

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 152

Witness Name: HIA 152

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 152

I, HIA 152 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED]. I never knew my mother and father. I have an

[REDACTED]

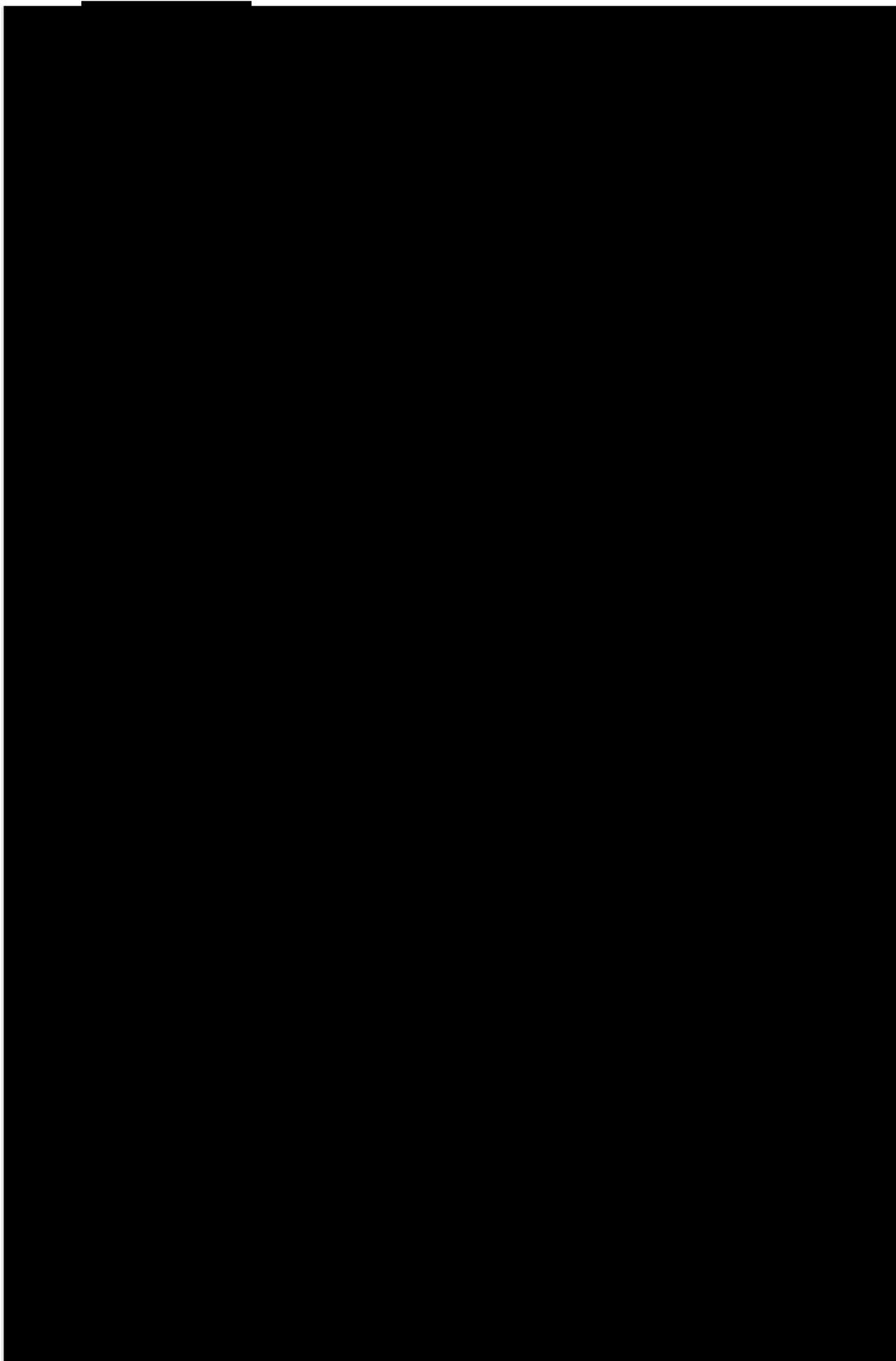
2. I was placed in Nazareth Lodge at a young age. I do not know the details of how I ended up in care. I knew my two brothers as they were in the home with me. My older brother was sent to Rubane before me so I knew my younger brother better. I never really knew my sister as she was in Nazareth House and I never got to see her.

Nazareth Lodge Children's Home, Belfast [REDACTED]

- 3.

[REDACTED]

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4.

5.

PRIVATE

6.

7.

8.

9. When I was eleven I was sent to Rubane House in Kircubbin. I was happy about getting away from the nuns but sad about leaving my younger brother behind. I had very little contact with him for about a year after that. The odd weekend my grandparents would have taken me to see him.

De La Salle Boys' Home, Rubane House, Kircubbin [REDACTED]

10. I was taken to Rubane from Nazareth House in a minibus driven by one of the Brothers. The [REDACTED] was called [REDACTED] BR 6 [REDACTED]. The first six months were okay. My older brother wasn't really interested in me as he hadn't seen me in years and he had his own friends. I was very much on my own.

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11. I was in one of six small dormitories with ten boys who were a mix of ages. The Brothers had their own bedrooms. They would come into the dormitory and cane us if we were talking at night. That happened to me a few times.
12. There was also a very religious aspect to the routine in Rubane. We got up early to go to mass. We had breakfast, went to school and had benediction.
13. We went to school on site. It was terrible. It was geared towards religion. We had to say the rosary every morning before school. If you didn't have your rosary beads in your pocket in the morning you would be caned. There were no formal exams and I have no memory of homework.
14. There was a white line in the playground which you were not allowed to cross. If you did you were caned by one of the Brothers.
15. We had chores to do. We had to do the housework before school which could be cleaning the corridors or scrubbing the stairs. Our chores were done every day before school and if we had not finished them before school we continued them after school.
16. There was a room where you could play pool as long as the older boys weren't already on the pool table. You had to play hurling but I was not really interested in it.
17. The food was terrible. The Brothers got better food than us. The Brothers would get apples and oranges. Some of the boys would take the Brothers' scraps out

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of the bin or sneak in to their dining room to steal food. The Brothers caned us if they caught us. I was caught a few times. My grandparents used to bring us up food but it was a waste because it would have been thrown in the bin by the Brothers if the older boys didn't get it. We weren't allowed to keep anything that made you different from the other boys.

18. My grandparents lived on the [REDACTED] Road and they would get a bus out to Kircubbin to visit me every Sunday. It was a 2 mile walk from the bus stop in Kircubbin out to Rubane and I used to ask one of the Brothers if they would go and collect them but it would depend what mood they were in.

19. The abuse was the most sinister thing about Rubane and there was a lot of it going on by the older boys. Some of the older boys would approach you in the classroom and tell you to be at the toilets at a certain time. They would make you perform oral sex on them. If you didn't go they would find you and beat you up so it was just easier to go when you were told to. You learned to stay away from them. Now and again one of the Brothers would call you in and say if a certain boy touches you, you were to tell them, which you did. I told Brother **BR 3** about the abuse by the older boys but he did not do anything about it.

20. I was cleaning the stairs and one of the Brothers told me I had to go to Brother **BR 65** room to help him clean his robe as he had got paint on it. Brother **BR 65** brought me in and locked the door. The abuse did not happen straight away. He had apples and oranges and biscuits and he would sit and talk. Then one day he told me to lock the door and told me to take my clothes off and he started doing things to me. He would digitally penetrate me and put me on top of him and kiss me. I always felt like it was my fault because I never tried to stop it or put up a fight but I suppose I was too young to know what to do. It happened about twice a month for a couple of months. He was a teacher and I was always terrified when I was in his class that he was going to ask me to stay behind after class. One day I noticed I was bleeding from my back passage and

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I started to refuse to go. He was then sent [REDACTED] I think he was being moved because someone in authority knew he was abusing the boys. I was only about [REDACTED] years old. I never felt that I could report him. Telling about other boys was entirely different from telling on a Brother.

21. You knew you would be leaving Rubane when you were [REDACTED]

Life After Care

22. I left Rubane when I was [REDACTED] I had planned with my grandparents that I would move in with them. I got the bus myself to Oxford Street where I had arranged to meet them. I had never had a visit from a social worker during my time in Rubane or Nazareth Lodge but out of the blue [REDACTED] called [REDACTED] **NL 40** came to the bus station and insisted I went with him. My grandparents were left standing there. I often wondered why social services were never involved with me in care and suddenly showed up when I was leaving. I was taken to a lodging house on [REDACTED] and I was told I was going to live there. I hated that lodging house. My older brother was there with another boy from Rubane. The other boy tried to abuse me in the same way as the older boys did in Rubane. I went to my grandparents' every opportunity I got. My grandparents had organised a job for me in [REDACTED] My wages were not enough to pay my lodgings so the welfare covered the rest. I gave them my wages every week until I was eighteen. I saw my grandparents for a short time after I got out of Rubane until the troubles started and they were put out of their home by paramilitaries. They moved to another house and then my grandfather died.

23. It was difficult to settle in to life outside an institution and despite hating Brothers and nuns for so long I actually went back in to an Institution and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Life in an institution was all I knew and I felt comfortable there. [REDACTED]

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went from job to job doing manual work and then I returned to Belfast. I have now lost my faith.

24. I live on my own. I keep in touch with my brothers. My sister died about [REDACTED] ago. I have never told anyone about my childhood or background. My friends all think I've just had a normal life.

25. I reported the abuse I suffered to the Police in 2012.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

HIA 152

Dated

9.30.14
D4

422

Register No. Name **HIA 152**

PARTICULARS OF ADMISSION.

Date of Birth [redacted] Age [redacted] Date of Admission [redacted]

Religion Legitimate or Illegitimate

Charge Court Sentence of Detention
Born: Belfast. Urban District [redacted]

Previous Court Proceedings

*Baptism: [redacted] in St. John's Church, Belfast.
Confirmation: [redacted] Lady of Mercy, Brimley Rd. Belfast. ?*

Local Authority Responsible for Maintenance *Home from Nazareth Lodge.*

Probation Officer (if any)

PARTICULARS OF HOME.

Parents:—

Father (name) [redacted]

Address

Mother (name) [redacted]

Address

Occupation

Character

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT.

Slightly below average intelligence

PHYSICAL, AND MENTAL CONDITION ON ADMISSION.

DESCRIPTION.

Height Eyes

Figure Nose

Complexion Hair

Marks on Person

Family History *Grandparents M.H. +*

Mrs. [redacted]

Parental Attitude

Possible Local Friend

Miscellaneous

Med. Card. [redacted]

PARTICULARS AS TO LEAVING THE SCHOOL BY LICENCE OR DISCHARGE.

[redacted] b/o Belfast Welfare

RH RH I

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Statement of Witness

Statement of: HIA 152

Age of Witness: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

I declare that this statement consisting of page/s, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature of Witness: HIA 152 Date: 15 September 2011 Service/Staff # if police/staff

Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)

Signature of Member: Date: 15 September 2011 Service/Staff # if police/staff by whom statement was recorded or received

When I was years old I was sent to the Brothers in Rubane that was the De La Salle at Kircubbin. I thought getting out of Nazareth Lodge was a complete break. I think the first while it was not too bad. was already there and I think

that made it easier for me. I stayed in a dormitory with about 10 to a room. This was a dormitory in the main house it did not have a name. I think there were about four dormitories the old school also had dormitories and you cut through a farm to get to it. I stayed in the dormitory in the main building for about before moving to the dormitory in the old school, that was through my own choice. My mates and friends that I had established were in the old school so I asked to get moved there. I stayed in a dormitory in the old school until I left at about years old. After a while I realised I did not have the closeness of my brother. After about things took a turn for the worse, more or less older boys took advantage of me in ways I was not used to. It was well known that was happening but I did not know. I think the brothers had an

awareness of it. In the bedrooms the older boys would come to you. One of the boys

DL 437 he was about 3 years older than me. Once he said to me in class there is a pair of shorts in the toilets I want you to go into the toilets and put the shorts on. The toilets were in the main house in the basement, the school was across the yard from the playground. When he

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Signature of witness: HIA 152 Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: HIA 152

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asked me this BR 2 was taking the class, he was in the class with me, they did not seem to be segregate the class in terms of age it was all just one. BR 2 did not say anything and I left the class with DL 437 I think I was about years old. Myself and DL 437 short went to the toilets and he started to masturbate me. I was wearing the shorts, I cannot remember what they were like and he put his hands up the shorts and groped me whilst he masturbated. I cannot remember the details, he took my penis out and groped it but he mostly masturbated himself. I cannot remember how long it went on for. There was a few encounters with DL 437 it was all very much the same and he wanted me to touch him. I think I had 3 or 4 encounters with DL 437 and I think he was more of a school bully, they were usually in the toilets, he never shared the old school he stayed in the main building. I think I was years when I had my last encounter with DL 437 After I left Rubane I lost contact with most people, I do not know where DL 437 is and I do not remember his first name, he was known as DL 437 I cannot remember what he looked like it was years ago. I told BR 3 what was going on and he said he would do something about it, he had heard other reports but nothing ever was done about it. I did have brief encounters with other boys but I cannot remember any names. It was well known that it was going on and the main thing was to try and avoid it. I cannot remember coming back to class after the incidents. DL 437 was one of the boys who stuck in my mind. My worst encounter and I will never forget it, was a BR 15 who told me to go to BR 65 room. I had been cleaning the house, it was a big staircase and in the morning I went to BR 65 room to go and help clean paint off his habit which he wore. When I got to his room he started talking and told me to close the door and lock it. He said what was going on was our secret. He was not wearing his habit. He then told me to strip completely. I was years old at the time or , he would have been about

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Signature of witness:	HIA 152
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	

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Continuation of Statement of: **HIA 152**

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years at the time. I took my clothes off, I cannot remember what I was wearing it was a shock being in that situation. I did not know what to do. Then he told me to bend over his knees and he penetrated my bottom with his fingers, I will never forget it. It has stuck with me all my life. When he done that he would lie on the bed and I had to lie on top of him with his fingers still inside me and then he started to kiss me on the lips. It felt like forever but went on for half an hour. He never touched my penis or got undressed himself, he just got off on it. He would call me up to his room once a fortnight and that went on for months. He would send one of the boys to get me. I do not remember them. One time I was called up when [REDACTED] was in the room and he kissed [REDACTED] on the lips and he kissed me on the lips. [REDACTED] is now dead.

Sometimes I would not go when he sent for me. I think he must have put his fingers inside my bottom 4 or 5 times. I did not tell any of the Brothers about this, it seemed easier going on about other boys than the Brothers. I started to pass blood and told **BR 65** and he said he would go easier on me but I never went to the doctor. I did not tell anyone else that I was passing blood it stopped after a while. Other times when I went to **BR 65** room he would put his hand down the back of my pants and trousers and feel my bottom. Times I went to his room he would chat about general things. He had apples and oranges in his room which were a luxury. Some of these times he did not do anything. **BR 65** left I think someone said he was going to the Far East or something. I think they packed him up and sent him off. He was the only Brother who sexually assaulted me and I was always on my own with him. At the time I did not tell anyone what was happening. I felt so guilty for letting it happen. I was only [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] years and felt I should have stood up for myself. I have tried to forget it. Since then I have told my friend [REDACTED] what has happened. When I was about [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I was passing blood and it was

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RESTRICTED (when complete)

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sore. All the time at Rubane it was the norm to be beaten if you forgot rosary beads or for any reasons. I would get beat with canes or straps. Any of the Brothers would do the beating. If you were half an hour late for breakfast you could get caned. I cannot remember half of the Brothers names. It was always something trivial like not washing your hands or being in the queue. It was like stupid things, your took it as the norm. I cannot remember a specific incident of when this occurred or by whom. Usually there would be marks on the backside or hands. I did remember getting caned for walking across a white line but I cannot remember by who. At the time **BR 6** was in charge at Rubane. At no time did I get any medical treatment for the physical beatings. I cannot remember if I ever bled. I do not have any marks today as a result of these beatings. One **DL 6** k teacher would cane you if you could not remember the ten commandments, he was called **DL 6** he would have about **DL 6** or something. I have never attended my doctor for psychological reasons, it is the sort of thing you bury or try to forget. I had grandparents who visited me each week and that kept me sane, they have both passed away. Others are now talking about their experiences and that is why I am talking about it now. I was close to my grandparents and I left to live with them when I was **DL 6** years old but the welfare would not let me to go and live with them because they were old and poor. As well as **DL 6** **DL 6** I have told **DL 6** **DL 6** and I think **DL 6** but I did not tell anyone at the time. **HIA 152**

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Signature of witness:	HIA 152
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	

- [REDACTED]
13. Generally, it was the older boys interfering with the younger ones. As I grew older the abuse diminished, but even right to the end some of the older or stronger boys within your own group would still approach you.
 14. There was definitely an underlying innuendo about sex. It was a sexualised environment.
 15. I was conscious that the sheltered and protected life we had in Nazareth was no preparation for mixing with the streetwise boys who arrived in Rubane on Court orders. I recall teaching one resident how to be an altar boy. Later, in one of the fields who told me that he wanted to thank me and said he would show me something that his sister had taught him. He went on to explain his 'present' and it was obvious to me that he had clearly been exposed to sexual activity before he arrived in Rubane. On reflection, this was the biggest problem:- streetwise, sexualised boys being placed into care with vulnerable sheltered children.
 16. I can categorically say that I never heard any credible story about a De La Salle Brother abusing a boy in a sexual manner. There was innuendo ok, typical teenage gossip about pets etc and what was going on between boys and certain Brothers but I saw it as nothing other than that - rumour and gossip.
 17. I met a number of De La Salle Brothers;
 - (i) Br **BR 27** - he was responsible for getting me into music. He recognised I had a talent for music and introduced me to the [REDACTED] and later the [REDACTED]. He was responsible for bringing music into the home and starting the band. Both I, and another guy, [REDACTED] whom he also involved

in the music later [REDACTED] He was a good lad and I liked him.

(ii) Br **BR 73** - I really liked him. He got me into [REDACTED] but he did not stay long.

(iii) Br **BR 6** - he was like a father figure. Ok, he did cane me on occasion for misbehaving but I distinctly recall shaking hands with him on each occasion; there were 'no hard feelings'. Indeed, I was more upset when he shouted at me, like a child who had upset their father. I preferred to get caned than by shouted at. I can't recall what exactly I got caned for - probably for fighting but on one occasion I believe it was for breaking into the filing cabinet, seeking information from my file. He always caned me on the hand - 2-3 strokes - no more. I'm conscious of allegations having been made against **BR 6** I just don't believe that he was an abuser. I would say he was a 'touchy' sort of person but it was in a fatherly sort of way. He would have said things like having nice hair or nice eyes but I wouldn't have taken the comments whether about me or other boys than to be anything other than complimentary - like a father.

(iv) Br **BR 13** - I was his [REDACTED] Other boys would have seen me as one of his pets and insinuated that something was going on, the sexual innuendo point, but nothing went on and at no stage did I feel uncomfortable. He was interested in [REDACTED] He developed my own interest in [REDACTED] He used to communicate with a family in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] This stimulated my interest in [REDACTED] Although, he had no teaching roll in the school he tried to teach me [REDACTED] and we [REDACTED] I remember being fascinated with him going [REDACTED] I suppose, given my sheltered life - this adventure to the outside world was memorising. Br **BR 13** dispensed the money, the pocket money and petty cash. I remember having a camera and recall asking **BR 13** to get me money so I could develop the film and he did.

- (v) Br **BR 12** - he as the farmer. I liked him as a character and had total respect for him. Generally we had little contact with him other than if you were working on the farm, like helping out with the bales. He was a straight sort of man, if you gave respect then you got respect.
- (vi) Br **BR 15** - I think he was the first Brother I met on arrival. He had no teaching role, and was a bit of a handyman. He did a lot for the kids. I wouldn't have seen any harm in him. I was an inventive child with an interest in mechanics/electronics. I remember on one occasion **BR 15** and I 'blew' the lights. We had been trying to wire up an electronic gadget. **BR 15** found out. We should have been in big trouble but he knew we were inquisitive, said nothing, and gave us stuff to make things with. **BR 15** I understand that allegations of sexual abuse have been made against him. I find that very difficult to believe. I was in the main house for a few months after I arrived before being moved, by **BR 15** down to the old school house. At no stage did I see or hear anything about him which gave me cause for concern.
- (vii) Br **BR 3** - he was my teacher. I recall being fascinated and intrigued by his accounts of life **BR 3** I do recall him talking to us about behaviour among the boys - sexual behaviour and to watch out of this/that. I have a distinct recollection of him making a comment about a certain boy having a nice shape/bum but it was more of an athletic than sexual comment. I also recall that a couple of the residents would have visited his room. There was innuendo about what was going on. There was talk of pets but I never heard or suspected anything untoward. He was not overly physical, preferred to talk. In fact I can't remember him ever using the cane.
- (viii) Br **BR 65** - he was only there a short time. He got me French books. I remember boys visiting his room - **HIA 152** I remember being annoyed because I liked to spend time with **HIA 152**

**MASTER TAPE T0434157A****BR 3**

I think there were a mixture yeah. It wouldn't be all one.

Okay. **BR2** did not say anything and I left the class with **DL 437**. I think I was about [redacted] years old. Myself and **DL 437** went to the toilets and he started to masturbate me. I was wearing the shorts, I cannot remember what they were like and he put his hands up the shorts and groped me whilst he masturbated. I cannot remember the details, he took my penis out and groped it but he mostly masturbated himself. I cannot remember how long it went on for there were a few encounters with **DL 437** it was all very much the same and he wanted me to touch him. I think I had 3 or 4 encounters with **DL 437** and I think he was more of a school bully, they were usually in the toilets. He never shared the ol., he never shared the old school he stayed in the main building. I think I was [redacted] years when I had my first, sorry. I think I was [redacted] years when I had my last encounter with **DL 437**. After I left Rubane I lost contact with most people. I do not know where **DL 437** is, am I do not remember his first name he was known as [redacted]. I cannot remember what he looked like it was years ago. He then goes on to say I told **BR 3** what was going on and he said he would do something about it, he had heard other reports but nothing was ever done about it, does that ring any bells with you, is there any ...

BR 3

No certainly not.

... would **HIA 152** have come and told you what was happening with **DL 437** as he's described in his statement.

BR 3

I don't think he would.

Can you remember any ...

BR 3

(Inaudible) I mean a thing like that as grave as that would register with me.

Okay, em and what would the action have been if, if a pupil had come to you and described what I have stated in that statement there.

BR 3

Oh ah, it depends this, is this, are you relating this happened in school, is it.

Well he was, he said he was tak., one of the times he was taken out of class to the, the toilets ...

BR 3

It's a serious thing ...

... in the basement.

BR 3

... I would've talked about it, first of all bring the 2 boys together myself.

Okay.



MASTER TAPE [REDACTED]

BR 3

And then report the matter.

Okay.

BR 3

Again, but I would deal with it.

Okay.

BR 3

As it was very serious.

SOLICITOR

But you don't recall this.

BR 3

No.

SOLICITOR

This is hypothetical.

BR 3

Yes.

Yeah.

SOLICITOR

You don't recall this.

BR 3

I don't, no, ever.

Can you recall anybody coming to you, any pupil coming to you and, and making allegations of a sexual nature, I mean that's something that would, would maybe stick in your mind.

BR 3

No.

No.

BR 3

The boys, they, they would've went am down the woods and all that themselves but not, they never reported anything ...

To you.

BR 3

To me as a m., as a member of the staff, this is even outside school, I'd be walking around or going for walks and things like that, boys with me and I never heard anything.

Okay. So as your capacity [REDACTED] and as just a person who lived at Rubane ...

BR 3

Yes.

... none of the, the children there came to you with an allegation that they had been sexually abused.

BR 3

No.

Okay. Is there anything else that you want to add.



MASTER TAPE [REDACTED]

No.

Okay. Is there anything, as I say that's all I have to ask you about in relation to **HIA 152**, is there anything else ...

BR 3

No.

... that you want to add or clarify ...

BR 3

No.

... in relation to that.

BR 3

Disappointed.

[REDACTED]

HIA REF: [DL437]
 NAME: [DL 437]
 DATE: [05.10.2014]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF [DL 437]

[DL 437] will say as follows:

1. I was born on [REDACTED] I am the [REDACTED] children. [REDACTED]
2. I went into Nazareth Lodge when I was about [REDACTED] years of age. My brothers were also put into Nazareth Lodge from a similar early age and my sisters went into the Good Shepherd Childrens Home. I stayed in Nazareth Lodge until I was [REDACTED] years old when I went into Rubane Home, Kircubbin. [REDACTED] also went into Rubane House. We entered at different times according to when we reached the appropriate age to transfer from Nazareth House to Rubane House.
3. In my time at Rubane I had the nickname [DL 437] I remember there were boys called [REDACTED] [HIA 152] but I did not know him. I am aware of allegations that [HIA 152] has made against me in a statement he made to the police on 15th September 2011. I totally deny all these allegations.
4. In relation to the allegations made by [HIA 152] against me, I wish to state clearly that I can recall that the classes at Rubane did sometimes have boys of different ages in them; however I do not remember ever being in class with a [HIA 152] The incident [HIA 152] describes in his police statement of 15th September 2011, where he alleges I left the class with him and abused him in the school toilets, is completely untrue. I never left a class with him nor ever went with him or was with him in the toilets. I did not and never have had any sexual contact with him or with any of the other boys. It was well known among the boys that self-masturbation took place in the toilets but I am not aware that the kind of behaviour described by [HIA 152] or indeed any sexual abuse ever took place.
5. In his police statement [HIA 152] also states that "in the bedrooms the older boys would come to you." It is not clear whether he includes me in this allegation. I wish to make in clear therefore that I never went to him in the bedrooms nor had any sexual or other contact with him in the bedrooms.
6. During my time at the school I was never accused of, or spoken to, about abusing [REDACTED] [HIA 152] or anyone else. I do not know why he had made these allegations against me. I also note that he has accused me of being a bully during my time at Rubane. This is untrue, there were bullies in Rubane but I was never one and was never known to be one. I have been

