

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 222

Witness Name: HIA 222

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 222

I, HIA 222 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED]. I lived in [REDACTED] with my parents and siblings. I had two brothers and one sister. DL 385 was born on [REDACTED] DL 386 was born on [REDACTED] but tragically died in a fire which destroyed the family home on [REDACTED] DL 387 was born on [REDACTED]
2. My father was killed in a car accident in [REDACTED]. My brother and I started skipping school. We would never have dared do anything like then when our father was alive but we were all very affected by his death. We were brought to court and sent to St Patrick's Training School on 9th May 1974 for three weeks. After we were released on 30th May 1974 we continued to skip school. We were brought back to court and were sent to Rubane House in Kircubbin on 3rd October 1974.

De La Salle Boys' Home, Rubane House, Kircubbin (03/10/1974 – 24/12/1974)

3. On the first day my brother and I were kicking off because we did not want to be there. The head Brother, whose name I cannot remember, locked us in his room. We were shouting to get out and he slapped us.

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4. My brother and I were placed in Chalet 1. **SR 57** and **BR 62** were in charge of our chalet.
5. I remember on the first Friday that we were in Rubane my brother and I were in the TT rooms. They were called that because there was a table tennis table in it. It was the only place we were allowed to smoke. I was standing along a window ledge having a smoke. Someone started to ring a hand held bell in the courtyard outside. We had no idea what the bell meant. Two Brothers, whose names I cannot remember, came in and asked us what we were doing and started to beat us. They kicked, punched and slapped us and trailed us off to the chapel for benediction. The bell was being rung to tell everybody to go to benediction which was every Friday but we did not know that. I was left with a hand mark on my face and bruising on the left hand side of my torso. It was a baptism of fire which made me realise you did not cross these people and it left me with a constant sense of fear and uneasiness.
6. There was a night I was smoking in the dormitory with another boy called **DL 131**. **BR 62** came into the room and smelt it. There was such a look of terror on **DL 131**'s face that I told the Brother that it was me who was smoking. He trailed me out of bed and when I refused to drop my pyjama bottoms for him he hit me across the face with a leather strap and beat me all over. I was left with a strap mark across my face and strap marks on my body.
7. We were wakened every morning by **BR 62** rattling keys, clapping his hands and saying "wakey, wakey". I remember one night somebody started shaking keys. It was a prank but everybody automatically got up thinking it was morning. In the bedroom beside me there were three or four boys who wet the bed. They had automatically got up, taken their wet sheets off their beds, brought them to the bathroom, put them in the bath and turned on the taps. The next thing **BR 62** came flying in and hit them with a strap. I remember hearing the whacks and the squeals. They couldn't understand what was happening or who had woke them.

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8. I went to school in Rubane. One day I was being taught by a teacher whose name was **DL 384**. My brother and I were talking. He came up behind me and without warning hit me over the head with a really large book. It felt like the ceiling had fallen on top of me. I was nearly knocked unconscious, everything was spinning.
9. The headmaster, whose name I think was [REDACTED] was very quick tempered and he would slap me across the face with his hand from behind, often for no reason.
10. **SR 57** hit me over the head with a wooden object which was like a set square or the corner of a picture frame. Somebody had left the gas on in the kitchen and she wrongly blamed me. **SR 57** had no sense of smell and I think someone maybe hoped that she would come into the kitchen and not smell the gas and it would knock her out.
11. I remember one evening **SR 57** found that someone had defecated on the back rim of the toilet bowl. She came in and said she would give someone five pence to remove it. The next evening the same thing happened. She was furious and made everyone in the Chalet line up, take their underwear off and turn it inside out so she could inspect it. One of the boys had stains on his underwear and was trailed off to the bathroom by the arm by **BR 62** to clean it.
12. I did not suffer any sexual abuse in Rubane. I think the reason is because I still had a mother alive who I could have told. She came to visit about twice when I was in Rubane. However, I know that kind of abuse went on. One day I was out for a walk and heard a commotion in the wood behind the chalet. I saw a boy being beaten by about five other boys with branches and sticks. One of the five abusers made the boy who was being abused perform oral sex on him and then he urinated in his mouth. I was so disgusted I walked away. It haunted me and I questioned myself about why I didn't step in to stop it. However, I knew if I tried to stop it I would probably end up getting the same. I cannot recall any of their names.

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13. I knew from the start of my time in Rubane never to report anything. The other boys always said that if you told the welfare they would just tell the Brothers and you would get a beating. Any time a social worker visited you just said everything was fine. I think I was visited twice when I was in Rubane.
14. My brother and I were allowed to go home for Christmas 1974. We refused to go back to Rubane after Christmas. We were taken back to court and sent to St. Patrick's Training School on 6th January 1975. St Patrick's was alright compared to Rubane and I have no complaints about my time there. I kept running away from St. Patrick's because I didn't think I should have been in there for skipping school. I was eventually released in October 1976 just before my sixteenth birthday. I went back to my mother's house.

Life After Care

15. In March 1977 when I was sixteen I was convicted of arson, attempted murder and membership of a prescribed organisation. I was released at the end of 1979. My convictions were quashed in 2009 because I was not allowed to have an appropriate adult with me when I was being questioned.
16. I did not have a real job until 1989. I took part in the Action for Community Employment scheme. Following that scheme I joined Voluntary Service Belfast around 1994. I had to leave that job eventually as the places where I was being sent were too dangerous.
17. I had never had an opportunity to do my GCSE's before so I completed GCSE's in English, Maths and computers in 2011 and 2012.
18. I have never been married but I have a partner who I have been with for thirty years. We have five children and four grandchildren.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed **HIA 222** _____

Dated 04/03/2014.

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Re HIA 222 - **HIA 222**

Response by De La Salle Order

Date:

Br Pius McCarthy, Provincial Secretary, assisted in the preparation of this statement. He died on 27th May 2014 before being able to sign same. Br Francis Manning, Provincial, adopts the contents of this statement on behalf of the De La Salle Order. Certain sections may have been amended, where applicable, to reflect tense in the third person.

I, Br Francis Manning will say as follows;

1. **HIA 222** born **[REDACTED]** was admitted to Rubane House on the 3rd October 1974 and was discharged to care of his parents 12 weeks later on 24th December 1974 – see **Exhibit 1**.
2. In respect of paragraph 3: Br **BR 2** was in charge at the time. Neither HIA 222 nor his Brother were locked in a room. There were no locks on doors except for staff rooms and food cupboards. The boys had to be held in the parlour.

The Ledger Book entry (copy attached as **Exhibit 2**) records;
 3rd Oct 1974 - Admitted from Court - non attendance at school - two very stubborn boys - brought by Stephen O'Brien (going on course) Peggy McCann (New SW) & Mother. Boys said they would refuse to stay - **DL 385** had to be taken away from car forcibly!'

Three days later the Ledger records;
 8th Oct 1974 Put on clothes - mother arrives at 11.00 with Mrs McNamee & Peggy McCann. Wild scene in hall at 12.45. **HIA 222** clung to mother - screamed, kicked and cried - **DL 385** likewise, said they would not stay - had to restrain them until mother left. A few clouts to **DL 385** **HIA 222** settles down - went to school in afternoon.'

Br **BR 2** Diary records:
 9th October 1974 - Mrs **[REDACTED]** arrives with Peggy McCann and Mrs McNamee. Boys would not let their mother go. Clung to her, screamed, cried and abuse her - forced to pull **HIA 222** off her and hold the two of them in the parlour until the car went. **HIA 222** quietens down. **DL 385** very stubborn - took a lot out of me.'

The Social Workers and the boys' mother would have been aware that the boys were being restrained to enable the Social Workers and mother to leave.

3. In respect of paragraph 4: HIA 222's recollection is accurate.
4. In respect of paragraph 5: There was Benediction on Friday evenings. If HIA 222 could name or describe the two Brothers it may be able to comment further.
5. In respect of paragraph 6: Smoking in the bedrooms was forbidden due to the fire risk. It was an offence subject to corporal punishment. The Order notes the reference to the strap. If the strap was used to strike the face that was outside the

regulation. Br **BR 62** was very conscientious and Br **BR 2** would have expected him to report an incident of this sort. Br **BR 2** never heard of Br **BR 62** being aggressive in this way. Br **BR 62** has no recollection of HIA 222. Br **BR 62** has no recollection of a **DL 131**. Br **BR 62** denies striking a boy in the manner described and denies ever having a leather strap in his possession. Br **BR 62** recalls that he had regular meetings with Sr **SR 57** in respect of the boys' behaviour and that in general there was very little corporal punishment as Sr **SR 57**'s motto was 'Correction and Direction by word of mouth'. Br **BR 62** recalls that the boys were generally well behaved and that punishment was usually by deprivation of TV, pocket money or the addition of extra housework. The 1974 Desk Diary records for 13th November 'Sr **SR 57** reports anoraks ripped. Called the boys together – no weekends - rewards blocked.'

6. In respect of paragraph 7: Boys normally put sheets in a basket to be washed by one of the ancillary staff, and not into the bath. Br **BR 62** does not recall this incident and denies striking boys with a strap, because he didn't have a strap.
7. In respect of paragraph 8: Mr **DL 384** was a teacher in the School. He would have been employed by the 'Four and Two' Committee but he would have been paid by the Department of Education. All the teachers had teacher training qualifications.
8. In respect of paragraph 9: There was no [REDACTED] on staff. The headmaster was Br **BR 4**.
9. In respect of paragraph 11: Br **BR 2** finds it hard to believe that Sr **SR 57** would have asked boys to remove underwear and examined them. It is hard to follow the rationale being suggested; the tactic adopted by Sr **SR 57** was not going to identify the culprit.
10. In respect of paragraph 12: The Order notes that HIA 222 does not complain of sexual abuse. He alleges that he was a witness to peer sexual abuse, of a bullying nature. He has not been able to identify the perpetrators. Such abuse was not condoned by the Order and details of attempts made to reduce and mitigate against the risk of such abuse have been explained in other statements provided by the Order.

It is worthy of comment that HIA 222's opinion that he was not sexually abused by staff because his mother was alive is simply not supported by the evidence. That may be a general assumption pertaining among the ex-residents but it is unhelpful and incorrect. For instance, in two examples of abuse accepted by the Order, the **HIA 399, NL 104** and **HIA 36** — mothers were still alive.

11. In respect of paragraph 13: In addition to the initial visits the ledger book records a visit by his mother and welfare on the 30th October 1974, a visit home on 15th November 1974, and his return to Rubane by Jim Donaldson & Terry White of 'Silver Top Community Relations'.
12. In respect of paragraph 14: HIA 222's recollection is correct. He, along with his Brother, refused to return to Rubane and he was sent to St Patrick's Training School. The Order

notes he has no complaint to make about his time in St Pat's though he did continue to abscond.

13. HIA 222's personal file is attached as **Exhibit 3**.
14. The Desk Diary for 1974 also records their admission and the fact that HIA 222 was given £2.00 on 7th October 1974, a simple note recording '£2 – **HIA 222** Birthday' – see **Exhibit 4**.
15. The Order believes that HIA 222 was spoken to by the RUC in 1995 but refused to make a statement.

Signed: *Dr Francis Manning*

Date: *26 June 2014*

HIA REF: [222]

NAME:

HIA 222

Response by HSCB

DATE: [17.10.14]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of the Health and Social Care Board

Marian Hall, Children's Services Project Manager, assisted in the drafting of this statement.

The Health and Social Care Board will say as follows: -

1. **HIA 222**, born [REDACTED], was admitted to Rubane House on 3 October 1974 having previously spent time at St Patrick's Training School. The Applicant was placed in Rubane House following the making of a Fit Person Order and was committed to the care of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board, see exhibit 1 containing the Court Order.
2. The Applicant's family had been known to social services since 1968 due to poor home circumstances, see exhibit 2 containing social work report dated 10 January 1975. The Applicant's school attendance deteriorated and despite attempts by the social worker to get the Applicant to attend the Child Guidance Clinic and to bring the Applicant directly to school, the home situation did not improve and a summons was served. On 9 May 1974, the Applicant was remanded to St Patrick's Training School for three weeks whilst awaiting trial. On 3 October 1974 the Applicant was placed in Rubane House.
3. The Board notes paragraph 2 of the De LaSalle Order's statement, RUB 3299, which describes the Applicant's arrival at Rubane House. The records in the possession of the Board reflect this description, see exhibit 3.

4. The Board notes paragraph 13 of the Applicant's statement where he says he believes he was visited by a social worker twice when in Rubane. He further states that when a social worker visited, he would tell them everything was fine and that the other boys said that if you told the Welfare Authorities they would just tell the Brothers who would then hit the boys. In addition to the first day he was placed in Rubane, the Applicant was visited by his social worker four times over the two month period that he was in the home, see exhibits 4, 5 and 6 containing social work records reflecting same.
5. The Board notes that in paragraph 2 of the Order's statement, RUB 3299, they describe the visit of the 9 October 1974 between the Applicant, his mother and social services. The record of the visit, contained in exhibit 4, notes that the Applicant had to be forcibly restrained to allow his mother and social worker to leave. It further notes that the social worker telephoned Brother **BR 2** later that day who reported that the Applicant had settled within five minutes of their departure.
6. The social work record of the visit of 25 October 1974 details that the Applicant appeared to be settling in and attending school but had difficulty interacting with Sister **SR 57** see exhibit 5. The record details that the social worker had a long talk with the Applicant whilst at Rubane during which the Applicant stated he was growing to like Kircubbin and felt a bit happier there.
7. The social work record of the visit of 1 November 1974 is contained in exhibit 5. The note records that the Applicant seemed okay as the social worker and his mother left and 'grinned and waved' as they drove away.
8. The social work record of the visit of 20 December 1974 is contained in exhibit 6. The note records that the Applicant seemed well settled in Kircubbin.
9. On several visits home, the Applicant refused to return to Rubane House. Page 3 of the social work report contained in exhibit 3 details that the Applicant refused as he felt isolated there and his mother could not visit as often due to the distance. Social work records indicate that on 3 January 1975

the Applicant's mother visited the Welfare Office and requested that the Applicant be removed from her home to St Patrick's Training School in Belfast. A Court Order was granted to remove the Applicant to a place of safety on 6 January 1975, see exhibit 7. The Applicant was then transported to St Patrick's. The Board notes that the Applicant has made no complaints about his time in St Patrick's.

10. On several occasions, the Applicant refused to return to St Patrick's whilst visiting his mother. Records show that the social services attempted to persuade him to return and on two occasions the army returned him. Social Service records in relation to the family continue until 1985 with visits continually taking place over that period. The Welfare Office gave the family advice and assistance with housing, employment and finance issues.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed Diana Hall

Dated 17 October 2014

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HIA 222

- 3/10/74 Admitted. from Court - Non attendance at school
Two very stubborn boys - Brought by Stephen O'Brien (going
on course), Peggy McCann (New S.W.) + mother.
Boys said they would refuse to stay - **DL 385** had to
be taken ^{away} from the car forcibly.
- 4/10/74 - Not in until 10 P.M. - Had informed the Q.U.S.
- 5/10/74 Did not go to films - abortive attempts to go down
to catch the bus
- 6/10/74 Basil Glas ^(Bill Glas) phoned up - to find out why the boys are here
+ not in St. Pats.
Mother comes down - **BR 4** drives her to [redacted]
- 7/10/74 Boys refuse to put on school clothes - a little more settled
- 8/10/74 Put on clothes - Mother arrives at 11.00. with Mrs M. Wynn
Peggy McCann. Wild scene in hall at 12.45 - **HIA 222**
Clung to mother - screamed, kicked & cried - **DL 385**
likewise. Said they would not stay - Had to restrain
them until mother left. A few clouts to **HIA 222, DL 385**
settles down. - Went to school in the afternoon.
- 16/10/74 More settled - Wanting to see Dr. McAdams - Played draughts.
Mother phoned almost every other day - requested her not
to come down.
- 27/10/74 Involved in stealing diesel oil
- 30/10/74 Mother down with Welfare - o.k.
- 18/11/74 Out for first week end - failed to come back at
appointed time.
- 27/11/74 **HIA 222** brought back by Jim Donaldson + Terry White
^{sons} Top Community Relations - Couldn't get Patrick.
DL 385 Back
- 28/11/74 **DL 385** Back
- 4/12/74 Sr. **SR 57** reports insolence from **HIA 222**
- 24/12/74 Home for holiday - Refused to come back.
Discharged -
St. Pats

HIA REF: | _____ |
 NAME: | BR 62 |
 DATE: _____

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness statement of BR 62

I, Brother **BR 62** will say as follows:-

1. I was born on _____ at _____ My Christian name is **BR 62** and I became a novitiate in the De La Salle Order in 1951. I was given the name Br. **BR 62** I received my Perpetual Vows in 1959. I was known by the name Br. **BR 62** during the period of time I was at Rubane. I later reverted to the name Br. **BR 62** and have been known by this name ever since.
2. The Order asked me to go to East London, South Africa to teach and I was therefore for 14 years until I returned to Ireland in 1974. That year the Provincial, Br. **BP 4** asked me to go to Kircubbin as an assistant House Parent. I arrived there in the first week of September 1974. I was the assistant to Sr. **SR 57** the House Parent, in Chalet 1.
3. I remained in Rubane as an assistant House Parent in chalet 1 from September 1974 to June 1975. I did not teach in the school. I supervised the boys and got them ready for school in the morning. I would also take them for activities after school, which included organising football matches. These took place in the playing fields or in the hall. After supper at 6pm, I supervised TV and table games. During Sr. **SR 57**'s days off, I would have got the boys up in the morning, prepared the morning and evening meals and supervised bed time. At night time I was on call to respond to any incident that might occur. Br. **BR 72** who was an assistant House Parent in chalet 2 rotated with me every month on call.
4. As far as I remember, there were 14 boys in chalet 1 when I was there. I can only remember the names of a few of the boys in Rubane at that time and I am not sure whether they were in chalet 1 or chalet 2. They include **HIA 18, HIA 25, HIA 31**. I also remember a boy named **DL 323**. I do not remember HIA witness 222 who has made the allegation against me. Nor do I remember a boy called **DL 131**.
5. I did not use corporal punishment at any time. I remember both Sr. **SR 57** and I agreed that corporal punishment was not appropriate. Her motto was "correction and direction by word of mouth." I did not have a leather strap and I never used one. My recollection is that when boys misbehaved they were deprived of TV, pocket money or sometimes given a little extra housework; for instance first thing in the morning the boys would generally tidy up before they went to school and this is the type of housework I am referring to. Boys aged 14 and over were permitted to smoke but only in certain areas such as the table tennis room. Smoking was forbidden in the main chalet and in particular the dormitories. However if any boys were caught smoking I still would not have used any corporal punishment on them.
6. I deny the allegations made against me by Witness HIA 222. I never struck him or any boy as he described. I never trailed any boy out of bed or asked him to drop his pyjama bottoms. I would have gone into the dormitories to wake up the boys in the morning and would have clapped my hands when doing so. However I have no recollection of having to deal with boys who had wet their beds. If they did, it was not brought to my attention. It is possible Sr. **SR 57** would have had to deal with this.

7. I also refute the allegation made against me that I was present when Sr. **SR 57** lined up the boys in the chalet and ordered them to take their underwear off so it could be inspected. It is alleged I trailed one boy off to the bathroom by his arm to clean his underwear. This did not happen and I do not believe Sr. **SR 57** would have engaged in this type of behaviour either.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed: _____

BR 62

Dated: 23rd Sept. 2014.