

HIA REF: 387

Witness Name: HIA 387

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 387

I, HIA 387 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in the Mater Hospital in Belfast. I know nothing about my parents or their circumstances, save for what is contained in my Birth Certificate. My maiden name is [REDACTED] I presume that I was with my parents before I went into Nazareth House but I really have no idea.

Nazareth House, Belfast, 9th November 1953 – 1st July 1961

2. I have no idea who placed me in Nazareth House, or why. I have no idea whether the courts were involved. I thought that I went in when I was roughly two years of age, however I have recently obtained records from the Family Care Society, which suggest that I was received into Nazareth House at the age of four years, on the recommendation of a priest [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I may have gone into the nursery before this, but I cannot recall. I remained there until I was fourteen years. My brother, [REDACTED] who was a year older than me, was taken into care at the same time. He was sent to the Christian Brothers and I was never allowed to see him. I only saw him a few times in the Convent. Sometimes some of the Nazareth Lodge boys were taken up to Nazareth House to be altar boys during special masses and I

would have recognised [REDACTED] This only happened once or twice and we lost touch over the years.

3. I remember being dragged along the long hall by my hair, by a nun in a white dress. She was telling me that I wasn't a baby anymore. I must have been about four at the time. She handed to me a nun who was wearing a black habit, and I remember I was holding a doll, which they took off me. I was brought into a room, like a large classroom, which was full of children and there was lots of noise. It was very intimidating. I remember I was put on a table and I had wet myself. All of the children were looking at me. I recall a nun striking a cane hard across the table to get everyone's attention. I was given the number 49. If a nun called out my number and I didn't happen to hear, I would be slapped with a ruler. We were all separated into different dormitories.
4. The nuns that I recall being in the Convent at the time were **SR 31** and **SR 134** I remember one nun with a really red round face. She always looked angry. There was another nun, **SR 59** who would give me a sweet sometimes. If she was standing talking to me, and another nun came along, she looked scared, and she would stand back from me. **SR 59** was the only nun I remember who was kind.
5. I had no idea what lay in store for me over the next few years. The nuns constantly told us that no one wanted us because we were bad, we were orphans. There was emotional abuse and humiliation. I was only a child feeling very small and helpless. I was told that I wasn't worthy to have such a beautiful name of [REDACTED] and how dare I be born on [REDACTED] the day of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I always felt scared and bewildered about why they said this to us as we were only children. We called the nuns the dark shadows. We could always tell which nun was coming into the dormitory by the way they walked and the tinkle of their beads.

6. I was beaten senseless sometimes, either because I said something wrong, or because the nun didn't like me. When we did not do the right thing, we were slapped around the head and the back of the neck. The nuns would hit us on both sides of our hands with a ruler, until our hands bled. We were getting punched most days for something or other. If we did not cry, they would hit us around the face and pick us up by the ears. Sometimes it left me dizzy and momentarily dumb. Sometimes at school, if we didn't know an answer or we were being punished, we had our hands tied behind our backs and the nuns would come behind us and slap us on the head. They also hit us with the leather belts they wore around their waist. We also would have been dragged to the front of the class, where we had to stand in the corner with a dunce hat on. They would make us kneel on the ground for a long time. I was put in a dark room for talking out loud. When we got older, we were put in charge of younger ones, and when they did wrong, we were punished as well. I used to stare at the nuns in the eye and I would refuse to cry until I get into bed at night-time. I don't know where I got my strength from.
7. We were worked as children, like little slaves. We had to clean and polish the floors and stairs, which we did with cloths tied to our feet. We had to polish the church, and do the washing. I had to gather wet sheets up, take them across the courtyard to where the laundry was and put them in big hot tubs. There was many a night where I had to kneel at the top of the dormitory darning socks, and I would fall asleep on the floor. There was a bucket of socks for me to work through. The rest of the children would be asleep somewhere. The nuns would come and bump me on the head whilst I was working, and I wouldn't even know what I had done wrong to deserve this. I was made to darn the socks at least one night a week. I was quite a stubborn child, and I believe that I might have been made to do these chores because the nuns saw me as being defiant. They were trying to break us down. We received no payment for the work we did.
8. In the morning we had to get up and tidy the area around our bed. We were stripped naked first thing in the morning. We had to take our nightclothes off and walk naked down cold halls into the bathroom. It was embarrassing. We

were bathed two or three times a week. The nuns put Jeyes fluid into the bath water, and it would burn our skin. The same water was used for all the children and it was cold by the end. The nuns washed our mouths out with carbolic soap, which made us feel sick. We had to stand naked and have our hair washed in big tin baths in the yard, regardless of the weather. We were checked for nits. If I had nits, the nuns would cut all my hair off, and then push my head back down into the water. Sometimes it felt like they were drowning me. They would hit me at the same time and pour Jeyes fluid onto my skin. They would hit us if we tried to lift our head out of the water. Sometimes we would try and wet our hair so it would look as if we were already washed, but the nuns would smell it to check, and then they would really make us feel as if we were going to drown to teach us a lesson. If we wet the bed, we had to walk around the yard with the sheets on our head and no shoes on, regardless of the rain and snow, so that everyone could see us. Sometimes the nuns would rub our faces in the wet sheets. On a Friday night, we were made to stand naked in a big hall and hold our knickers in our hands and turn them inside out so the nuns would inspect them. If my underwear was soiled, I would be punished and called a rank, smelly dirty girl. The first time I had my period, I was petrified. I thought the devil had actually got me for all the bad things the nuns told me I did. I tucked myself up in bed and wouldn't get out. The nuns told me I was an evil wicked child because of what the devil had done to me. They never told me what was actually happening to me. There was no education about personal development.

9. Our clothing was not warm enough for the winter days when we were put into the garden. We would be sent out without any coat, and indeed I don't remember having a coat at all the entire time I was in Nazareth House. Our clothes were always hand-me-downs, and we generally didn't have our own personal clothes. Everything was shared. My shoes were always too big for me and sometimes I needed an elastic band to keep them on. Sometimes we used to steal apples from the Holy Rosary. We would tuck them in our knickers. When the nuns realised what we were doing, they started to remove the elastic from our knickers so that we couldn't hide anything in there. We had to tie string around our legs instead.

10. I felt neglected. We weren't fed properly. I was always hungry. Breakfast was either lumpy porridge or bread in dripping. It was basically the same food every day. We were given lumpy fatty stew. If I didn't eat my dinner, because it was fatty, the nuns would hold my mouth until I swallowed it. If I was sick, the nuns would make me eat my vomit. I don't believe I was the only person that this happened to. As I got older, I realised it was easier to just try to eat the food. Sometimes the older girls would supervise meal times and they were just as bad as the nuns. Sometimes we had to eat standing up because there weren't enough chairs.
11. When we went to bed, the nuns would come round and make us cross our hands and legs so that the devil could not get to our body. We did not even understand who the devil was, but as we grew older we believed it to be the nuns and the priests.
12. I was sexually abused by the nuns. I did not understand until I left the home, what the nuns had done to me and how wrong it was. We were too young to understand that we were being abused. The nuns would call us out of bed and take us to the nun's bathroom. They might have taken one girl, or a few girls, who would wait outside the bathroom as we were taken in to the bathroom one by one. There were two nuns in the bathroom. I was told to take off my nightdress, and I would have to stand naked in the cold bathroom. I was told to get up on a table and spread my legs so that they could examine me. One of the nuns would put her finger inside my vagina. Then she would hit me and tell me I was smelly and dirty. She would laugh at me until I cried, and then hit me again. She would also hit me on the vagina with a brush. The other nun would be watching and giggling. I don't remember the names of these nuns, but I remember that one of them would have been wearing a white dress. This would happen every couple of weeks. Many a night I did not feel safe in my bed knowing what was going to happen. I cried myself to sleep most nights. I only realised after I left the home, through conversations with other people, that what the nuns did to me was wrong.

13. We had to go to Confession every week. We were only children and weren't doing anything wrong so we would make up our sins. On one occasion, when I was aged about ten years, I was one of the last girls to make it to Confession. The priest came out of the Confessional Box. He got me by my ears, pushed me on the floor and then dragged me back up again. He dragged me in to the Sacristy. He pulled my pants down, forced my legs open and raped me. I didn't know what he had done, but I knew that I didn't like it, and I didn't like the smell of him. I was screaming and kicking and he held his hands over my mouth. He told me that I wasn't worthy and made me beg for forgiveness, and he told me that I had the devil's eyes. I don't recall this priest's name, however he was the regular priest that gave Mass every day, and took our Confessions every week. This was the only time that this happened.

14. There was an old people's home on the other side of the convent. Sometimes we were taken up there and we would be told to sit on an old man's knee. I was never comfortable with this. The old men would touch us on our legs and we would pull away. The nuns would laugh and say "oh go on and give him a hug". It felt like we were being used when we were brought over to the old men.

15. We went to primary school on the grounds of Nazareth House, and then St Monica's Secondary School. My education was inadequate. It was mostly about religion. I learned how to say my prayers forwards and backwards. The only book I can remember was the Bible. I recall one occasion when the Reverend Mother came to the classroom, with a visiting priest. I was being asked questions on the Bible. I said "well if Jesus was a Jew, God was a Jew, why are we Catholics? I don't want to be a Catholic anymore, I want to be a Jew". I was dragged by the hair and they shouted "how dare you, with a name like that". I was slapped and told I wasn't worthy, and made to kiss the priest's feet.

16. Nobody was monitoring our education. We were never tested on any subjects. We were taught our ABC's and how to count but I was never encouraged to

study or take exams to get a good start in life in the workplace. I felt very let down in terms of the education I was given.

17. I recall a girl called [REDACTED] being given a beautiful box of beads by her mother. The nuns immediately took it off her and said she couldn't have it. At Christmas, I received that present by accident from Father Christmas, and the nuns took it off me and gave it to [REDACTED]. Everybody else got whatever stuff the nuns had collected, dolls that were pieced together. I pulled the Christmas tree down, and then I wasn't allowed any dinner. I never believed in Father Christmas after that.

18. I always knew my age and my birthday, because my birthday was [REDACTED] but we never got presents or even sang Happy Birthday to each other. Very few of us had visitors at Nazareth House. If the nuns knew that there were going to be visitors in the home, they would have dressed us nicer than normal. I don't remember ever seeing a Social Worker.

19. I remember when I was aged around nine or ten years, we were all brought to see the children being sent away to Australia and Canada. I hid because I was terrified that they were going to put me on this boat and send me to the end of the world. I hid behind a bin and a taxi man found me and brought me back to Nazareth House.

20. At one stage, after I was a bit older, I told a nun about what the priest had done to me in the Sacristy. I was aged about fourteen years at the time. Suddenly I was moved to the Good Shepherd Convent. I believe they were getting rid of me because I told somebody that the priest had raped me.

Good Shepherd Convent, Belfast, [REDACTED]

21. I was moved to the Good Shepherd Convent to work. I worked in the laundry until the age of [REDACTED] years. I never received any wages. I was not allowed to leave the Convent at any time. I just worked in the laundry rooms and cleaned. It was really hot in the wash rooms and press rooms. It was like a prison. The nuns made us work even harder there than in Nazareth House.

Most of the other girls there were older than me and were either unmarried mothers or were sent there by the Courts. I was just a slave from the moment I went in. I wasn't worthy of anything else. I think that all of us were treated the same way.

22. On one occasion I climbed over a wall into the nun's garden at the back of Good Shepherd, where there was an orchard. [redacted] caught me trying to take some apples. [redacted] and made me drop all the apples. He told me that I was wicked and that I deserved to be punished. I had to beg for forgiveness for stealing. He then raped me. I had tried to run around the table to get [redacted] locked the door to the [redacted] I was aged fourteen years at the time.

23. I remember that the rape took place on a Saturday, and I had to go to Mass the next day.

[redacted] A nun came and told me it was a sin [redacted] She asked me what I meant. When I told her [redacted] she slapped me and said that I was a little liar to say such evil nasty things. I was put into the worst part of the laundry where I remember great big barrels where all the soiled clothes were.

Good Shepherd Convent, Newry,

24. Within a week of telling the nuns that [redacted] had raped me, I was moved to another Good Shepherd Convent. I was put in a car, that a man drove, and a nun accompanied us. I didn't even know where I was, whether it was Newry or Derry, but I recall it was out in the country and there was a rail track at the back of it. I remember thinking if I could get onto the rail track I could get away. I believe now that it was the Good Shepherd Convent in Newry. Again I was put to work in the laundry without any pay. I was one of the youngest kids there. There were unmarried girls in there who had babies. We had to work in the laundry rooms. The nuns weren't too bad there. They would shout and scream at us but I don't recall them ever hitting me.

Life after care

25. I left care when I was sixteen years of age. I was not given any survival skills or guidance. I didn't learn communication skills, how to cook or look after my personal hygiene. I had no concept of money. They didn't teach us that we had rights, the same as everyone else. I was never given any self-confidence or sense of self-esteem. The nuns took all my innocence away. They took everything a human being is entitled to, and took it away from me. They took away my childhood. When I left there, I had nothing. I didn't know who to turn to.
26. When I left care, I got on a train and I ended up in [REDACTED] Belfast where I was sleeping rough. I didn't know anything about hostels or homeless shelters. Everything was alien because I knew nothing other than the homes. I was deprived of a proper education which made it very hard for me to get a job as a teenager and young adult. The cruelty and abuse left me fearful and shaky, and it hindered my chances of finding employment. I was forced to steal on occasions, but never for the sake of stealing. I only stole food, when I had no money.
27. A friend said she was going to England so I decided to go with her. When I arrived in England, I had no qualifications so the only employment I could get was as a cleaner, a live in job which gave me a roof over my head.
28. My childhood has definitely had an impact on my adult life. I still have nightmares about what the nuns did, and about the priests who raped me. My experiences have made it very difficult for me to build relationships as an adult and to trust anyone. I have found it difficult in life holding relationships.
29. I got married when I was approximately twenty-four years of age. I got married because I wanted protection, security and a home life. I have two children. I was lucky I had a good mother in law who helped me with my children, and taught me the right way to talk to them and discipline them. My husband suffered from a brain tumour and I had to bring the children up on my own. I

have always been honest with my children about my childhood, and the fact that I had none. I taught them everything. I made sure they have everything, most importantly their education. I took foreign students into my home so that my children would learn that we are all different, and unique in our own way. I have introduced them to all religions. I am now remarried, and have two step-children. We have six grandchildren. I feel that my children have suffered because they don't have any extended family members from my side of the family.

30. My education was so inadequate, I find that it still affects my life, even today. I find it difficult to spell and read, and there are words I still cannot pronounce. I didn't realise until I was fifty, when I went back to Tech, that I had dyslexia. I did a computer class. I have trained myself to read and spell a little, but I still get blanks. Whilst I am not an educated person, I am self-educated, and I always believe that there is nobody more educated than a self-educated person, because they want it and work for it themselves. I always try to re-educate myself. I do feel that I am a stronger person because of my experiences. I fight my corner now. I work with young people, and I always fight for them when necessary, and teach them about their rights.

31. Over the past fifteen years I have tried to find out who I am. The nuns gave us no sense of our identity. We're not educated because we had no voice, and no one to answer our questions. I am 64 years of age, and I have no evidence that I was there, only sad memories of a lost childhood, which I have never forgotten. I haven't been able to find out any information on my parents, save for what was contained in my Birth Certificate, which I managed to get a few years ago. I also got my Baptismal Certificate from St Brigid's Catholic Church. I tried to find out about my parents after receiving my Birth Certificate but I didn't get anywhere. I don't know where they are now, or whether I have any siblings other than [REDACTED]. I have approached several organisations in an attempt to find records or documentation relating to me, but I found that obstacles were placed at every turn. I have been told that the records related to my upbringing were burnt or destroyed or simply unavailable. It felt like no-one wanted me to see my records, and I have been fobbed off. I have only

recently obtained three sheets of paper from the Family Care Society which detail my admissions into the various homes.

32. All of my life I have had to take not knowing where I come from, whether I have any other siblings, my family's medical history. I have nothing to relate to. I have medical issues which I would like to be able to relate to my background if possible, and to pass on to my own children for the benefit of them and their children. I have skin problems and I wonder if it was to do with the use of Jeyes fluid when I was younger. I still cannot stand the smell of it.

33. I only met my brother [REDACTED] ten years ago, when we found each other through the Salvation Army. He was very badly affected by his experiences with the Christian Brothers. He stayed there until he was about nineteen years of age. He is living in supported housing in the [REDACTED] He is still traumatised and will not talk about his childhood. He drinks, and just does nothing. His eyes are dead. He says he will never set foot back in Ireland. I cannot see him much, it's too painful.

34. I believe that the nuns and priests thought they were above the law, and nobody would stand up to them. They were the worst kind of criminals. They preyed on the most vulnerable and helpless. They had no love. Love and compassion was locked out of their hearts. They were paid to look after us, not abuse us. To them, we were discarded nuisances that nobody wanted. I hope they pay for their actions.

35. I have never reported the abuse I suffered to the police.

Statement of Truth

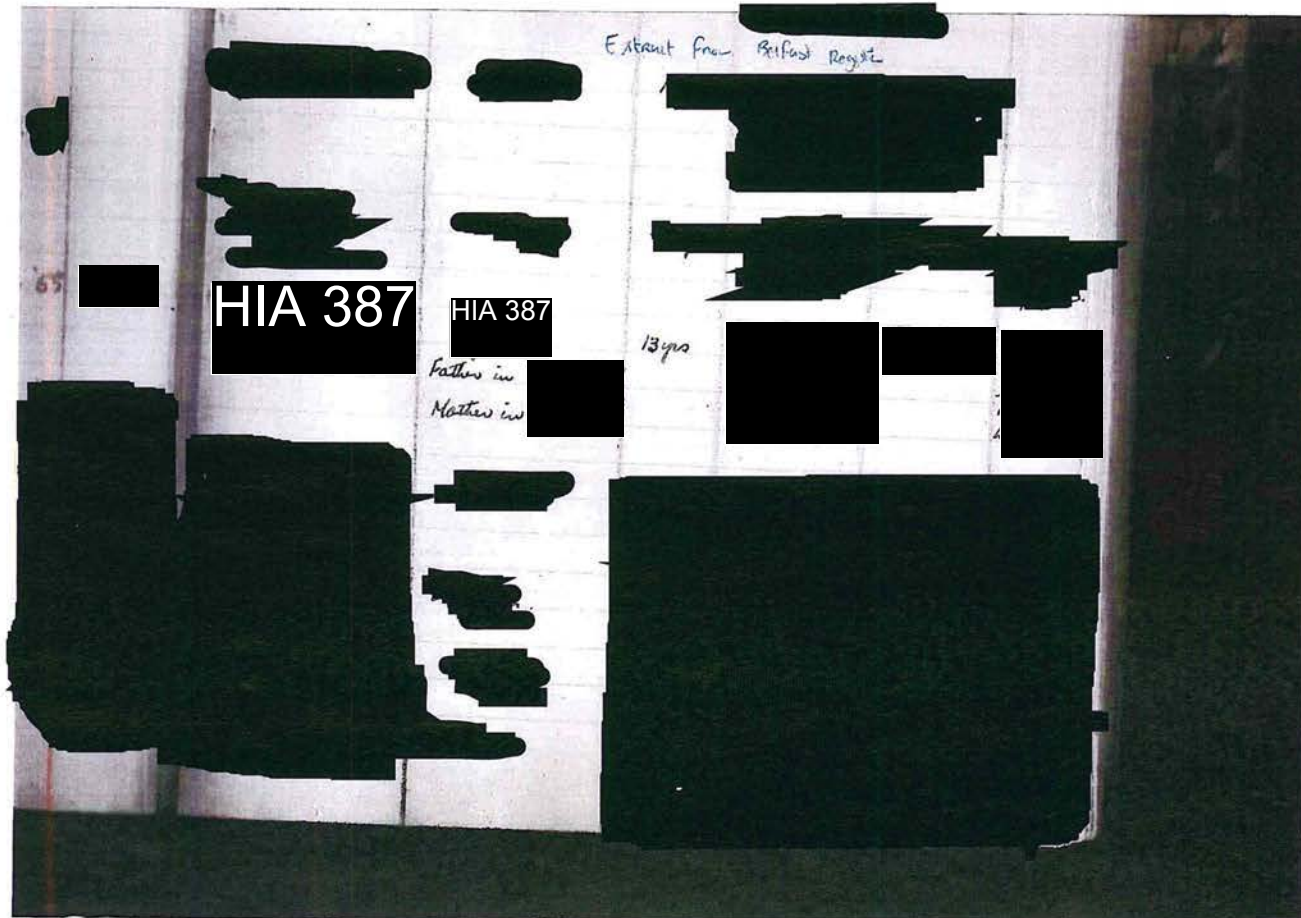
I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed _____

HIA 387

Dated _____

7/7/14



CHRISTIAN NAME	BIRTH PLACE	DATE OF BIRTH	WHERE BAPTISED	PARENT'S NAME	OCCUPATION
HIA 387	Jubilee Hospital, Belfast				

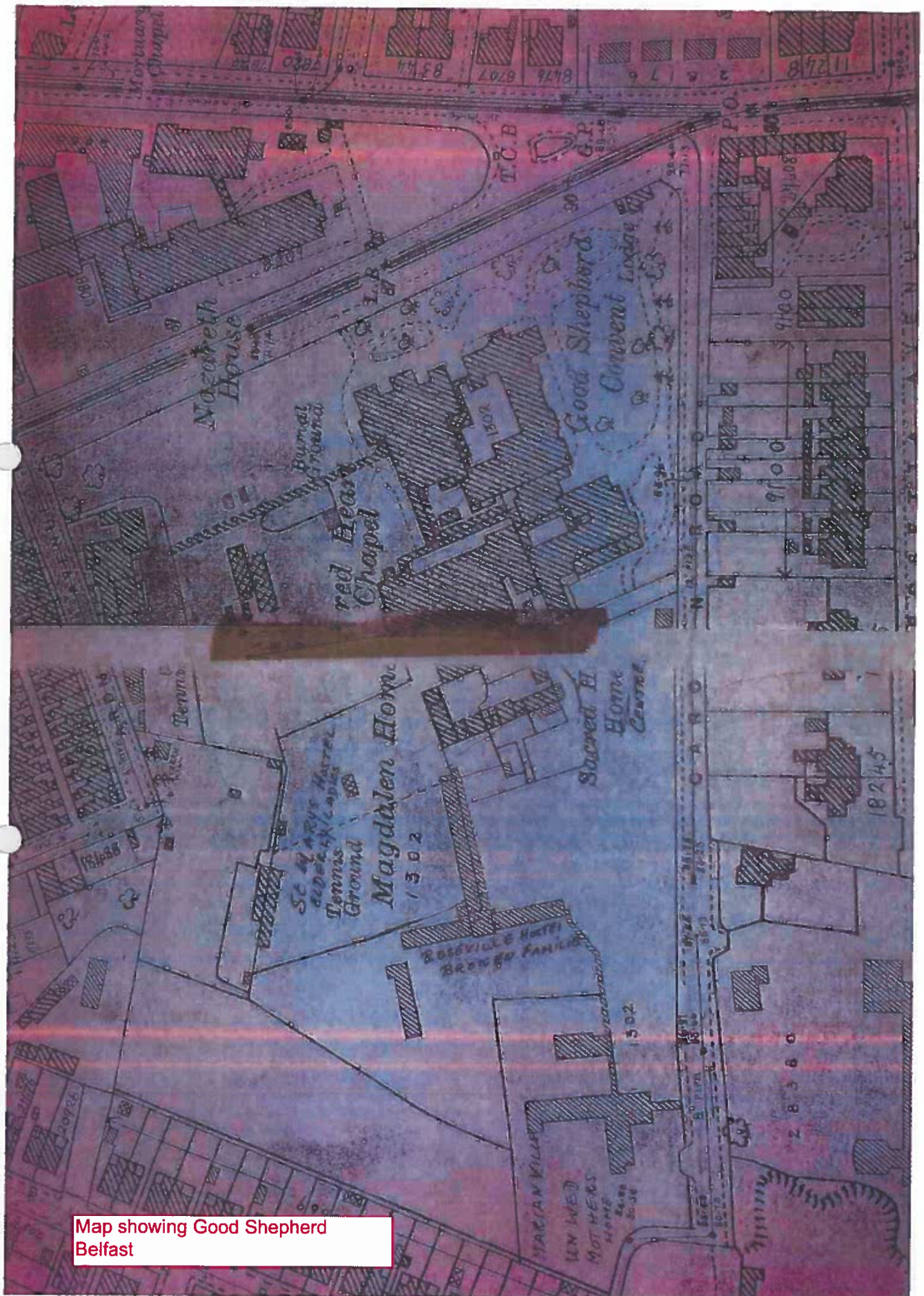
WHEN RECEIVED	RECOMMENDED BY	DISMISSED	DECEASED	OBSERVATIONS	No.
9. 11. "		1. 7. '61			4404

Part I (Continued)

Name and Address of Home	Categories and Age Groups of Children admitted	Numbers and Ages of the Children in the Home										Total Number of Children in the Home	Number of Children in the Home who are in the care of a Welfare Authority under the Children and Young Persons Act (N.I.) 1950									
		Under 2 years		2-4 years		5-14 years		15-18 years		Total			Under 2 years		2-4 years		5-14 years		15-18 years		Total	
		B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.		B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.
Totals brought forward		46	36	80	53	208	270	5	31	339	390	729	12	7	16	8	49	79	3	2	80	97
12. Childhaven, Millisle Road, Donaghadee.	Over 2 years	-	-	3	1	4	6	2	-	9	7	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. De La Salle Boys' Home, Rubane, Kircubbin.	Boys - 8-16 years	-	-	-	-	76	-	7	-	83	-	83	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	30	-
14. Johnston Memorial School, 5 Green Road, Knock, Belfast, 5.	Girls between 5 and 21 years on the roll of the Presbyterian Orphan Society	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	6	-	13	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
15. St. Joseph's Home, Convent of Mercy, Bessbrook.	Girls - 5-15 years	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
16. Nazareth House Nursery Home, Altavilla, Corcrain, Portadown.	0-2 years	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	11	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
17. Blackburn House, 34 Annadale Avenue, Belfast, 7.	Girls - 15-18 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
18. Good Shepherd Home, Waterside, Londonderry.	*Girls - 14 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
19. Good Shepherd Convent, Armagh Road, Newry.	*Girls - 14 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
20. Good Shepherd Home, 511 Ormeau Road, Belfast, 7.	*Teenage girls	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	36	-	40	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	13
Totals carried forward		49	44	83	54	288	300	14	88	434	486	920	12	8	16	8	79	80	3	23	110	120

Part II (continued)

Name and Address of Home	Legitimacy of children in the Home				Education and Employment of Children in the Home												No. of children in the Home likely to return to parents or guardians within six months of coming into care		Children requiring Special Care			
					Educated or Employed in Premises outside the Home						Educated within the Precincts of the Home or Employed on the Premises								(a) No. of Children in the Home requiring Special Care	(b) No. of children in care of a Welfare Authority included under (a)		
	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Of compulsory school age (5-15) and at school full-time		Over compulsory school age and receiving F.T. education or V.T.		In Employment		Of compulsory school age (5-15) and at school full-time		Over compulsory school age and receiving F.T. education or V.T.		In Employment							
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.
Totals brought forward	165	176	267	221	122	120	6	8	2	-	166	156	6	21	-	2	11	13	5	4	-	2
14. Johnston Memorial School, Belfast, 5.	-	13	-	-	-	7	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. St. Joseph's Home, Bessbrook.	-	2	-	9	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
16. Nazareth House Nursery Home, Portadown.	-	-	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Blackburn House, Belfast, 7.	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18. Good Shepherd Home, Londonderry.	-	8	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
19. Good Shepherd Convent, Newry.	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20. Good Shepherd Home, Belfast, 7.	-	30	-	10	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	-	2	-	1	-	1
21. Thorndale House, Belfast, 14.	-	9	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	6	-	-	-	-
22. Mayflower Home, Belfast, 14.	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	-	-	-	-
23. Hopedene Hostel, Belfast, 4.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
24. Marianvale Home, Newry.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25. Marianville Mothers' and Babies' Home, Belfast, 7.	-	9	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Totals	167	258	272	257	122	142	6	12	2	4	166	158	6	37	-	46	14	31	5	5	-	3



Map showing Good Shepherd
Belfast

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Taken from Derry Register

HIA 387

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

14

Sent from Ann Lament Belfast Sep^r 1863
Ran away to Belfast 1/3/64.

FROM THE NEWLY 1500K

HIA 387

G.S. Convent, Derry.

G.S. Bennett,
Derry

HIA 387

29th Sept. '64

Went to Water House
Belfast

have been moved from one Good Shepherd Sisters' institution to another could be *inter alia*:

- 10.1.1. Peer conflict or clash of personalities;
 - 10.1.2. Unmanageable behaviour;
 - 10.1.3. Not getting on with the Sisters;
 - 10.1.4. Behaviour likely to put another teenager or lady at risk; or
 - 10.1.5. Voluntary request to move.
- 10.2. It is to be noted that she moved from the largest Good Shepherd institution (Belfast), to a smaller one (Derry) and then to the smallest (Newry). This might indicate that the Sisters thought she would benefit from a smaller setting with closer attention from Sisters. The Sisters consistently say that Newry was the cosiest and most homely of all our homes as it was the smallest in size.
- 10.3. Our records state that she left St. Mary's Newry for employment in the Mater Hospital. However, further to those records, I have now spoken with a Good Shepherd Sister called [REDACTED] SR 299 who is residing in our Convent in Limerick. Sr [REDACTED] SR 299 recalls the Applicant. At the time, Sr [REDACTED] SR 299 was in St Mary's Newry and recalls the Applicant during her time in Newry 2nd March 1964 to 29th September 1964.
- 10.4. It is [REDACTED] SR 299 recollection that the Applicant worked in the ironing room of the laundry while [REDACTED] SR 299 was working in the packing room of the Laundry. At that time the applicant was 16 years old. [REDACTED] SR 299 worked in the Laundry St. Mary's Newry from 1955 to 1974, the majority of that period (from 1957 to 1973) was time spent working in the packing room.
- 10.5. It is [REDACTED] SR 299 recollection that the Applicant left St Mary's abruptly. [REDACTED] SR 299 has informed me of the events which precipitated the Applicant's departure from St. Mary's Newry. [REDACTED] SR 299 recalls that one afternoon when [REDACTED] SR 299 was in the packing room, the Applicant got into a dispute with another resident, a girl called "[REDACTED]". [REDACTED] SR 299 recalls the girls' argument as being heated and bitter. After the argument, the Applicant stormed off. Such behaviour would have been highly unusual in St Mary's Newry, as it was a very relaxed place. [REDACTED] SR 299 tells me that she remembers the Applicant being driven away from the home that evening at the Applicant's request. However, this is in contrast to what the Applicant has stated in her statement at GSC-076 where she alleges that when she left she "*got on a train and I ended up in East Belfast where I was sleeping rough*". [REDACTED] SR 299 has also informed me that she

also remembers the Applicant coming back to visit the Sisters in St Mary's Newry
some time later.

11. Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this Witness Statement are true

Signed: Ethna McDermott
Sr. Ethna McDermott

Dated the 4th day of March 2016