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HIA REF: 56

Witness Name: HIA 56

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 56

I, HIA 56 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in Belfast. I was placed in St Joseph's Baby Home on [REDACTED]. I think a priest in my mother's parish, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] arranged for me to be placed in care. He thought it would be in mine and my mother's best interests.

Nazareth Lodge [REDACTED]

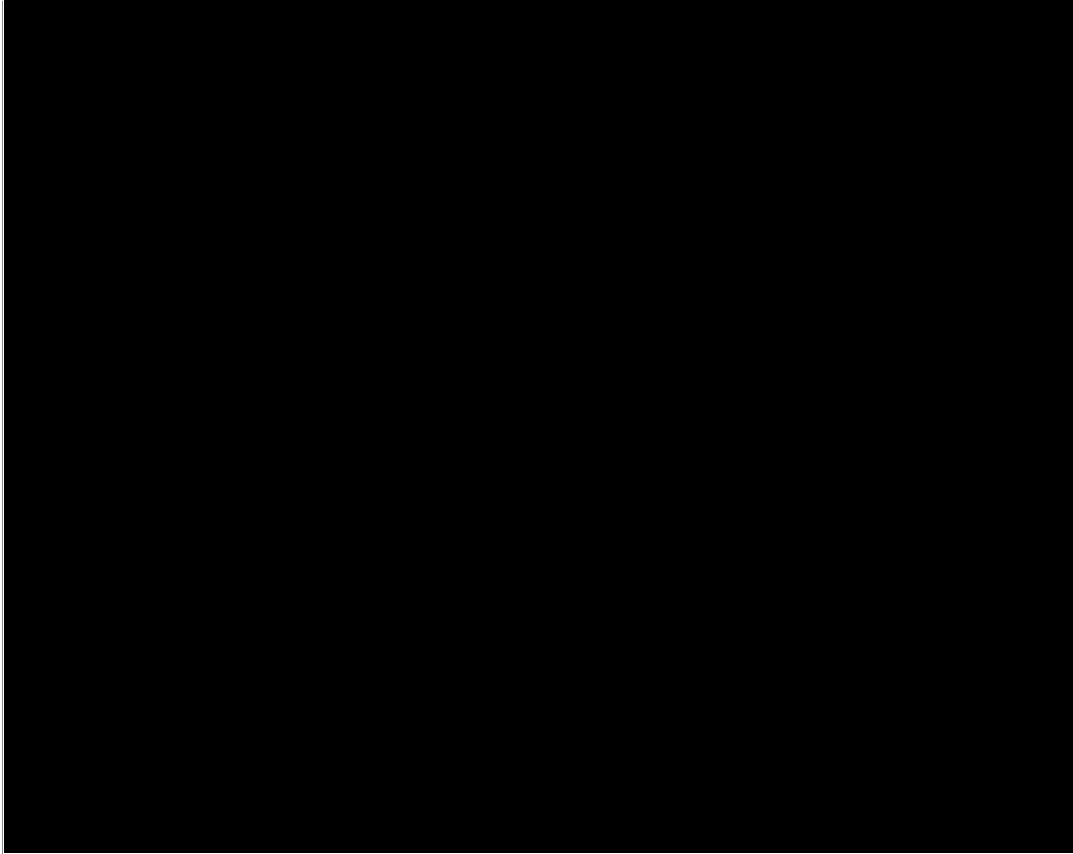
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3. [REDACTED]

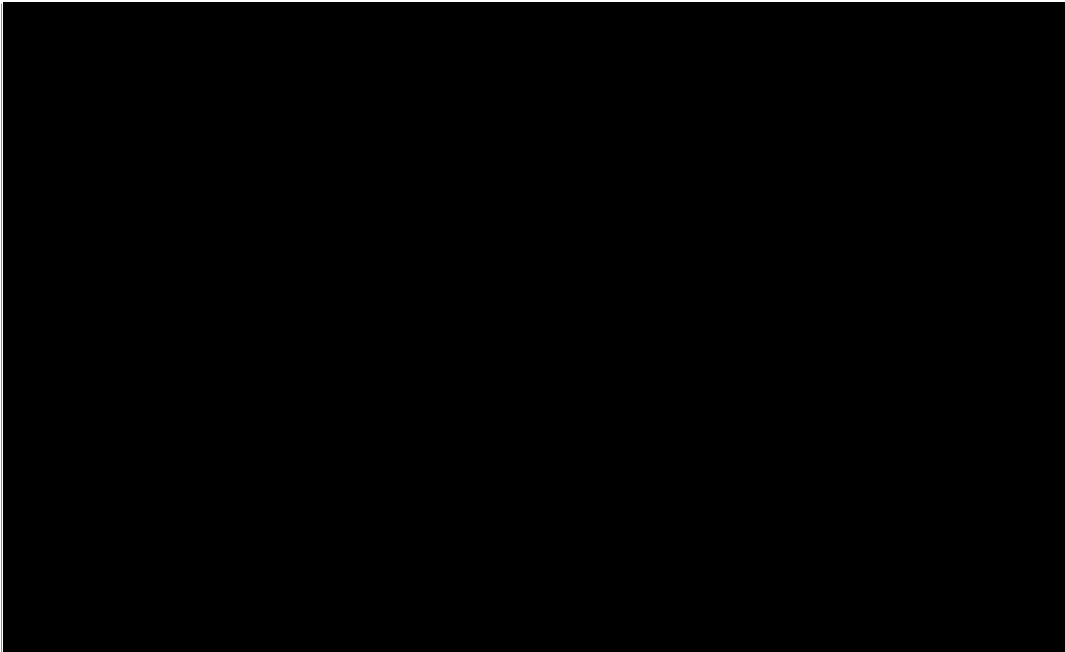
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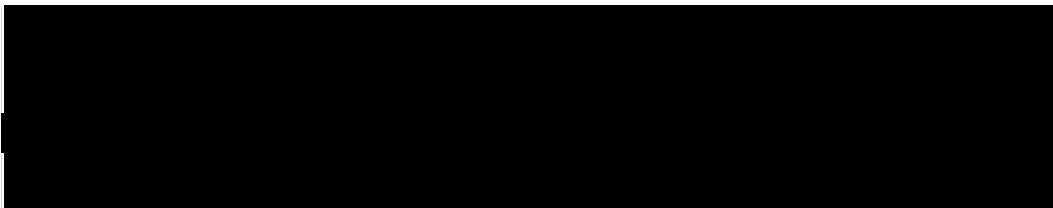


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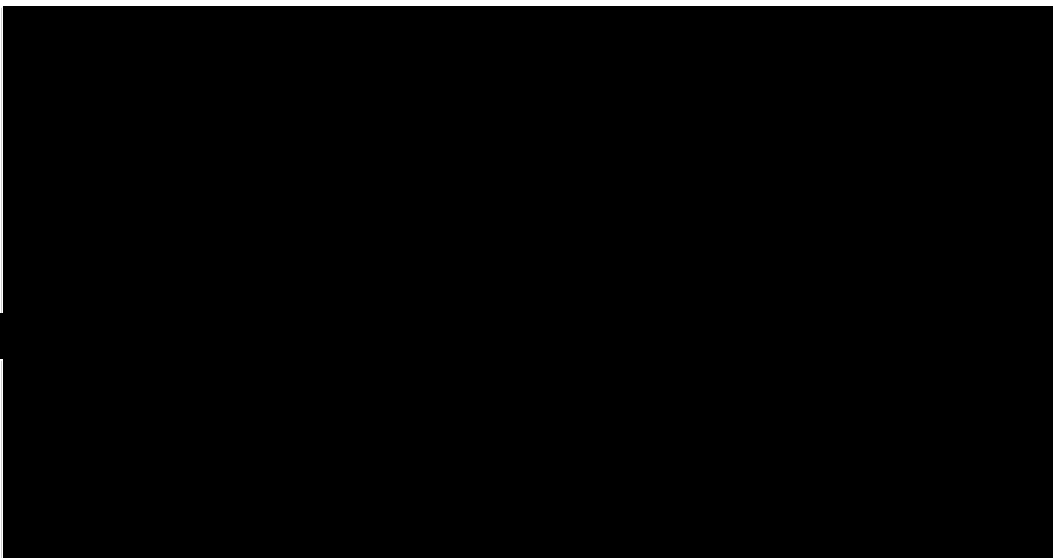


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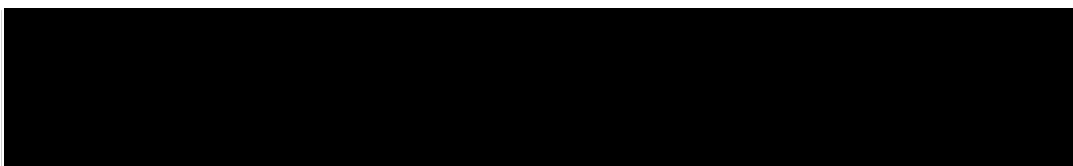
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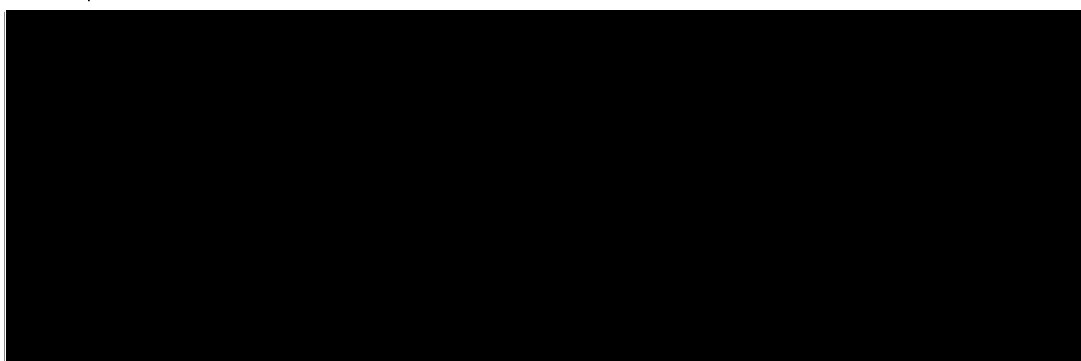
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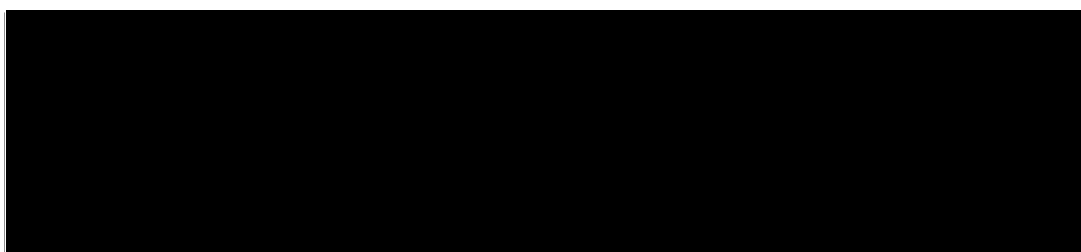
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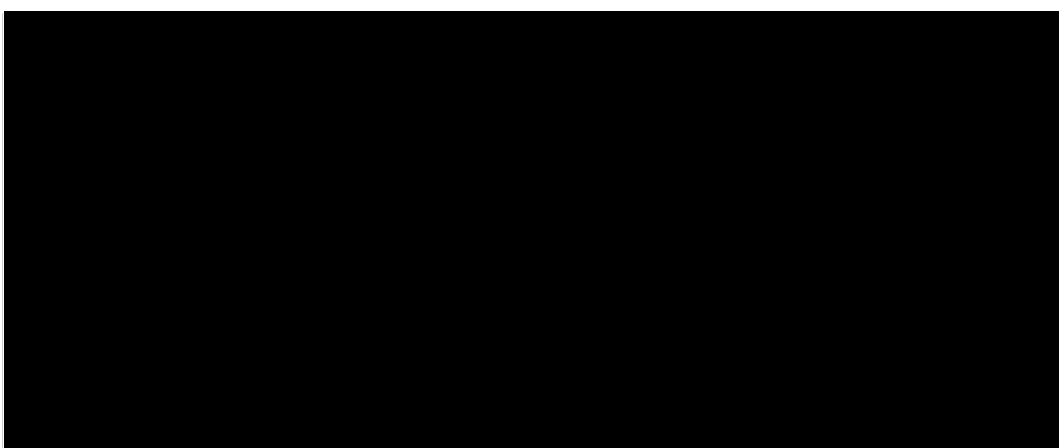
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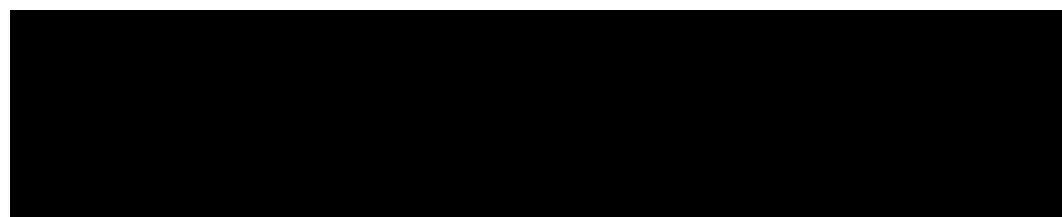
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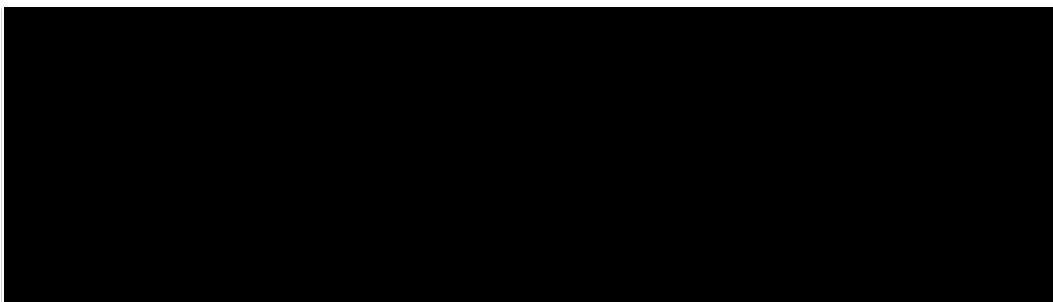


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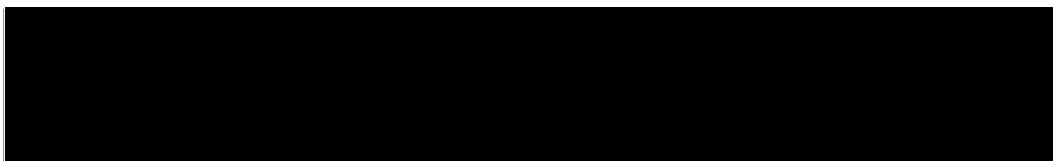


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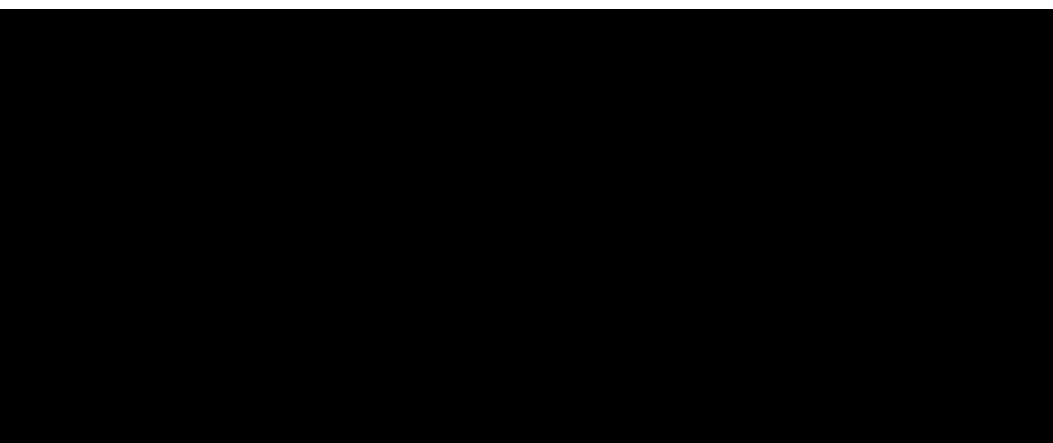
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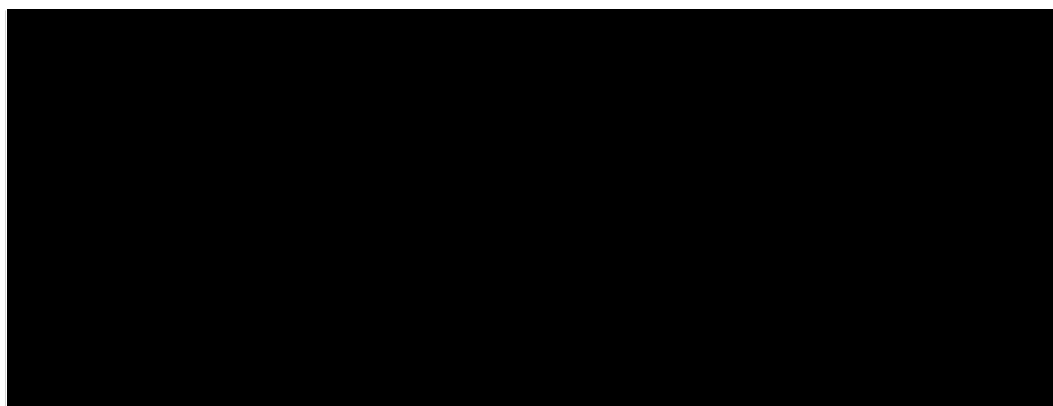
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19.

[REDACTED]

20.

[REDACTED]

Rubane House, Kircubbin [REDACTED]

21. Once we turned [REDACTED] we were taken in groups of about ten or twelve boys in a minibus to Rubane. I was taken on [REDACTED] It happened very quickly and there was no preparation.

22. I recall on my arrival I was made to take a shower with the other new arrivals and it was **BR 15** who supervised us. He gave us all a pep talk and we were warned we better toe the line or else.

23. We were put in dormitories in the main house when we arrived. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] When the chalets opened there were fourteen boys allocated to each chalet along with a house mother and house father. There were three bedrooms with three or four boys in each bedroom and then there was a bedroom for the oldest boy and the parent's quarters was through another door. It was good to get into somewhere which was nice and new.

24. I was in Chalet [REDACTED] and my houseparents were **DL 134** and **DL 135** It was good at the beginning. Then **DL 134** turned out to be abusive. I don't think **DL 135** knew much about it at the time but she was quite strict and bullied you. We were actually terrified of them. She was like a prison guard as she was strict. I wanted to keep on the right side of her otherwise she would have slapped me. There was no family atmosphere in our chalet.

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25. On one occasion I was abused in the shower. Chalet [REDACTED] had a private shower room. In the shower there was a glass panel door. DL 134 brought me into the shower with an older boy called DL 136. I think [REDACTED] was about fourteen. Then DL 134 watched us showering by looking through the glass as he masturbated. He created the scene so he could get pleasure. He locked the door from the inside. DL 136 masturbated himself and then both he and Mr DL 134 groped me around the penis and bum. I was told by DL 134 not to tell anyone and I didn't because I was afraid. I think DL 134 forced [REDACTED] to do it because I can remember his face, he was sort of half crying. There were rumours around at the time that DL 134 was bugging a boy called DL 124. DL 124 later went to [REDACTED]. One night I needed a drink of water and I opened the sitting room door and saw DL 134 on the sofa with a boy called [REDACTED]. DL 134 shouted at me 'get the f*ck out'. I think DL 134 also abused other boys in Rubane called DL 94 and [REDACTED].
26. I remember one time the DL 134 forced all fourteen boys from my chalet into Mr DL 134 car. It was a Hillman Imp which was a small car. He drove us to visit DL 135's mother in [REDACTED]. We didn't want to go but we were made to go. I think this was around [REDACTED].
27. I was in Rubane about two months when I was abused by an older boy called DL 104. He made me masturbate him and he masturbated me. Another boy called DL 95 tried to feel me up in the grass outside but he didn't get his way.
28. Strangers that lived in the local area were abusing boys in the home. One of them was known as [REDACTED]. His real name is DL 230. He lived down the road from Rubane and always went round [REDACTED]. On one occasion HIA 511 made me go with him to a derelict farmhouse. HIA 511 Cawley was the go between for [REDACTED] and the home and [REDACTED] got HIA 511 to bring new boys up to him. The farmhouse was outside the gates of De La Salle, across the road and a few fields away. When I got to this old farmhouse HIA 511 took me upstairs to the attic and DL 230 was there with his

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██████████ I was terrified. **DL 230** made me lie down on straw and take down my trousers and he felt all over my penis. He knew I was afraid. He gave me three shillings and a cigarette and then I went back to the home. I think he may also have been abusing **HIA 511** **DL 230** only abused me once. After this incident **HIA 511** tried to sexually abuse me in the oil tank house but I stood my ground and he did not succeed. I think **HIA 511** ██████████
██████████

29. For a while we weren't allowed to associate with other chalets. We were isolated from them by the **DL 134/135** **SR 57** and ██████████ who were ██████████ nuns had a chalet next door to us ██████████ They were teachers and they were good. I believe the **DL 134/135** ██████████ from Rubane.

30. There was a secondary school on site but we never learned anything. The nuns did take an interest in teaching us. They taught ██████████ The Brothers were not good teachers. I don't think they had any interest or else they didn't think it was worthwhile to teach us and they just went through the motions. I couldn't even tell the time at ██████████ years of age. There was no real effort from the Brothers in relation to education and that was a serious failing.

31. I was later moved to ██████████ I was about ██████████ years old. This was unusual because we normally slept in dorms. I was sexually abused twice by **BR 15** in his room. On both occasions **BR 15** simulated sex with me by putting his penis between my legs and moving up and down. Afterwards he gave me a packet of Embassy cigarettes.

32. One day **BR 15** promised me cigarettes so I went to his room in the main house and opened the door. He was standing up and a boy called **DL 271** **DL 271** who came from ██████████ was lying on **BR 15**'s bed. Both had their trousers down and it appeared as if they were having sex. **BR 15** shouted at me to get out and threw a packet of cigarettes at me. I didn't tell anyone about this because I was afraid of being beaten by **BR 15**

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because he was very vicious. Everyone was terrified of him. He never hit me but he shouted and I saw him hit others by punching and kicking them.

33. I was abused by **BR 30**. He was an [REDACTED] and he died [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] He got me in a lock with his hands and he did it a couple of times.

34. I was involved in communal masturbation with boys of all ages in Rubane. I didn't know any better. I thought it was a normal thing to do. It seemed that everyone was doing it and it became a regular thing. It happened all over the premises from the farm, in the fields, the woods and the dormitories. It was mutually acceptable behaviour and went on throughout my time in Rubane.

35. Two boys called **DL 301** and **DL 229** were both sent to Rubane from [REDACTED]. **DL 301** was very sexually active and engaged in mutual sexual relations with other boys.

36. In Rubane there was a shop where we could spend our pocket money which we received from the Brothers every Sunday. We got twenty or twenty five pence a week for pocket money. The shop sold cigarettes and the Brothers sold them to us. All my money was spent on cigarettes. I would then sell the cigarettes to the other boys for five pence each. There was even a designated smoking area which was the cinema room in one of the outbuildings on the farm. You weren't allowed to smoke in the house, chalet's or school. Everyone smoked. The Brother's were selling cigarettes to children and that's why most of us smoke today. It wasn't right.

37. **BR 3** was the only Brother that ever gave me a bad beating. There was a boy called **DL 315** who had just turned thirteen. He was sent under a court order to Rubane. He asked me where he could go to smoke and I said he could go to the toilets upstairs. I showed him where to go and we were both in a cubicle smoking when the toilet door was kicked in by **BR 3**. Brother **BR 3** grabbed me by the hair and said 'he's only in the place and you're at him'. I asked him what he was talking about and he grabbed me by the hair and

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brought me into his room and gave me the worst beating I ever had in Rubane. He punched and kicked me and he left me lying on the floor in a heap of blood and he walked away. My face was bleeding. It shocked me. I remember crawling into the dormitory and lying down. The pain was unbelievable. I didn't receive any medical treatment. I was terrified of **BR 3** from then on. I think I was about **██████████** at the time.

38. There was a young Brother called **BR 29** in Rubane when I was there. I think he was in training. I saw **BR 6** give **BR 29** a fist full of cash one day and he then left Rubane House and the De La Salle Order. Some of the other residents and I always suspected he was being abused by Brother **BR 15**.

39. I didn't see a social worker when I was in Rubane. I don't think anyone had a social worker assigned to them.

40. Brother **BR 2** was **██████████** of Rubane. I liked him. I felt I could talk to him. However on one occasion he got me out of bed and he brought me into his room. He stared at me for ages and he made small talk. I guessed that his intentions were sexual. However nothing happened and I left and went back to my bed. I think he realised what he was doing.

41. When we reached **██████████** we had to leave Rubane. We were told that we were leaving in the afternoon. We were given two sets of clothes and taken to Belfast. They put us on the **██████████** and we didn't even know what Protestants were. They should have prepared us for going out into the world. We were put into the middle of a war and we didn't even know what was going on. **BR 2** was driving up **██████████** and it scared the hell out of me. All I could see was soldiers. I was terrified. Me and another boy called **██████████** were dropped off at a lodging house owned by a **DL 283**. **██████████** has since passed away. It was a three bedroom house and there was about twenty four lodgers in it. I think **BR 2** found it difficult to leave us there. He stayed for ages and he gave us two pounds each. You could see in his face he didn't really want to do it but there was nothing he could do. There were bunk beds

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everywhere. I ended up in the attic where there were two double beds. I had to share with a man named [REDACTED]. The first night he was pulling all over me. I was in a state of trauma and I let him do it. I was numb. I proceeded to run away to get back to Kircubbin and on the way to the York street train station I got attacked. They found my rosary beads in my pocket and called me a 'fenian b*stard'. [REDACTED]

42. I started working as a [REDACTED] but I didn't stay long and I was out of work for a while. A priest, [REDACTED] DL 298 got work for the boys from Rubane. [REDACTED] DL 298 [REDACTED] If there wasn't any work you had to line up on the [REDACTED] and they would give you your rent money with a pound to spend every Saturday morning. I was [REDACTED] at the time.

Life after care

43. [REDACTED]

44. When I left Rubane I didn't see my mother until [REDACTED] when she was dying. She was [REDACTED] when she died. I wish I told her about my time in care but she was cold and I couldn't talk to her. After my mother died I found out that my father was called [REDACTED] I don't know anything else about him.

45. I am currently unemployed and my goal is to find a job. I have retained my faith. I like Our Lady better than Jesus. It's hard not to keep a bit of it after all those years.

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46. As a result of the abuse I attended counselling at the [REDACTED] in 1997. I have also received counselling on the [REDACTED] which was organised by the [REDACTED]. The counselling was paid for by the De La Salle Order. I had to walk from my house [REDACTED] to the counselling so [REDACTED] **BR 2** bought me a bike to get there. I attended every two weeks for a year and a half but I didn't find counselling helpful. [REDACTED] **BR 2** is now retired in [REDACTED].

47. [REDACTED]

48. [REDACTED]

49. [REDACTED]

50. I have now managed somehow to reach the age of [REDACTED] years old, perhaps partly due to the retention of my Catholic faith and the slight glimmer of hope I struggle to keep a hold of in the hope that things might get better. I can honestly say that

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its not all doom and gloom. I have educated myself to a reasonable level with particular interests in [REDACTED] I enjoy classical and Irish music as well as Irish art. I am very keen on furniture restoration and love gardening. I remain healthy, fit and active and humour plays an important part in my life.

51. I am prepared to whole heartedly throw every effort into changing my present circumstances and make a positive step forward because I want to prove that I am not totally useless. The best I can realistically aim for is to try at least to find worth and value and meaning in life and perhaps even happiness.
52. I have been fortunate enough to have recently started on a 'condition management programme' suggested by the Health and Social Trust' and through the efforts of my occupational therapist, [REDACTED] I am already feeling the benefits. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. She is very good and understands me perfectly. I feel quite content and comfortable in their presence and wish to continue with the programme.
53. I am painfully aware that none of us have experienced the supposed joy and innocence of childhood. I am aware that most of us live alone and have done so for a long time, depending on benefits. This is not right. We deserve better. I have had enough of dwelling deeply on my past. I want someone to look me directly in the face and say 'sorry'. I need that.
54. I made a statement to the police on 22nd February 1995. The police came back to me around 1998 and told me they couldn't take the case any further as there was no physical evidence. I was annoyed at this decision. I am the evidence as are other boys in my position. I had a solicitor at the time on [REDACTED]
55. I gave an interview to [REDACTED] which was published in the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. It caused a lot of problems for me and I got abused because of it. My name was changed but everybody knew it was me and it made life even more difficult for me.

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56. On 29th May 2012 I made a further statement to the police in Strandtown clarifying some points I made in my earlier statement in 1995. I gave my statement to Constable Singleton [REDACTED]

Statement of Truth

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

Signed [REDACTED]

Dated 17. FEB 14.

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HIA REF: HIA 56

Witness Name: **HIA 56**

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

ADDENDUM TO WITNESS STATEMENT OF **HIA 56**

I, **HIA 56** will say as follows:-

1. This is an addendum to my witness statement dated 17th February 2014.
2. In paragraph 33 of my witness statement I refer to abuse by Brother **BR 30**. He was [REDACTED] and he died [REDACTED]. Brother **BR 30** was a [REDACTED] and he would grab me in an uncomfortable embrace and press my face tightly against his chest. He would stand facing me as he did this. He would get me in a lock with his hands, touch me on my bottom and he would grope me tightly with both hands. This happened a couple of times. He did not take it any further but it made me feel extremely uncomfortable.
3. Father **DL 140** was the [REDACTED]. He lived on site [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] It had been used as accommodation for dormitories at one stage. I do not recall the exact date but I do recall Father **DL 140** calling groups of residents to his home for a chat. He mentioned sexual activity in the home and stated that if the Brothers were interfering with any of the boys we should report it to him. He also told us to report peer sexual abuse amongst the boys to him. Father **DL 140** [REDACTED].

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed **HIA 56**

Dated 16 - Oct 2014.

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Statement of Witness

Statement of: HIA 56

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 56 Date: 5 October 2013 Service/Staff # if police/staff

Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)

Signature of Member: Robert Dickson 20692 Date: 5 October 2013 by whom statement was recorded or received Service/Staff # if police/staff

I was a resident in Nazareth Lodge Children's Home on the Ravenhill Road, Belfast for and after that in De La Salle Children's Home in Kircubbin. Over this time I knew HIA 16. He was also a resident in the homes. I am than HIA 16 and he would have been of me. I am providing this account to police having been asked if I remembered an incident at De La Salle when HIA 16 got drunk. My memory of an incident is as follows. All of the senior Brothers BR 2 and all the rest were away for the afternoon and two of the Brothers were left in charge. Brother and BR 29 looked after the children. The house parents would have also been there. A group of the boys got into the cellar which was located in the basement of the old house. Alcohol was stored there for the Brothers personal uses, the group of boys including HIA 16 gained access to the cellar and helped themselves. They were dotted all over the place drinking outdoors around the farm or in the woods. I saw HIA 16 going round the house being pursued by Brother BR 29. HIA 16 ran into his own chalet and shortly after appeared at the window screaming abuse and obscenities. I thought he was going to jump. Brother BR 29 was in a difficult position. HIA 16 had to be restrained. I did not see HIA 16 being restrained. My memory was this happened in the home. HIA 16 was in my opinion that HIA 16 was a danger to himself and the

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Signature of witness: HIA 56 Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: HIA 56

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other boys, staff at that time and had to be restrained. I seen no assault on HIA 56 and do not recall how it ended or seeing HIA 16 with injuries after this incident. HIA 56

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Signature of witness:	HIA 56
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	