

HIA REF:

Witness Name: **Very Reverend Francis Bradley**

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF Very Reverend Francis Bradley, Diocesan Administrator, Diocese of Derry in Sede Vacante

1. I, **Very Reverend Francis Bradley** will say as follows –
2. This statement is provided by Very Reverend Francis Bradley at the request of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry following a letter dated 16th October 2013
3. I have little knowledge of **SND 9** whom I understand to be deceased. On the basis of what I have discovered, I can state the following:
4. I have been told that he was a native of Derry, who was ordained for the Archdiocese of Birmingham, England. Upon ordination, a specific link is established between a cleric and the diocese for which he is ordained and into which he is incardinated, so that he becomes subject to the bishop of the diocese of incardination. There is no necessary link between place of birth and diocese of incardination. **SND 9** has never been an incardinated priest of the Diocese of Derry, and has never had an appointment to minister within the Diocese of Derry.
5. The Archdiocese of Birmingham has informed the Diocese of Derry that **SND 9** **SND 9** returned home to Derry, due to failing health, in 1944 (letter appended). He remained an incardinated priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. He received no appointment to minister in the Diocese of Derry. Therefore, he did not at any time work for the Diocese of Derry. He merely resided within the boundaries of the diocese and remained subject to the Archbishop of Birmingham.
6. **HIA 11** **SND 9** made the diocese aware of his allegations against **SND 9** **SND 9** and a number of other individuals, on 27 November 2009. No other complainant has raised **SND 9** **SND 9** name with the diocese, either prior to or since 27 November 2009.
7. In making the diocese aware of his allegation against **SND 9** in 2009, Mr. **HIA 11** indicated that he had previously been with Bishop Daly twenty years ago, but that Bishop Daly had considered such things impossible. In addition, Mr. **HIA 11** said that he had told **SND 229** about the allegation. Appended is a Memo of the telephone conversation between **HIA 11** and

- SND 74** which the former mentions his contacts with Bishop Daly and **SND 229**. Both Bishop Hegarty and **SND 74** spoke with Bishop Daly, who indicated that he has no memory of speaking with Mr. Gallagher about abuse; the Memos of both conversations are appended. Bishop Daly did, however, say that the Diocesan Archive holds an exchange of letters between himself, then Bishop of Derry, and a **HIA 11** which took place in 1978; copies of the letters are appended. In relation to **HIA 11** claim to have spoken with **SND 229** Bishop Séamus Hegarty spoke with **SND 229** who indicated that he had no memory of having any conversation with **HIA 11** regarding abuse; a copy of the Memo of the conversation between Bishop Hegarty and **SND 229** is appended.
8. **HIA 11** spoke with Bishop Hegarty on 27 November 2009. The Designated Person for the Diocese of Derry, Mrs. Mary McCafferty, contacted the PSNI and HCT on 30 November 2009. This was followed by a meeting with PSNI and HCT on 1 December 2009. Advice was sought from the *National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland* on 30 November 2009. **HIA 11** made allegations against a number of people, including **SND 9** none of whom were clergy or employees of the Diocese of Derry. Accordingly, in addition to contacting the civil authorities, the Designated Person notified the allegations to the relevant bodies:
- Archdiocese of Birmingham on 9 December 2009, followed with a letter on 11 December 2009; a copy of the Memo of the initial contact made with the Archdiocese of Birmingham, on 7 December 2009 is appended;
 - Christian Brothers, on 9 December 2009, followed with a letter on 11 December 2009;
 - Sisters of Nazareth, on 9 December 2009, followed with a letter on 11 December 2009;
 - St. Joseph's Secondary School, on 9 December 2009, followed with a letter on 11 December 2009;
 - St. Peter's High School, on 14 December 2009, followed with a letter on 16 December 2009.
9. In addition, the Designated Person for the Diocese of Derry, Mrs. Mary McCafferty, spoke with **HIA 11** on 2 December 2009, 8 December 2009 and 20 February 2010. **HIA 11** met with Bishop Hegarty, **SND 178** and **SND 74** on 16 May 2010. **SND 178** informed Mr. **HIA 11** in writing, of the actions she had taken, on 8 January 2010; a copy of the letter is appended.
10. The Diocese of Derry has received no claims in relation to the activities of **SND 9** **SND 9** a priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

11. If **SND 229** had received an allegation of abuse, as claimed by Mr. **HIA 11** in 1970 / 71, there were no specified church child safeguarding obligations on priests at that time. There were no child safeguarding policies in the Diocese of Derry in 1970 / 71. The first policy, in relation to allegations of abuse made against clergy, was *Child Sexual Abuse: Framework for a Church Response* (Veritas, 1996). Currently, the Standards and Guidance document is *Safeguarding Children*, issued by the *National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland* in 2008. The diocesan safeguarding policy is *Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures* (2010); the latter document can be downloaded from www.derrydiocese.org.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

Very Reverend Francis Bradley
Diocesan Administrator
Diocese of Derry

Dated

HIA REF:

Witness Name: **Very Reverend Francis Bradley**

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF Very Reverend Francis Bradley, Diocesan Administrator, Diocese of Derry in Sede Vacante

1. I, **Very Reverend Francis Bradley** will say as follows –
2. This statement is the second statement provided by **Very Reverend Francis Bradley** at the request of the **Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry** and deals with a request for information about **SND 67**
3. **SND 67** is a native of Derry and was born on **[REDACTED]**. He was educated locally and on leaving school he entered ministry and was ordained a priest on 9th June 1974. He went on to serve in the following parishes: **[REDACTED]**
4. **SND 67** role was that of a curate in most of the parishes in which he served. However, he was given additional responsibilities as Administrator during his period in the parish of **[REDACTED]** **SND 67** **SND 67** requested, and was granted, leave of absence from ministry on 2nd March 2005. **[REDACTED]** He continues to remain out of ministry.
5. **SND 67** spent two lengthy periods in **[REDACTED]** where his duties were that of a curate to the faith community, involving himself in parish life. In addition to his priestly role, he had particular strengths in raising funds in parishes; hence he was given the additional responsibilities at **[REDACTED]**. Other than the expectant pastoral role of any priest, there is no record of him being given singular responsibility for providing such care in Institutions or Children's Homes. There is no record of him having had any role, nor of him having been in any role, as Chaplain to an Institution or a Home.
6. The Diocese of Derry first became aware of allegations against **SND 67** **SND 67** in August 1997 when a minor alleged abuse by a series of priests including **SND 67**, as well as a series of lay people. On 6th October 2011, the diocese received allegations of two separate incidents regarding

sexual assault, one in a Youth Club and the other in a parochial house. A further allegation of sexual assault was made by another complainant on 12th March 2013.

7. The 1997 allegation was investigated, and the DPP directed no prosecution against **SND 67**. The 2011 complaint was reported immediately to the police and social services, as was the complaint in 2013. The diocese has followed the policies in place for such complaints and has maintained contact with the police and social services and co-operates with them in the investigation which is ongoing. The police have confirmed that they have an active investigation ongoing at present.
8. The Diocese of Derry has two civil actions concerning **SND 67** which are active at present, but there has been little activity in these to date and they are still in the early stages.
9. As there is an active police investigation the Diocese of Derry would not wish to comment on the allegations as it would wish to ensure there is no interference, or perception of interference, in that investigation, thereby allowing the proper course to be followed.
10. The Diocese of Derry is actively involved in the programme of Safeguarding Children guided by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland and strives to achieve and maintain good practice in the area of child safeguarding as well as the area of the safeguarding of vulnerable adults. We have an active link with the civil authorities and co-operate with them on any allegation and subsequent investigation.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed *Francis Bradley*

Very Reverend Francis Bradley
Diocesan Administrator
 Diocese of Derry

Dated *19th December 2013*

HIA REF:

Witness Name: **Very Reverend Francis Bradley**

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF **Very Reverend Francis Bradley, Diocesan Administrator, Diocese of Derry in Sede Vacante**

1. I, **Very Reverend Francis Bradley** will say as follows –
2. This statement is the third statement provided by Very Reverend Francis Bradley at the request of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry and deals with a request for information about **SND 106**
3. **SND 106** was born on **SND 106** in Buncrana, Co. Donegal. He was educated in Buncrana and Derry. He attended Maynooth and was ordained a priest on 17th June 1956. He was appointed to the following parishes: 1956 – 1957 on loan to Diocese of Down and Connor; 1957 – 1958 CC Strabane; 1958 – 1959 CC Long Tower, Derry; 1959 – 1974 CC St. Mary's Creggan, Derry; 1974 – 1978 Adm. St. Mary's, Creggan, Derry; 1978 – 1987 Adm. St. Patrick's, Pennyburn, Derry; 1987 – 2007 PP Merville; 1995 – 2007 Vicar Forane (VF) Inishowen Deanery; 2007 retired. **SND 106** has been retired some six years but would now take on a role as *locum* in various parishes in the Inishowen area of County Donegal. He has held responsible roles in the Diocese including VF and Parish Priest, and had an active role in the development of the parishes in which he served.
4. **SND 106** had relatively short periods in various parishes initially; however, he went on to spend more lengthy periods in St. Mary's, Creggan, Derry, St. Patrick's, Pennyburn, Derry and Merville, County Donegal. His role as Parish Priest there latterly spanned some twenty years. In addition to his priestly role, he had a pastoral role, which saw him being supportive to various parish initiatives, including facilities for youth. There is no record of him having specific duties or responsibilities for Institutions or Children's Homes.
5. Until the request made by the Inquiry, the Diocese of Derry had never received any complaint or allegation against **SND 106**. This allegation has, in line with the policies and practices in the diocese, been reported to the police and social services and **SND 106** has been asked to step aside from ministry while an investigation is carried out.
6. As there is likely to be an active police investigation, the Diocese of Derry would not wish to comment on the allegation as it would wish to ensure there is no interference, or perception of interference, in that investigation, thereby allowing the proper course to be followed.

7. The Diocese of Derry is actively involved in the programme of *Safeguarding Children* guided by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland and strives to achieve and maintain good practice in the area of child safeguarding as well as the area of safeguarding of vulnerable adults. We have an active link with the civil authorities and co-operate with them on any allegation and subsequent investigation.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed *Francis Bradley*

Very Reverend Francis Bradley
Diocesan Administrator
Diocese of Derry

Dated *18 December 2013*

HIA REF:

Witness Name: **Very Reverend Francis Bradley**

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF **Very Reverend Francis Bradley**, Diocesan Administrator, Diocese of Derry *in Sede Vacante*

This statement is the fourth statement provided by Very Reverend Francis Bradley at the request of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry and deals with a request for information regarding Documents SND-6210 – 6214

I, **Very Reverend Francis Bradley** will say as follows –

1. I, Francis Bradley, am Diocesan Administrator for the Diocese of Derry *in Sede Vacante*, while awaiting the appointment of a new Diocesan Bishop. I have been Diocesan Administrator since 22 April 2013.
2. Bishop Edward Daly served as Bishop of Derry from 1974 until 1993. Upon retirement, he commenced work as Diocesan Archivist in late 1994 / early 1995. I understand that at the time the archival material was un-catalogued and much of it was stored in tea chests and old filing cabinets. Bishop Daly began a process of fully cataloguing the archive. He is clear that he did not dispose of any material, no matter how apparently unimportant, from his time as Bishop of Derry and catalogued this, as well as the archival material which predates his time as bishop.
3. I understand that Bishop Daly found documents SND-6210 to 6214 while cataloguing the archive. He passed this material to the Diocesan Office, which is the office of the Diocesan Bishop, for storage in the office strong room. I understand that Bishop Daly has no idea how document SND-6214 came into the possession of the Diocese of Derry.
4. In relation to SND-6214, I have no knowledge of when this was provided to the Bishop of Derry.
5. I presume that the incident, referred to in SND-6214, occurred sometime prior to the closure of the City and County Hospital, which, I understand, closed around 1960. I have not seen any evidence which would suggest that Dr. Moran ever spoke to the Bishop of Derry about this issue. Apart from the single page, identified as SND-6214, I have no other knowledge of this matter.
6. I understand from Bishop Daly that during his time as Bishop of Derry, from a practical perspective he had no governance responsibility and little influence over the operation of Termonbacca. I understand that, in his experience, Termonbacca was clearly run by the Sisters of Nazareth, Hammersmith. Due to the fact that Bishop Daly's predecessors are deceased, I am not in a position to obtain information from them directly. However, Bishop Daly did not indicate that there had been any change in governance responsibility or influence during his time as Bishop of Derry.

7. I understand from Bishop Daly that during his time as Bishop of Derry, from a practical perspective he had no governance responsibility and little influence over the operation of Bishop St. I understand that, in his experience, Bishop St. was clearly run by the Sisters of Nazareth, Hammersmith. Due to the fact that Bishop Daly's predecessors are deceased, I am not in a position to obtain information from them directly. However, Bishop Daly did not indicate that there had been any change in governance responsibility or influence during his time as Bishop of Derry.
8. I have no further knowledge of the incident presented in documents SND-6210 to SND-6213.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed *Francis Bradley*

Very Reverend Francis Bradley
Diocesan Administrator
Diocese of Derry

Dated *7. February, 2024*