletown, see **Exhibit 14**, after which her behaviour is noted to have stabilised. The report at **Exhibit 14** notes that the Applicant had on-going contact with her parents and that she continued her sessions with Dr McCune and began work with Michael Barbour of the Adolescent Psychology & Research Unit. At the time of the report, Social Services were pursuing an independent living facility for

the Applicant whilst Dr McCune was recommending that she return home. The staff at Middletown were of the opinion that further assessment was needed before the best option could be ascertained.

9. **Exhibit 15** records that an Interim Order of Detention was granted on 19 September 1994. Over the month of October 1994 the Applicant absconded four times and was admitted to Daisy Hill Hospital and Craigavon Area Hospital as a result of overdosing. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. After her return to Middletown on 18 October 1994, the Applicant was held in secure accommodation. **Exhibit 15** notes that staff at Middletown were concerned that the Applicant was being deprived of the company of other young persons but that Social Services were not willing to risk giving her freedom, owing to her ability to cause severe self-harm. It also records that Michael Barbour recommended that the Applicant be admitted to the secure unit in Rathgael Training School.
10. An application for a further Interim Order of Detention was heard on 21 October 1994, see **Exhibit 16** containing the court report and **Exhibit 17** containing the court order. The court report notes that whilst professionals acknowledged the Applicant's history of abuse and family relationships as inherent factors in her pattern of self-harm, there was agreement amongst all parties that the Applicant would continue along a path of self-destruction until she accidentally killed herself, unless she was placed in a secure unit. The report also details the wish of Social Services to work towards placing the Applicant in a Community Home.
11. The Applicant was admitted to the Early Treatment Unit of Craigavon Area Hospital on 3 November 1994 in order to trial new medications aimed at stabilising the Applicant's hyperactivity and impulsivity, see **Exhibit 18**. The Applicant had been due to return to Middletown on 1 December 1994 but on the evening before return, absconded and overdosed and was admitted to the secure unit at St Luke's Hospital on 1 December 1994 as it was the only

possible placement for her, see exhibit 19. An admission panel for the secure unit at Rathgael, Shamrock House, had been held on 25 November 1994 and the Applicant was transferred to the unit on 22 December 1994 under a Place of Safety Order, see **Exhibit 20**. A further interim Order was granted on 20 January 1995, see **Exhibit 21**. **Exhibit 21** details that the Applicant had settled well into Shamrock House and that it was agreed by all professionals involved with the Applicant that she would benefit from a long term placement in the unit.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed:

Rona Hall

Dated: 6th January 2016

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

**FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RESPONSE BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO
WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] HIA198 (HIA 198)**

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 has submitted separate statements about HIA 198's time in Rathgael Training School (see RGL-780 to RGL-790 and RGL-4209 to RGL-4217).
2. The Department notes HIA 198's comments at paragraphs 14 and 22-24 of her statement to the Inquiry. HIA 198 was initially admitted to St Joseph's Training School for a five-week assessment on 5 May 1992 (see RGL-40745). Records show that she was formally admitted to the Assessment Unit at St. Joseph's on 21st August 1994 on a Place of Safety Order (RGL-40745). A Report for Admission dated 5th September 1994 stated that it was hoped that HIA 198 would remain for the maximum period of 15 weeks (RGL-40744). An Interim Order of Detention was granted on 19th September 1994 and a second Interim Order on 21st October 1994.(RGL-40760).
3. In relation to HIA 198's admittance to St Joseph's in August 1994, further background information can be found in a report dated 19 September 1994 (see RGL-40745 and RGL-40746). This report shows that HIA 198 was having on-going contact with her parents and consultations with Dr McCune of Craigavon Child & Family Unit.

4. Further review reports dated 18 October 1994 and 20 October 1994 can be found respectively at RGL-40747 to RGL-40748 and RGL-40753 to RGL-40754. These show that she twice overdosed on tablets during absconding episodes on 2nd October 1994 and 16th October 1994. She also absconded on 23rd August 1994, 24th September 1994 and 17th October 1994. Concerns over her mental health and possible overdosing led to discussions over testing for drugs and searches for drugs (RGL-40748). She had a previous history of absconding (30 occasions) and overdoses (13 occasions) during her previous placement in Bocombra Children's Home (RGL-40750).
5. [REDACTED] Social Worker, noted on 18th October 1994 that 'HIA198' continues to "play games" and never really tells the correct version of an incident". (RGL-40747).
6. HIA 198 was placed in the secure unit on 17th October 1994 to allow her behaviour to settle down and to afford her maximum protection from harming herself (i.e the tablets and absconding) (RGL-40751). She did not react well to this – her behaviour on 18th October 1994 was erratic and aggressive. She asked for a drink of water which was given in a hard plastic beaker. She broke this beaker and threatened staff with same and attempted to cut her wrists. It was noted that unless she was placed in a secure unit, she would "continue on the path of self-destruction until she "accidentally" kills herself". (RGL-40751)
7. It was noted on 20th October 1994 that HIA 198 was unhappy about being kept in secure accommodation but it was felt by Social Services and St. Joseph's staff that "there was far too much risk in allowing her to run freely, and that a big effort should be made to hold onto her". (RGL-40753) While in the secure unit, she had banged her head off the wall, door and radiator. She had bruised her elbow and her knee. On 2 separate occasions, she had torn the bedlinen and thrown it all (including duvet

and pillow) out of the small windows. The medical officer attended and talked with her and the staff. (RGL-40754)

8. It was noted that the secure unit at St Joseph's was never meant to be used for a long period, it was normally used for 24-48 hours, maximum 72 hours, and was rarely used, but it was obviously felt that these were exceptional circumstances. (RGL-40754). It was noted by the Principal Social Worker that "It is regrettable that a young person should have to be contained in such circumstances, but we agreed that, at this particular point, containment and her preservation must be the paramount considerations." (RGL-40755)
9. HIA 198 was admitted to the Early Treatment Unit at Craigavon Hospital on 3rd November 1994 by a Child Psychiatrist (RGL-40760). On her discharge on 1st December, she refused to return to St Joseph's and was admitted to the Secure Unit of St. Luke's Hospital where she remained until 22nd December 1994 when she was admitted to Shamrock House, Rathgael (RGL-40763).
10. Records show a [REDACTED] SR247 [REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED] commenced working at St Joseph's on 1 September 1994 (see Exhibit 1). [REDACTED] SR240 [REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED], was appointed to the staff of St Joseph's Training School in 1968 and was appointed Director in 1977. She was awarded an OBE in 1993 for her long service to the Management Board of St Joseph's and her work in the community. She was transferred to Care on 31 March 1999 (see Exhibit 2). To date, we have no record of the incidents referred to in HIA 198's statement to the Inquiry.
11. 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 198. If additional relevant information is discovered by the Department, it will be drawn immediately to the attention of the Inquiry.

12. The Department has not received a civil claim in respect of HIA 198.
13. The Department has not received a request for disclosure of personal data (Form 81) from the PSNI.
14. 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 Training School 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.

Kamen Peanson

Date: 14 December 2015

into care and following consultation, it was decided to admit her to Middletown Training School for a period of assessment and to defuse the situation at home. The Applicant was then admitted to Middletown on 5 May 1992 under a Place of Safety Order, see exhibit 1 above. **Exhibit 2** above notes that the Applicant's behaviour within Middletown had improved, although she could be 'extremely verbally abusive' to staff and residents. **Exhibit 2** further notes that the Applicant had made progress within Middletown as a result of which Social Services wished to discharge the Place of Safety Order so as to pursue a care plan in the community. The Applicant therefore returned home on 5 June 1992. The Board notes that the Applicant makes no complaints regarding her initial placement in Middletown.

4. The Applicant was then placed with foster parents in Kilkeel from 28 July 1992 until 18 August 1992. She was then discharged home where she remained until 24 May 1993 after which she was placed in Kinnahalla Children's Home until December 1993, when she returned home once more, see RGL 294 – 295. The Applicant was thereafter admitted to Bocombra Children's Home on 15 March 1994 under a Place of Safety Order, see **Exhibit 7**.
5. In paragraph 21 of her statement, the Applicant says that she does not understand why she was sent to Middletown as she thought it was reserved for children who had committed criminal offences. As detailed in the Applicant's statement at paragraphs 18 to 20, her placement in Bocombra was characterised by absconsions, self-harm and overdoses. Initially, management at Middletown felt a placement there would be inappropriate for the Applicant however it was agreed that, if the Applicant's behaviour required it, she would be admitted for a 'time-out', see exhibit 8. The Applicant was then admitted to Middletown on 17 June 1994, see **Exhibit 3** above, for an overnight stay following her swallowing correction fluid which, when mixed with her medication, caused the Applicant to go into a semi-conscious state, see **Exhibit 9**. **Exhibit 9** further details that time was taken to explain to the Applicant that she was not being punished by admission to Middletown but rather, her admission was due to 'risk taking behaviours'. **Exhibit 10** notes that

the Applicant appeared to respond to her placement in Middletown and that discharge was to be viewed as 'a new start'.

6. The Applicant was once more admitted to Middletown on 15 July 1994 for twenty four hours, see exhibit 4 above, after absconding from Bocombra, attempting to stab police with a knife, returning and then absconding again with a second knife, see **Exhibit 11**. **Exhibit 11** further notes that the Applicant had cuts on her arm when apprehended. She was then returned to Bocombra the following day. Following complaints by other young persons in Bocombra, Social Service staff met to discuss the Applicant's placement and agreed that a 'long-term' one was required, see **Exhibit 12**. The report noted that, taking the Applicant's wishes into account, Social Services would approach Orana Children's Home in order to assess viability. It was also noted that if the placement at Orana was not possible, the only other option was Training School.
7. Following two consecutive overdoses on 12 and 13 August 1994, the Applicant was admitted to the Early Treatment Unit in Craigavon Area Hospital. **Exhibit 13** records that she was not diagnosed with any psychiatric illnesses but rather her actions were due to behavioural difficulties. The Applicant was discharged on 19 August 1994 after which she again overdosed. It was concluded that given the Applicant's intent to commit suicide, a placement in Bocombra was no longer possible. As a result, the Applicant was removed to Middletown Training School on a Place of Safety Order on 21 August 1994, see **Exhibit 5** above. The report at **Exhibit 13** concludes by commending all Bocombra staff who gave the Applicant a great deal of help and support during her placement.
8. The Applicant was initially placed in the Assessment unit at Middletown, see **Exhibit 14**, after which her behaviour is noted to have stabilised. The report at **Exhibit 14** notes that the Applicant had on-going contact with her parents and that she continued her sessions with [redacted] and began work with [redacted] of the Adolescent Psychology & Research Unit. At the time of the report, Social Services were pursuing an independent living facility for

My reason for coming to Middletown was
I kept throwing temper fits and
wrecking & ripping things I think
I am lucky to be getting out
of Middletown most girls have a
T.S.O & I haven't I wish I could
be getting out sooner because
the staff kept taking marks of
me for saying bad language

Signed by _____

HIA 198

Group 1

4 of June 1992

1992

~~Sunday~~

SJM-23655

~~MAY~~

~~Saturday~~

~~30~~ Sorry.

HIA 198

Very helpful - looking for union
guy + filling us in on any useful
info. Not a great chit chat only for
month. Went swimming.

29 JAN 2016

Witness Name: HIA 198

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

 ADDENDUM TO WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 198

I, HIA 198 will say as follows:-

1. Having taken time to consider the contents of my witness statement dated 20 April 2015 and having access to my social work papers, I wish to make an addendum to that statement in order clarify one issue.
2. In paragraph 4 of my original statement, I had stated that I was raped by _____ when I was living at home. I also stated that I never told anyone that he raped me. I now remember telling another resident in Orana House called _____ about the rapes in November 1991. _____ then came to speak with me later that night. I believe _____ must have informed her of what I had told her earlier that day. I told _____ about the continuous rapes I had suffered between 1989 and 1991. I was in Orana House from 25th October 1991 to 12th March 1992. I also now know that I did tell Dr _____ at appointments in January and March 1992 about the rapes.
3. I believe _____ must have reported the matter to either Social Services or the Police. I was interviewed by the Police however I did not tell them about the rapes as a male social worker called _____ was present. I did not feel comfortable discussing what had happened in front of any male. I understand that _____ received a Caution in February 1992 for sexual assault. This caused me great distress.

4. I was placed in St. Joseph on 5th May 1992 because of my behaviour at the time.
I believe my behaviour was caused because I did not get justice for what had happened to me.

Statement of Truth

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

Signe **HIA 198**

Dated 28th January 2016.

Sp. limit Record

21. 08/94

HIA 198

admitted to secure

unit — 5 p.m. ?

got food + medicine — —

slept early —

still asleep at 1.30 a.m. 22/8/94.

5 a.m.

8.30 a.m.

HIA REF: [to be put on]

NAME: **SR 247**

DATE: 22.01.16

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of **SR 247**

I **SR 247** will say as follows: -

Statement of Truth

I can only recall one occasion when I was asked to go to Craigavon Area Hospital to collect **HIA 198** and bring her back to St Joseph's Training School, Middletown. I was accompanied by another staff member, **SJM 71**. We met with **HIA 198** at the Hospital. She was seen by medical/nursing staff and we then brought her back to St Joseph's with us. At no time did I slap **HIA 198**.

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

Signed **SR 247**

Dated 22.01.16