

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 149

Witness Name: [REDACTED]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED]

I, [REDACTED] will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] I have [REDACTED] DL 110 [REDACTED] DL 103 and [REDACTED] NL 76, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] DL 56 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] DL 41
2. I have been told that my sister [REDACTED] died in an accident at home while she was still a baby. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
3. I come from a [REDACTED] At the time of my birth my family were living on [REDACTED] near [REDACTED] My father was a chronic alcoholic who abused my Mother. I believe at some point my family were placed in a council house in [REDACTED] I was a premature baby and at the time of being placed in care I was malnourished. A decision was made by way of a Court Order to place myself, [REDACTED] DL 110 [REDACTED] DL 103, [REDACTED] NL 76 and [REDACTED] DL 56 into care.

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Nazareth Lodge, Belfast [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED]

7. [REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

10. [REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED]

Rubane House, Kircubbin [REDACTED]

12. I was moved to Rubane House in [REDACTED] when I was about [REDACTED]. I remember being taken there in a van. I was scared when I was driving there as it looked like a spooky place. I was there for [REDACTED] years until [REDACTED].

13. The place was split into Chalets and I was put into Chalet [REDACTED]. Brother **BR 23** was in charge of my Chalet. The Chalets were split into four rooms and there were also single dormitories. I slept in a room with four beds. One of the Chalets was run by an [REDACTED] family. The Father was called **DL 11** he was a nice man who didn't do anything to me. He wasn't ever in his Chalet.

14. **BR 23** worked [REDACTED]. He was a [REDACTED] man and he used to wear [REDACTED] all the time. One night I was lying in my bed in the dormitory at about half seven. There was no-one else there and he asked me to come to his room in the Chalet. His room was the last one down the corridor and there was a little door separating the dormitories from his room. My first reaction was to ask myself if I had done something wrong. Brother **BR 23** brought me into his room and told me to take down my trousers. He

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sexually abused me in a violent way and every time I tried to roar out for help he would hold the back of my head down on the bed. This happened a number of times. He would fondle me and rub his penis against me. He beat me with a '50p strap' across the buttocks. I was too scared to say anything. I was afraid for my life.

15. BR 1 was [REDACTED] when I was there. He had a little office in the old building with a marble floor. He used to bring me in there and sexually abuse me and beat me. He would make me hold his penis. I told him no and he told me that I would never tell the police on him or run away again.

16. BR 18 used to work [REDACTED]. He used to be a [REDACTED] and he was fond of punching. He had a [REDACTED] a boxer's puffed out face and he was very angry and grumpy. I was afraid of him because he was big. BR 18 used to hit us digs in the head. For instance, all the boys would be sitting at the tables to eat our lunch and BR 18 would walk behind us and give me a severe, violent punch in the eardrum. He would call me things like [REDACTED] and say 'you will learn your lesson'. He would poke me from behind with his finger so my head pushed forward, it was a form of torture. BR 18 never sexually abused me.

17. BR 3 was [REDACTED] at Rubane. He had a [REDACTED] and wore [REDACTED]. He was fond of using the cane on me and he was also fond of touching me down below when no-one else was around. I remember on one occasion I was in woodwork class and I was called to the office with another boy. I didn't know what I was being called for. When I went up to the office BR 3 said 'Oh. I hear you've been a naughty boy.' I denied any wrongdoing. He grabbed me by the ear, pulled me in and slammed the door shut behind him. He told me to bend over the table and he took down my trousers. His exact words were 'I'll have some fun with this.'. He was standing behind me with a cane and it had red sellotape on the top of it. He showed it to me and said 'see this red tip? You are getting ten whacks of it.' BR 3 was fondling me. He

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put his hands down behind me and I asked him to stop. He said 'Son, you do what you are told.' He grabbed the back of my neck and I couldn't do anything because I was small and he pushed me down on the table and he violated me. He did not rape me on that occasion; he fondled my genitals. I tried to get away and I started crying. It wasn't the cane that was hurting me; it was the dirty things he was doing to me. Then he said go back to your classroom, but I walked straight out of the school and went back to the chalet.

18. **BR 6** was the teacher. He was a [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] hair and he loved Gaelic football. On one occasion he told me to wait behind in class, he wanted to see me because I didn't do my work properly. He pulled me by the ear and hit me a slap on the back of the head. He then sexually abused me by fondling my genitals. The door of the classroom was locked and all the other pupils were gone. I was totally dumbfounded and my whole world had shattered. I had never felt so dirty in my life. My doctor told me I would have that evil feeling of dirtiness for the rest of my life because of what those people did to me.

19. The worst beast was **DL 509** who was a member of civilian staff and worked with **BR 40** in Chalet [REDACTED]. He lived with his mother in [REDACTED] and he had [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. He was the one who violated me in awful ways. My little brother **DL 56** and I were told that this guy **DL 509** was taking us every Friday or Saturday for weekends and holidays to places we had never been before in our lives. He had [REDACTED] and I remember one instance on a Friday of Saturday it was parked outside on the main road and **DL 509** told me to get in [REDACTED].

20. **DL 509** drove us to Portrush. I remember the North West 200 was on then and [REDACTED]. He raped me in the back of the van after he sent **DL 56** to get a drum of water for us to cook with. He grabbed me and pulled me into the [REDACTED] and shut the door. He

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pulled down my trousers, I was kicking and asking him to stop but no-one could hear me. I said 'get off me, [REDACTED]'. He anally raped me and I started bleeding. I felt ugly and I felt like I didn't want to live anymore. The only reason I was living was for the safety of my little brother, I wanted him to be alright. I was only a young boy at the time and I felt so violated and mutilated and dirty. After that, [REDACTED] DL 56 noticed I was very quiet. I just sat with my head down [REDACTED]. I was so afraid of that man putting his hands on me again I was going to try and jump from [REDACTED] at the first opportunity I got but he leaned over me and made sure the door was locked.

21. After the North West 200 [REDACTED] DL 509 drove us to Carrick-a-rede rope bridge and he made [REDACTED] DL 56 and I walk across it. I said I didn't want to walk on it but he said we had to take photographs. When we were right in the middle of the bridge, he grabbed me by the back of the neck and said 'see over there, I will throw you and your brother over there if you ever mention anything that happened'. I was only [REDACTED] years of age. I was in fear for my life. I couldn't swim and he knew I couldn't swim. I was only thinking of the safety of my brother so I swore not to tell anyone and he let me go. When he closed the door of [REDACTED] he said 'now, aren't we all happy'.

22. When I got back to Rubane, my three sisters came down from Nazareth Lodge to visit. When I saw them, I ran to them, put my arms around them and started crying. I told them what happened and my eldest sister [REDACTED] DL 110 was so angry. After Portrush, I used to just walk around Rubane, I couldn't talk. I was just like a zombie. I couldn't take it anymore so a boy from [REDACTED] called [REDACTED] DL 67 and I decided to run away. They used to find us wandering the streets in Belfast and the Brothers used to pick us up in a van before the police did. When they brought us back to Rubane [REDACTED] BR 1 used to take me in and bend me over a long wooden table and cane me whilst every so often feeling my bottom and fondling my genitals.

23. My Housemother was a woman called [REDACTED] DL 240. She was in charge of my chalet along with [REDACTED] BR 23. She was very nice. We used to feel safe around her and she used to bake all the time. He knew that boys were being

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violated. She used to call me into the kitchen and say that at some stage people would be caught for what they ad done and she told me not to worry about it. She used to say 'We'll get these 'B's', we will get them, Son. God is powerful.' She was an elderly lady and she was afraid to lose her job so she couldn't say too much. Any time I was abused I used to run to her and she comforted me as if I was her own child.

Life after care

24. As a result of all these evil things that were done to me, I am now on medication for nightmares and to stop me getting angry. I have tried to take my own life a number of times. I will be left with these scars for the rest of my life. The child inside me is crying out for answers and closure once and for all because it is driving me mad. My family are very annoyed and know there is something wrong with me but it is only now coming to light. I can't look forward until I get closure and these people are caught for what they did to me as a child. I don't think I will ever forgive those people but I am trying. I have done an eight week course on healing. The medication and the course are helpful but it is going to take time and it is not going to happen overnight.

25. I have previously reported the abuse I have suffered to the police.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

HIA 149

Dated

6/5/2014

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: **HIA 149**

AGE OF WITNESS [if over 21 enter "over 21"] _____

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS: _____

ADDRESS: ST PATRICK'S TRAINING SCHOOL (NO HOME)

TO BE COMPLETED
WHEN THE
STATEMENT HAS
BEEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of _____ pages, 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.

Dated this _____

(Sgd) D/Constable Cyril Law
*SIGNATURE of MEMBER by whom
statement was recorded or received.*

HIA 149 (Sgd)
SIGNATURE of WITNESS

I was a pupil at De La Salle Boys' Home in Kircubbin from _____
I can remember that in _____ I, along with _____ **DL 56**, my brother **DL 41** and **DL 101** went to Portrush in a caravan. We were taken by **DL 509** who was a member of staff. We went to Portrush on the Friday before the North West Race on the Saturday. **DL 509** had bought drink on the way there and during the Friday night he gave us some of it. It was tins of Harp and McEwans lager. About twelve o'clock that Friday night **DL 509** came up to me and tried to touch my private parts. I told him to clear off. He then went over to _____ **DL 56** and lay on top of him on the bed. I thought they were just messing about wrestling. I asked **DL 509** what he was doing and he said he was messing about. When **DL 509** was asleep **DL 56** came over to me and he was crying. He told me that **DL 509** had been fiddling about with his privates. I then let **DL 56** in beside me and we went to sleep. When I was in the home I heard that **BR 1** was doing the same to other boys - **DL 39** and **DL 36**. I never saw them at it.

SIGNATURE of WITNESS (Sgd) **HIA 149**
DL 519

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: DL 519AGE OF WITNESS [if over 21 enter "over 21"] "OVER 21"OCCUPATION OF WITNESS: [REDACTED]ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

TO BE COMPLETED
WHEN THE
STATEMENT HAS
BEEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of 1 page, 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

Dated this [REDACTED]

(Sgd.) G A Wilson
*SIGNATURE of MEMBER by whom
statement was recorded or received.*

(Sgd.) DL 519
SIGNATURE of WITNESS

I am a [REDACTED] employed by Eastern Health and Social Services Board. I am currently based at [REDACTED] office. On [REDACTED] I was on a routine visit to St Patrick's Training School, Belfast to see HIA 149 DOB [REDACTED]. While speaking to HIA 149 he heard a news broadcast about allegations of misconduct at De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin. HIA 149 then made allegations that DL 509 a housefather had touched a number of boys on the privates. I reported these facts to [REDACTED] and was present on [REDACTED] when HIA 149 was interviewed by the police. On [REDACTED] I saw DL 56 DOB [REDACTED] at Nazareth Lodge Childrens' Home, Ravenhill Road, Belfast. I had a conversation with DL 56 about the allegations regarding DL 509. DL 56 informed me that he had been indecently assaulted by DL 509. I reported the facts of his complaint to [REDACTED] I was present on [REDACTED] when DL 56 was interviewed by police.

SIGNATURE of WITNESS: (Sgd.) Dorothy Ita Gallagher