

HIA REF: 124

Witness Name: HIA124

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA124

I, HIA124 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED]
2. I am one of [REDACTED]. I have two older siblings [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] younger siblings [REDACTED]. My parents were both [REDACTED] and there was a lot of [REDACTED] growing up. [REDACTED] was sexually abusing me and [REDACTED] would regularly beat us to a pulp. [REDACTED] flushed my head down the toilet when she found out about the sexual abuse. She told me it was my fault for letting him abuse me; she said I was leading him on. She seemed to hate me.
3. The records I received from the Sisters of Nazareth state that I was only there on one occasion but that is not my recollection. I remember my family being in and out of Nazareth House on several occasions when I was a young child. My parents used to ask us on a daily basis who wanted to go into a home and we would all put our hands up. I believe the records are wrong as the dates are wrong and they spell my name incorrectly. There is also no record of my younger brother [REDACTED] or my sister [REDACTED]

Nazareth House, Belfast (29th September 1965 – 3rd July 1966 and 3rd January 1969 – date unknown)

4. I remember being picked up off the streets by social workers and being brought to Nazareth House a number of times. Social Services were involved from a young age. The [REDACTED] girls, [REDACTED] were taken out of the home. The [REDACTED] boys and [REDACTED] went to Nazareth Lodge as [REDACTED] was only three so she was too young for Nazareth House. [REDACTED] and I were taken to Nazareth House. My older brother [REDACTED] did not go into care – he either stayed with my paternal grandparents or Granny [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had not been born at that stage.

5. The nuns I remember from Nazareth House are SR31 [REDACTED] SR134 [REDACTED] and SR116 [REDACTED]. My sister [REDACTED] and I were in SR31 [REDACTED] group and my sisters [REDACTED] were in SR134 [REDACTED]'s group. Each time we were brought in to the home, we were taken straight to the bathroom and some sort of insect repellent was poured over our hair because we were told we had nits. The nuns were really rough with us when they fine combed out hair. I didn't know whether I was better off going into Nazareth House or being at home.

6. SR31 [REDACTED] was a very angry woman and you would see her face going red with rage. I wet the bed as a child and this infuriated SR31 [REDACTED]. First of all they gave me medicine which never worked. The bed wetters were all lined up separate from the others and told we were getting wet the bed medicine. SR31 [REDACTED] would have checked your bed during the night and if it was wet she went mad. She would slap me about the head and legs while grabbing the sheets off the bed. Then she made you walk to her cell which was at the end of the dormitory. She would make you kneel there all night and call you dirty and smelly. She used to say you better pray to God you won't wet the bed again. I would pray because I thought she would know if I didn't as she was a nun. I would have to kneel there all night and I couldn't move because I was afraid to in case she came out. Every creak I heard I would think it was her coming.

7. The nuns decided to put a buzzer on my bed then. I was about six at the time. There were two net sheets and you put one at the bottom, then you put an ordinary sheet on and then the top wired sheet with a draw sheet over that. The idea was that when the wet hit it the buzzer went off. **SR31** would grab me out of bed and beat me because I had woken everyone in the dormitory. This was a daily occurrence. I would be dragged into the bathroom then and thrown into the bath. I never knew what the smell was at the time but I know now it was Jeyes fluid. The smell was overpowering. I remember the water was white but I just thought that was the colour of bath water. I would be dipped in and out of the water by **SR31** very roughly. I would try not to fall asleep because I was so afraid of wetting the bed and I would pray I didn't fall asleep but I always did.
8. Every morning **SR31** and **SR134** would come in to the dormitory and tell everyone to hold the gusset of their knickers out for inspection. We all had to stand in a line and **SR31** and **SR134** would walk along examining our underwear. I never knew what this was about. It was humiliating. The bed wetters were told to stand to one side with our wet sheets and then you were brought out to the landing to put the sheets in a big linen basket. It was almost like a ceremony being paraded in front of everyone but thankfully none of the other girls laughed.
9. After you made your bed, you knelt down to say your prayers and then went down for breakfast. After breakfast we had jobs to do. I had to mop the floors with a big heavy polisher. One girl polished the bathroom and another one polished the dormitory. Everybody had jobs to do. The older girls looked after us younger ones. A girl called [REDACTED] looked after me and a girl called [REDACTED] looked after my sister [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] weren't bad to us but some of the other older girls would have hit the younger ones. Because they were getting hit themselves it just led on to them hitting the younger ones and bullying them.

10. I was terrified of **SR31**. No matter what you said or did you got hit so it got to the point where I was so subdued I never said anything. The only time I spoke up was when she hit my younger sister. On one occasion **SR31** was coming down the stairs and was in front of her. **SR31** grabbed by the scruff of the neck and I said "don't hit my wee sister". She let go then and grabbed me. She grabbed me and slapped me on the head, telling me not to answer back. She dragged me to the dryer then and threw me in. The dryers had a line of big doors and when you pulled out the door there were racks inside with steel bars to hold sheets. There was a gap big enough for a child to fit. **SR31** slid the door back and left me there. It was pitch black and I couldn't move. I don't know how long I was there but I was afraid to come out. I wet myself in there. When I eventually did come out I realised dinner was over. **SR31** came over and started hitting me saying not to answer her back. She put me back into the dryer and the heat in there was unbearable.
11. Anything that you said or did was an excuse to hit you. If you talked about your family the nuns would say "sure nobody loves you". I loved my granny but I soon learned to stop talking about her. The nuns used to send us out with different people every Sunday. I went out with a policewoman and her husband and they were quite well-off. They would give me lots of stuff coming back like sweets or a teddy bear but as soon as they left everything was taken from you. It was never explained to you that you couldn't have something because the other children didn't have anything.
12. **SR134** beat me as well. I remember one occasion I was playing in the leaves outside and **SR134** shouted something down at me. I didn't realise she was shouting at me. She came down and started thumping me over the head with her keys. This was a big bunch of keys with about fifteen or twenty keys on it. One of the girls told me afterwards that **SR134** didn't like the sound of leaves crunching but I had no idea. The nuns would always hit you in the temple with their keys or their knuckle; just whatever was handy. You don't bruise on the temple which is why they hit us there but it was very sensitive.

13. My oldest sister [REDACTED] had special needs but at the time she was just called the slow one; she was never diagnosed with anything. She probably had autism or Asperger's. [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] as well and I was very protective of her. The other girls in the home would have looked out for [REDACTED] as well. She was too slow for SR31 [REDACTED] movements. I think SR31 [REDACTED] took a dislike to me because I stood up for my sisters. I was never cheeky; I was too afraid to be but I was always quick to stand up for [REDACTED]
14. The food in Nazareth House was terrible. SR31 [REDACTED] SR134 [REDACTED] and SR116 [REDACTED] used to supervise mealtimes in the dining room. I hated the porridge – it was watery and salty but they forced me to eat it. I hated carrots as well and this infuriated the nuns. SR31 [REDACTED] used to come over and pull the back of my hair and say "you are going to eat that". She would lift a fork and put it into my mouth and I would be trying to spit it out. Then SR134 [REDACTED] would come over and hold your nose while SR31 [REDACTED] held your head. SR31 [REDACTED] would be shoving carrots in my mouth and holding my chin until I swallowed them. This happened very regularly; if you weren't getting force fed somebody else was. I believe this force feeding caused me to develop anorexia later on in life. Mealtimes were just a nightmare. The dining room would be packed with children but the silence was eerie – nobody dared to speak.
15. Contact with my sisters was not encouraged in the home. Although [REDACTED] was the oldest, because she had [REDACTED] I felt like I was the oldest. I wouldn't have seen [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] very often; only out in the playground. It wasn't like you could go over and say hello at mealtimes. I was just in survival mode every day. If you didn't get hit, it was a good day.
16. My maternal aunt [REDACTED] would have come to visit us sometimes. She was a really funny woman but she soon learned not to laugh or tell jokes because SR31 [REDACTED] sat in the room with us during the visits. I think they were afraid of us telling people what was going on. [REDACTED] was a lovely woman but she

had no power to take us out of the home. I made my First Communion in the home along with my sister [REDACTED]. That was a good day because [REDACTED] and I got out together with my aunt [REDACTED]. We were given money by a neighbour in the street and we had big plans to bring back something for the girls in the home but as soon as we walked through the door it was taken off us.

17. I was very close to [REDACTED], we were Irish twins – we were the same age for a couple of days in the year. She died of [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. We weren't in Nazareth House at the time, we were back at home. It was actually me who brought [REDACTED] to the doctor. He told me to bring her to the hospital so I brought her up to the Royal. The doctor there came out and told me to go home and tell my mother and father to come up as soon as they could. I never saw [REDACTED] again after that – I wasn't allowed to visit her in hospital. I brought her to the hospital on 24th May and she died on [REDACTED]. One day I was talking to her and the next nothing. I wasn't even allowed to go to her funeral. I didn't really accept that [REDACTED] was dead until 1993.

18. All the girls were taken from the family home after that and we were put into foster care with a family in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stayed at home as she was only a baby. I don't know how long we were there. I hated the foster home because they treated us so differently to their own children. We were brought home again and the sexual abuse continued. I couldn't take any more of it so I ran away. I tried to find the foster home but I couldn't. I ended up sleeping on the doorstep of my friend's house and her mother found me the next morning. She contacted Social Services and I was brought to the Good Shepherd.

Good Shepherd, Belfast (18th June 1971 – 14th March 1974)

19. Good Shepherd wasn't as severe as Nazareth House. The people I remember from Good Shepherd are SR197 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. GSC21 [REDACTED] I asked GSC21 [REDACTED] once why I was in Good Shepherd and why none of my family visited me. She told me it was because I was a bold girl and I believed that. I used to go out to my Granny [REDACTED] house on a

Sunday and my mother was given the opportunity to come visit me there but she never did. My brothers and sisters did.

20. One day [REDACTED] was up and she was wearing a big wool cardigan even though it was summer. My granny told her to take it off and when she did her whole arm was black and blue. She had been beaten for frying an egg wrong. My granny was afraid to do anything as my mother used to put her windows in. My mother was a vicious woman. I remember telling a social worker in Good Shepherd that [REDACTED] was being sexually abused at home. I think somebody visited the house but [REDACTED] was left there.

21. I was still wetting the bed in Good Shepherd and I was always last down to breakfast because I had to have a shower or bath. Wetting the bed was the sin of the century as you were inconveniencing the whole routine. I had to walk into breakfast late and everybody knew I had wet the bed.

22. I developed a strange relationship with food in Good Shepherd. I was going to secondary school by that stage and I was receiving sex education so I had begun to process what was happening to me at home. Because it was the only thing I could control in my life I would reward myself with food or punish myself by not eating. This eventually developed into anorexia. I remember waking up and I was tied to a bed and there was a really strong smell. I didn't know what it was at the time but a nurse told me later that it was Lurgactyl. I don't know how long I was like that and then I woke up in Purdysburn.

Purdsyburn Hospital (14th March 1974 – 13th May 1974 and 20th May 1974 – 31st May 1974)

23. I don't know how I got to Purdysburn. The nurses in there gave me some sort of injection. My records state that I was admitted after I took an overdose but I definitely didn't. The issue was my anoreixa. I was eating one yoghurt a week – a spoonful a day. I wouldn't even have been able to get tablets in the Good Shepherd to take an overdose.

24. I stayed in Purdysburn for two months and then I was discharged to live with my older brother [REDACTED] who was married. I didn't like this though as [REDACTED] lived round the corner from my parents and his wife was a clean freak. I ended up back in Purdysburn after a few days. I stayed there eleven days and then I went to Middletown. SR197 [REDACTED] and GSC21 [REDACTED] brought me to Middletown. There was no explanation of where I was going or what was happening to me. I was just taken in the car from Belfast to Armagh. I don't even remember the journey; I don't know if I was still sedated.

St. Joseph's Training School, Middletown, Co. Armagh (31st May 1974 – 1977 approximately)

25. I was sent to Middletown under a court order on 31st May 1974. After six weeks in Middletown I had to go to court and I remember the judge asking me what I wanted to do. My mother was there. There was no way I was going back to the family home where [REDACTED] was sexually abusing me so I said Middletown because it was a better choice.

26. Middletown was completely different from the rest. The nuns there were from the St Louis order and they didn't wear habits. They got the remnants of Nazareth House and they had to try to fix us. We were so broken by the time we got there. The nuns I remember from Middletown are SJM11 [REDACTED] and GSC34 [REDACTED]. They were both lovely nuns. I remember once SJM11 [REDACTED] put her two hands on my shoulders and I hated it because I hated being touched. She said to me "you cannot be an island; you cannot live without touching". SJM11 [REDACTED] went on to win an OBE for services to adolescents.

27. My biggest fear in Middletown was wetting the bed. When I first arrived they asked me if I wet the bed and I was so embarrassed I said no. When I did wet the bed I didn't know what to do and I was afraid but one of the staff realised and she brought me in new sheets and a rubber sheet. She didn't say a word;

she just left them at the end of my bed. I thought this was too good to be true and I thought I'd get whacked when I went downstairs but I didn't.

28. One of the staff came to me and said she got up every morning at half seven and if I wanted her to wake me then before everyone else got up she would. That meant I could go and have a shower before everyone else woke up and nobody would know. I couldn't believe how nice she was to me. A couple of years later they were having problems with girls wetting the bed and [REDACTED] **SJM11** asked me to talk to them. I didn't want to because it was always such a stigma but I told them I used to wet the bed and none of the girls could believe it.

29. We had housemothers in Middletown and mine was **GSC34** [REDACTED] I really liked her and I opened up to her. She knew me better than anybody and she was a role model for me. I named my first daughter [REDACTED] after the nuns in Middletown. I also got a social worker then called [REDACTED]

30. They put me in charge of the kitchen in Middletown and I remember liking the smell of the food but I wouldn't eat it. I didn't really know I had anorexia at the time and I can't remember how it was dealt with in Middletown. I stayed in Middletown for three years and left in 1977 when I was twenty.

Life after care

31. When I left Middletown I went to work in a restaurant in [REDACTED] I think this job was set up by Middletown. I was raped by a local businessman called [REDACTED] I reported it to the police in [REDACTED] and he got a three year suspended sentence. I later heard he went on to rape another local girl.

32. I then moved to [REDACTED] in 1978 and I got a job [REDACTED] That's where I met my husband [REDACTED] I just married the first man who came along and he was abusive to me. He used to call me fat and smelly and tell me I was no good. He controlled my life and he didn't like me wearing jeans or trousers. I developed a drink problem during my marriage. We were married

for twelve years and had three children together – [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

33. I had a breakdown in 1993 when my children were very young and my husband left me to rear the children on my own. I had another breakdown in 2000 and my husband decided he wanted the family home so he said I was a danger to the children. He stayed in the family home looking after [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were 16 and 12 at the time. I fought tooth and nail to get custody of [REDACTED] but the judge only spoke to her for twelve minutes and decided she would be better off living with her father. I moved to [REDACTED] then with my partner but I still had regular contact with [REDACTED] and I went to every school event. I am estranged from [REDACTED] now but I have a good relationship with my two older children.

34. I have been estranged from my family since I was ten years old. I lived in [REDACTED] for thirty years and I only came back to [REDACTED] about fourteen years ago. I used to invite my family down for barbeques and parties but they would never come. Nobody came to my 40th birthday party and I tried to kill myself. It is only in the last nine years that my brother [REDACTED] has spoken to me. [REDACTED] and my family didn't want to know me. [REDACTED] and I have never really gelled – we are not like brother and sister. I told [REDACTED] a lot of things he didn't know such as my mother's input into [REDACTED] sexually abusing me. She knew it was going on and she blamed me. My family was fractured and I need to get to know them again. On [REDACTED]'s anniversary every year I try to get the whole family together at the graveyard. I have slowly built up a relationship with them.

35. My time in care has really affected my life. It has had a severe impact on my life and my children's lives. I'm [REDACTED] now and I still have serious issues. I have Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and I still wet the bed. I have a partner and I'm still ashamed of wetting the bed so we sleep in separate beds. My mother and father died [REDACTED] years ago within one month of each other, as well as my aunt [REDACTED]. I never had a relationship with my mother. I went to her funeral because she had destroyed me in life and I wasn't going to let her destroy me

in death. I didn't go to my father's funeral. My parents dying brought up a lot of issues for me as I never got to confront my abusers. When my father died I thought I was having a nervous breakdown. I was afraid to go to the toilet or have a bath because I thought he would get me when he was dead. [REDACTED]

GSC34 who was my role model died a year later. It was a difficult time for me.

36. I get on well with my grandchildren and I can spot a mile away if they are distressed in any way. I have struggled with anorexia throughout my adult life. My weight fell to 5 stone in 2000 and my organs were failing. Food has never been a friend to me and I can go days without eating especially if I'm upset. My mother always punished me with food and so did the nuns.

37. I hope this Inquiry will help in some way. It is an acknowledgment that these things happened and they were wrong. I am speaking for [REDACTED] as well because she can no longer speak for herself. I need somebody to acknowledge that they made the decision to return me and my siblings to the family home when they knew about [REDACTED] sexually abusing me, the physical abuse and the neglect. We were sleeping in beds infected with maggots and I remember walking to school and feeling the maggots wriggling down my back.

38. There were so many social workers monitoring us and somebody made that decision. I'd like to know who that person was. There was plenty of evidence and I remember being brought to the police station once but nothing was ever done about it. The dogs on the street knew. That man was allowed to stay in the family home and go on to abuse another child – as soon as I left he turned to [REDACTED]

39. On one occasion when I was about seven I was in the City Hospital having an ear operation and I remember telling the nurses at the hospital what [REDACTED] was doing. The next thing I knew my mother and father were walking down the corridor towards me. I was put into Nazareth House for the night but my parents collected me the next day and beat me to a pulp. I continued telling people what was happening and nothing was done. I reported what was happening to [REDACTED] to a social worker called **GSC22**

40. I reported these matters to the police in Musgrave Street but a female police officer phoned me last year to tell me SR31 was dead – she only died recently. I will never get any justice now.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed **HIA124**

Dated 18/11/2014

HISTORY SHEET

Date	REPORT	Initials of Officer
2/1/71	<p>[redacted] ^{colly} [redacted] ^{thought}</p> <p>were sometimes members of family. I explained that these two girls had been in care for the same length of time as the other three but at the [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] the group home in the [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] account of hand of the [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] that they should inform [redacted] directly as to what the position will be.</p>	
14/1/71	<p>[redacted] came to office to complain that [redacted] had been interfering with HIA 124 again. [redacted] I [redacted] and she talked to [redacted] S.W.O. who decided in this case to remove [redacted] alone from the [redacted]. She was therefore taken into care and went to Good Shepherd Convent under S. 103.</p>	
24/1/71	<p>Contacted Mrs. I. Shepherd GSC 21 ^{a girl} taken [redacted] and I explained the situation. [redacted] said she would see what she could get out of HIA 124 and let me know. She then [redacted] to her [redacted] said that although [redacted] would not come out & accuse her [redacted] nevertheless from her behavior, the S.W.O. felt there must be something in the allegation.</p>	
24/1/71	<p>Found [redacted] at home but said that some [redacted] were [redacted] could only ask her to come to see me on Thurs. [redacted]</p> <p>[redacted] [redacted] is [redacted] as opportunity to [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] I would like to go on to telling as he thinks [redacted] may be old-fashioned & a dying trade</p>	

had no power to take us out of the home. I made my First Communion in the home along with my sister [REDACTED]. That was a good day because [REDACTED] and I got out together with my aunt [REDACTED]. We were given money by a neighbour in the street and we had big plans to bring back something for the girls in the home but as soon as we walked through the door it was taken off us.

17. I was very close to [REDACTED], we were Irish twins – we were the same age for a couple of days in the year. She died of [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. We weren't in Nazareth House at the time, we were back at home. It was actually me who brought [REDACTED] to the doctor. He told me to bring her to the hospital so I brought her up to the Royal. The doctor there came out and told me to go home and tell my mother and father to come up as soon as they could. I never saw [REDACTED] again after that – I wasn't allowed to visit her in hospital. I brought her to the hospital on 24th May and she died on [REDACTED]. One day I was talking to her and the next nothing. I wasn't even allowed to go to her funeral. I didn't really accept that [REDACTED] was dead until 1993.

18. All the girls were taken from the family home after that and we were put into foster care with a family in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stayed at home as she was only a baby. I don't know how long we were there. I hated the foster home because they treated us so differently to their own children. We were brought home again and the sexual abuse continued. I couldn't take any more of it so I ran away. I tried to find the foster home but I couldn't. I ended up sleeping on the doorstep of my friend's house and her mother found me the next morning. She contacted Social Services and I was brought to the Good Shepherd.

Good Shepherd, Belfast (18th June 1971 – 14th March 1974)

19. Good Shepherd wasn't as severe as Nazareth House. The people I remember from Good Shepherd are SR197 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] GSC21 [REDACTED]. I asked GSC21 [REDACTED] once why I was in Good Shepherd and why none of my family visited me. She told me it was because I was a bold girl and I believed that. I used to go out to my Granny [REDACTED] house on a

SNB-6391

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CHILDREN - IN RESIDENTIAL CARE3 - MONTHLY REVIEW

Name of Child: HIA 124 Date of birth: [REDACTED]
 Home Address: [REDACTED] Care Address: Good Shepherd Convent
 Division: South School attended/Employment: St. Monica
 Date of admission to care: 18.6.71 Section under which admitted: 183 L.T.
 Reason for admission (be specific): It was alleged that [REDACTED] had interfered
with HIA 124 thus making it impossible for her to remain at home.

How accommodated during period in care



Place	Period
Good Shepherd	18.6.71 - date

Report

Dates of visits to child: October 30th, November 6th, 13th, December 19th

Dates of Interviews with Parents: 18.10.72, 9.11.72, 24.11.72, 14.12.72.

HIA 124 went missing for a few days with two other girls from the Convent.

As far as she was concerned there was no particular reason for the escapade and she very quickly settled down again on her return. HIA 124 goes to her maternal

grandmother each Sunday and for longer periods at holiday times and on these occasions she is able to meet her mother and siblings. She likes school

and continues to do well there. However HIA 124 still has many emotional

difficulties to contend with and is disheartened by her occasional enuresis.

Divisional Welfare Officer: [REDACTED] Social Welfare Officer: [REDACTED]
 Children's Officer: [REDACTED] Date: 10.1.73

* Delete whichever is inapplicable

SNB-6403

106

CHILDREN - IN RESIDENTIAL CARE3 - MONTHLY REVIEW

Name of Child: HIA 124 Date of birth: [REDACTED]
 Home Address: [REDACTED] Care Address: Good Shepherd Convent
 Division: South School attended/employment: St. Monica's Soc.
 Date of admission to care: 18.6.71 Section under which admitted: 103 L.T.
 Reason for admission (be specific): HIA 124 alleged that her [REDACTED] has sexit interfered
with her sexually thus making it impossible for her to remain at home.

How accommodated during period in care

Place	Period
Good Shepherd	18.6.71 - date

ReportDates of visits to child: 22.1.73, 26.2.73, 30.3.73Dates of Interviews with Parents: 26.1.73, 14.3.73.

HIA 124 received an excellent school report this term, and both her
academic work and her general school behaviour were highly praised by teachers.
She continues to have regular contact with most of her family members. HIA 124
is generally content with her lot, but her continuing enuresis, for which she is
attending Belfast City Hospital for treatment, does depress her at times.

Divisional Welfare Officer: [REDACTED] Social Welfare Officer: [REDACTED]
 Children's Officer: [REDACTED] Date: 9th April, 1973.

* Delete whichever is inapplicable

Sunday and my mother was given the opportunity to come visit me there but she never did. My brothers and sisters did.

20. One day [REDACTED] was up and she was wearing a big wool cardigan even though it was summer. My granny told her to take it off and when she did her whole arm was black and blue. She had been beaten for frying an egg wrong. My granny was afraid to do anything as my mother used to put her windows in. My mother was a vicious woman. I remember telling a social worker in Good Shepherd that [REDACTED] was being sexually abused at home. I think somebody visited the house but [REDACTED] was left there.

21. I was still wetting the bed in Good Shepherd and I was always last down to breakfast because I had to have a shower or bath. Wetting the bed was the sin of the century as you were inconveniencing the whole routine. I had to walk into breakfast late and everybody knew I had wet the bed.

22. I developed a strange relationship with food in Good Shepherd. I was going to secondary school by that stage and I was receiving sex education so I had begun to process what was happening to me at home. Because it was the only thing I could control in my life I would reward myself with food or punish myself by not eating. This eventually developed into anorexia. I remember waking up and I was tied to a bed and there was a really strong smell. I didn't know what it was at the time but a nurse told me later that it was Lurgactyl. I don't know how long I was like that and then I woke up in Purdysburn.

Purdsyburn Hospital (14th March 1974 – 13th May 1974 and 20th May 1974 – 31st May 1974)

23. I don't know how I got to Purdysburn. The nurses in there gave me some sort of injection. My records state that I was admitted after I took an overdose but I definitely didn't. The issue was my anoreixa. I was eating one yoghurt a week – a spoonful a day. I wouldn't even have been able to get tablets in the Good Shepherd to take an overdose.

SNB-6393

15.3.74. Phone call from In. SR 296 HIA 124 has been admitted to Graham Clinic. She took an overdose of pills. It would seem that she has been very depressed of late contributory factors being the fact that she cannot go home, she will miss her brother's wedding, she will soon have to move to the hostel & she is not very happy in her job. SR 296 said that she came in on Wed demanding to see her file. Someone, possibly one of the other girls, has probably said something to ~~her~~ HIA 124 about her file. In. SR 296 tried to put her off by saying that it only contained her date of birth and other minor details. This did not satisfy her. Later she broke into a cupboard containing a number of different types of pills which she took. She acted very strangely making strange noises & crawling around on all fours. Doctor was called & admitted her 7/11/74. I called twice at her home to see her mother but no reply. A neighbour said that HIA 124 knew about a girl called to tell her last night.

20.3.74. Visited home. no reply.

22.3.74. Visited + at home
has been to see HIA 124 a number
of times & says she is improving
has a black eye. Possibly from

SNB-6397

HIA 124 (B. [REDACTED])

FORMERLY: GOOD SHEPHERD CONVENT

HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

FATHER: [REDACTED]

MOTHER: [REDACTED]

HIA 124 was received into care on 18.6.71 under section 103 Long Term and was placed in Good Shepherd Convent. The reason for admission was because she alleged her [REDACTED] interfered with her sexually. This was reported to the police but due to lack of evidence no action was taken.

At first she settled fairly well in Good Shepherd and visited home occasionally (when her [REDACTED] was not there) or spent weekends with her grandmother. Visits from the family to her were very infrequent. Over the past year her behaviour has become increasingly more difficult resulting in temper tantrums, expulsion from school and three admissions to Graham Clinic, Purdysburn following pill overdoses. I believe there are a number of factors which together might explain her behaviour: Adolescence, she feels different from other girls and less than perfect after the experience with her [REDACTED] she has suffered from enuresis for about 2/3 years and this depresses her, she felt she could never return to live in the family home, uncertainty about leaving school and starting work, she did not want to leave Good Shepherd and move to the Hostel when she started work.

On 14.3.74 she was formally admitted to Purdysburn having taken an overdose of pills. She was discharged to Good Shepherd on 5.4.74 but was again formally admitted on 6.4.74 on the grounds that she was a danger to herself and to others. After the three week period ended Dr. Brown, Psychiatrist, signed a six month formal order. In the meantime Good Shepherd and Carolan Road Hostel refused to have her back. The family visited her in Purdysburn and she spoke to her [REDACTED] for the first time in 2 1/2 years. All appeared to be going well and it was hoped that she might eventually return home.

Dr. Brown decided to discharge HIA 124 and gave five days notice of his intention. He felt that she was learning bad habits from the other patients viz. faking psychiatric symptoms, bruises discovered on her wrists. Her married brother [REDACTED] was approached and after consultation with his wife and parents he agreed to accommodate HIA 124. It was decided to board her out with [REDACTED] to alleviate any financial hardship and relieve her anxiety of being a burden on him. We did not have sufficient time to submit a report for official approval. A divan bed was supplied to [REDACTED] and HIA 124 was discharged to his care on 13.5.74. She was reluctant to go but agreed when it was explained there was no other alternative. Her suggestion was to find a flat of her own. I felt this was unrealistic and after discussing the practicalities of flat life she grudgingly agreed. She was not happy at [REDACTED] because of fear of embarrassment at her enuresis and because she thought she was too close to home. The arrangement lasted only six days.

On 19.5.74 HIA 124 was at home with her parents and appeared to be in good spirits. It seems that when she left to go to her grandmother's she lifted 16 panadol tablets. After taking the tablets