

HIA REF: [to be put on]

NAME: SR247

DATE: 22.01.16

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of SR247

I, SR247 will say as follows: -

Statement of Truth

I can only recall one occasion when I was asked to go to Hospital to collect HIA198 and bring her back to St Joseph's Training School, Middletown. I was accompanied by another staff member, Ms SJM71. We met with HIA198 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 HIA198

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

Signed SR247

Dated 22.01.16

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 198

Witness Name: HIA 198

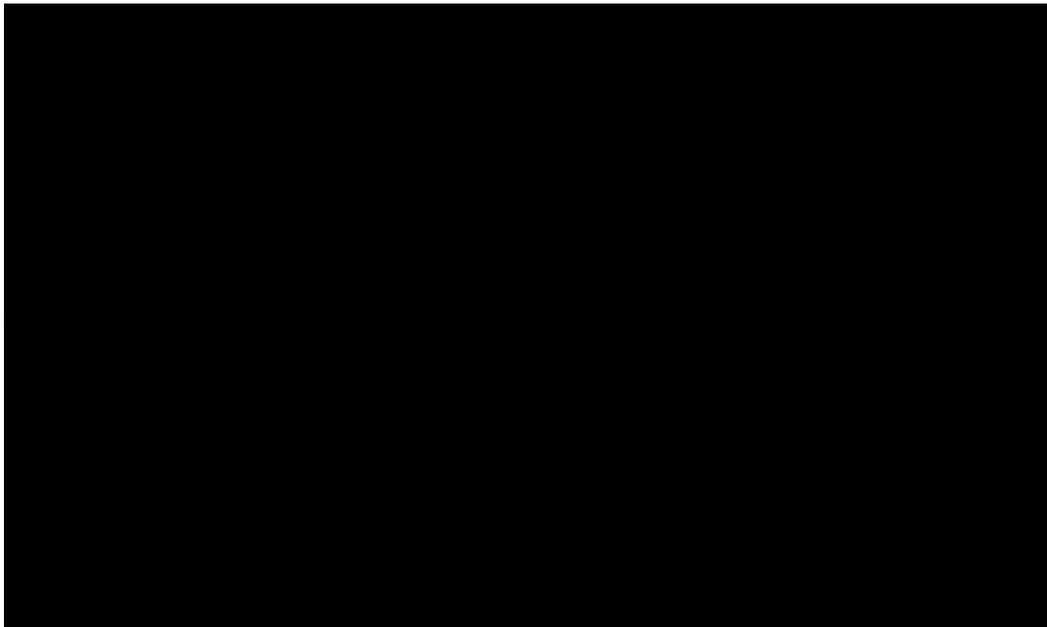
THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

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.



HIA 198

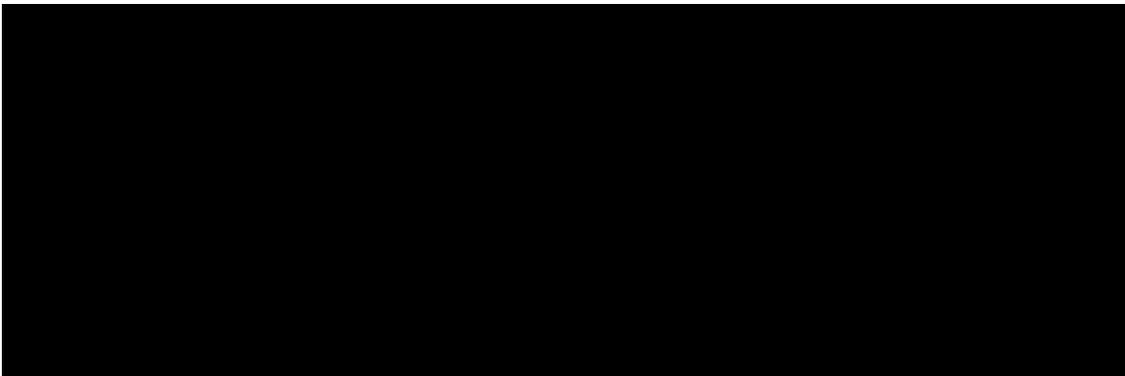
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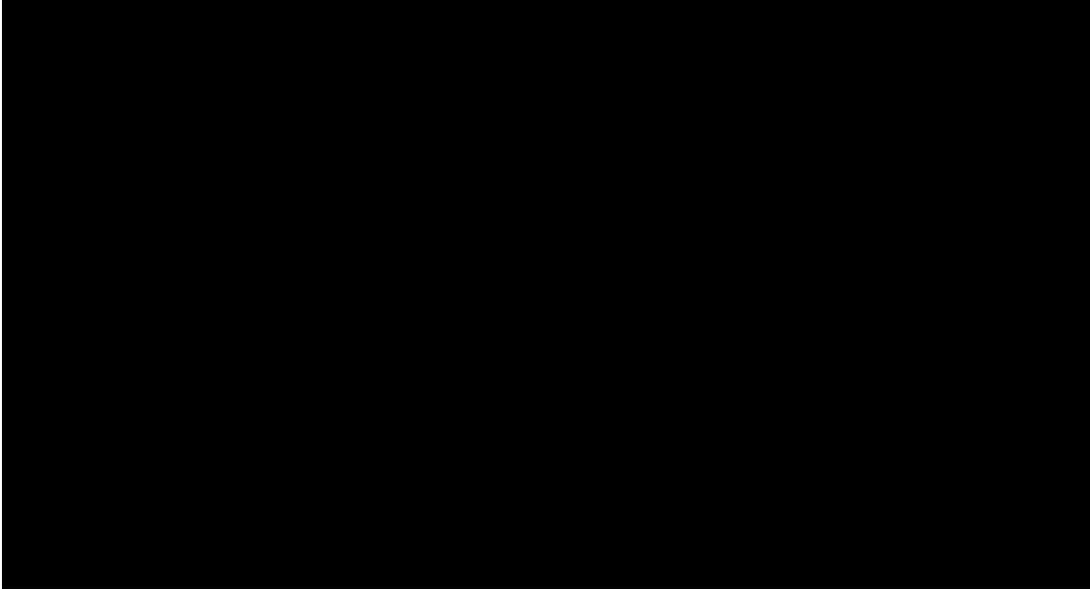
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St Joseph's Training School, Middletown (22/08/1994 – 03/11/1994)

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.



PRIVATE



Statement of Truth

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

Signed **HIA 198** _____

Dated 20th April 2015

1 in August of '94. She has given a statement to the
2 Inquiry, which can be found at 15015. What she says is:

3 "I can only recall one occasion when I was asked to
4 go to Craigavon Area Hospital to collect HIA198 and
5 bring her back to St. Joseph's Training School. I was
6 accompanied by another staff member, a [REDACTED] SJM71
7 [REDACTED]. She met with HIA198 at the hospital. She
8 was seen by medical/nursing staff and we then brought
9 her back to St. Joseph's with us. At no time did I slap
10 HIA198.

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

13 She signed that on 22nd January of this year.

14 Now, HIA198, that isn't an occasion -- you don't
15 remember her collecting you from Craigavon Area
16 Hospital, do you?

17 A. No, I don't. I remember as clear as day I had run --
18 the door had been unlocked for some reason in House 1
19 and I just toddled down the hill and I went to Armagh.
20 I tried to go to the north side to run away. I was
21 caught in the middle of a field. I had tripped and
22 fallen in the middle of a field. SR247 grabbed me up.
23 There was a girl, a big, tall, short, black-haired girl,
24 standing beside her and they had got me. SR247 grabbed
25 me up and whacked me across the face. I remember that

1 as clear as day. It was in the middle of a field.

2 I don't remember that incident there at Craigavon
3 Hospital.

4 Q. So it wasn't anything to do with you being at the
5 hospital --

6 A. No.

7 Q. -- that you encountered this. This is, I should say,
8 what her memory is --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- of her encounter with you and the only time she
11 remembers being involved with you. Was this incident in
12 the field the only time she was involved in your care?

13 A. No. SR247 would have been around the units. She would
14 have been, you know, there and we all knew that she was
15 there, you know, saying "Hello" to her and anything.
16 She was there.

17 Q. This was the only incident where she slapped you?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Now going back, as I say, to paragraph 22 there, you
20 were saying that:

21 "The other girls were given a treat like an extra
22 cigarette when the runaway was caught."

23 Now the congregation would dispute that and they
24 would say that, you know, money -- cigarettes were not
25 used in this way. You wanted to say something about

1 that, HIA198.

2 A. They were used in that there way. It was like
3 a bargaining tool. If a girl had run away, the staff
4 would have, you know, got the other girls to go chase
5 the girl and then they would have given a reward of
6 a cigarette or extra treats, and that was meant, you
7 know, for helping to catch the runaway. It was used as
8 a bargaining tool and as a reward.

9 Q. Just I should have said to you when I was talking about
10 SR247 that the congregation have not received any other
11 complaint of her --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- slapping any other child or abusing any child in any
14 other way.

15 I just want to move on to the ICU, what St. Joseph's
16 called the secure unit, the intensive care unit or the
17 special unit. We know that you were ultimately moved
18 from St. Joseph's to Rathgael and you were put in
19 Shamrock House in Rathgael.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Now that was a different sort of place to the ICU in
22 St.~Joseph's. Isn't that right, HIA198?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. We have heard that, for example, St. Joseph's had two
25 bedrooms for girls, although there was only ever really

1 talk -- were any of the staff talking to you about how
2 you came to be in St. Joseph's or ...?

3 A. No.

4 Q. So there was no sessions with you?

5 A. There might have been staff talking to you and what not,
6 but there was no actual real sit-down sessions. You
7 know, nobody explained anything to me. Nobody told me
8 anything. It was just, "You are here. Now get on".

9 Q. So there was no kind of formal session where you would,
10 you know, come into a room at a pre-arranged time. The
11 staff might talk to you by yourself --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- but there wasn't ...

14 A. Not from what I can recall, no.

15 Q. It was ad hoc. Okay. Thanks very much, HIA198.

16 MR LANE: I think on a couple of occasions you were actually
17 moved to a hospital unit, weren't you?

18 A. Yes. What date there?

19 Q. Sorry?

20 A. What do you mean by "hospital unit"? Craigavon Hospital
21 or the Psychiatric Unit or ...?

22 Q. Yes, the Craigavon Psychiatric Unit, for example --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- and I think St. Luke's as well in Armagh.

25 A. Yes. I was moved there from 1st November 1994 until

1 did that.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. You know, like, I was going into the Psychiatric Unit
4 and they were asking me, "Well, what happened you in
5 your life?", you know. Having to sit down with
6 a stranger and explain about the abuse, about what was
7 going on at home and about, you know, things like that
8 there, you don't want to talk to a stranger about that,
9 you know, somebody new, somebody that you have never
10 seen before.

11 Q. Yes, yes.

12 A. There was no child friendly services.

13 Q. So it wouldn't have helped if you had been able to stay
14 on there in those places then do you think?

15 A. In the Psych... -- no, not in the Psychiatric -- not in
16 the Adult Psychiatric Units, no.

17 Q. Did they move you back because you had calmed down at
18 all or anything like that, do you think?

19 A. No. From 1st November in Craigavon I was -- they told
20 me I was going back to Middletown, and I didn't want to
21 go back to Middletown after being hit by SR247 and what
22 not. Like, from what I know about myself, I would never
23 go back to somewhere that I was hurt --

24 Q. Right.

25 A. -- and that's evidenced throughout my records and

1 throughout my files. If I was hurt somewhere, I didn't
2 want to go back there. They told me I was going back to
3 Middletown. I refused point blank to go. They
4 transferred me to St. Luke's Psychiatric Unit, which was
5 where severely mentally ill people were.

6 Q. In terms of talking to people who were strangers and so
7 on, did your social worker keep visiting you at
8 Middletown?

9 A. Once or twice, but not -- you know, like, the first
10 time, no, there was no -- apart from me being put into
11 Middletown in May 1992 to June '92, I didn't really see
12 **SJM72** and then from the second time there might
13 have been about maybe two to three visits, but that was
14 it.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. There was none while I was in the Psychiatric Unit or
17 anything. I was just put in there, put with ill people
18 and basically left to get on with it again.

19 Q. I know you ran away a number of times, but typically if
20 you can -- if they brought you back, did they just put
21 you in the secure unit?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What about talking about what had happened?

24 A. No, no, never talked why did -- they never asked you why
25 you ran away. They never asked you what was upsetting