

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 436

Witness Name: HIA 436

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

## WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 436

I, HIA 436 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] My name was HIA 436 however I have since changed my name to HIA 436
2. I lived in [REDACTED] with my mother and father and siblings. I was one of [REDACTED] children, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
3. We lived in [REDACTED] a very Republican area, but my father was never involved in any of that business. My father was [REDACTED] and my mother was drinking a lot. I remember on the day we were taken away, a car turned up outside the house. A Social Worker named [REDACTED] was in the car, along with a woman with long black hair. I had been out with my friend [REDACTED] who lived next door. We arrived home to see the car outside our house, and my mum was screaming and pulling at the lady. [REDACTED] of the kids, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were put in the car and they were all crying. Once I saw the car I legged it. Over the next few days Social Services looked for the rest of us, and gathered us up. I had spent a

PRIVATE

few days hiding in the loft in [REDACTED] house. They didn't get [REDACTED] for months because she had been staying with my cousins. I was five at the time.

4. [REDACTED] was the Social Worker from [REDACTED] It was the Western Trust that was responsible for our care. I have been told that he retired recently. [REDACTED] was an absolute gentleman. I would like to think that he will be in shock when he hears about what was going on.

Termonbacca [REDACTED]

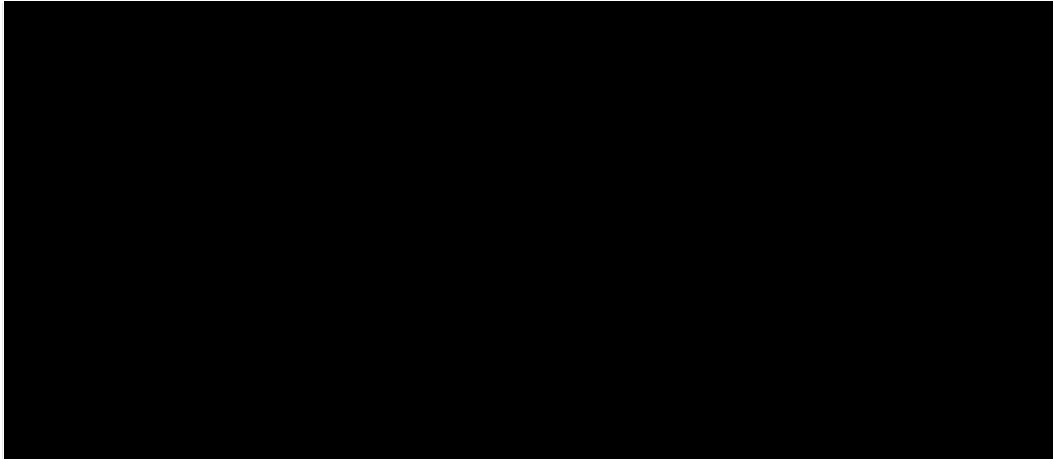
5. [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED]

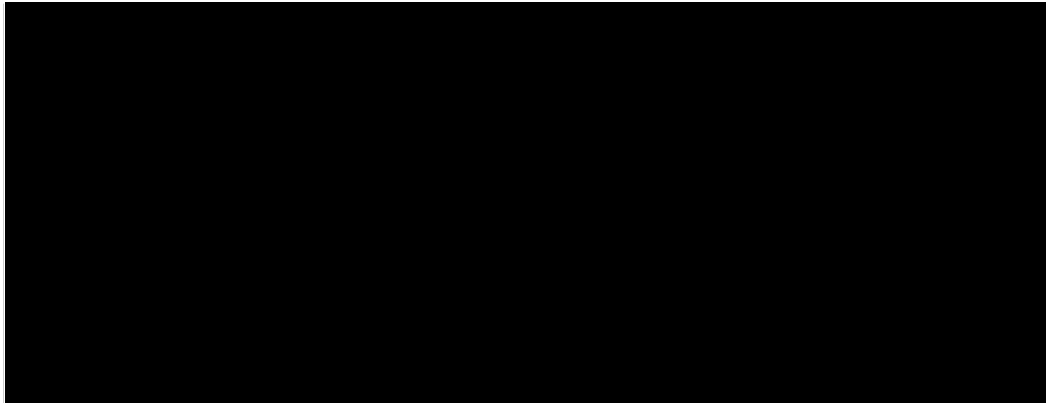
7. [REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]

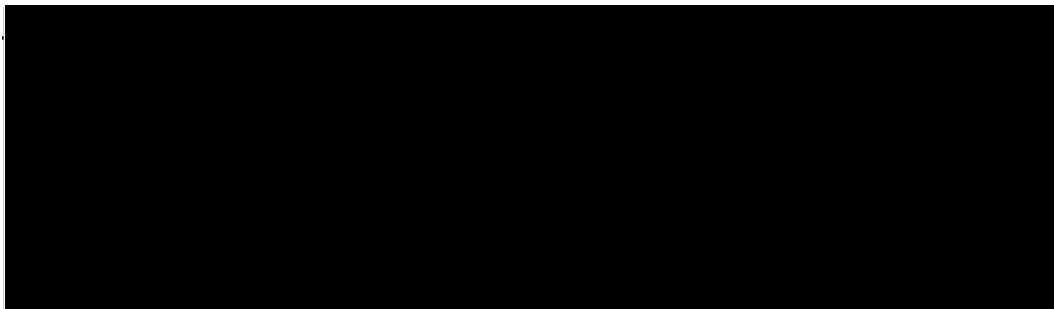
PRIVATE



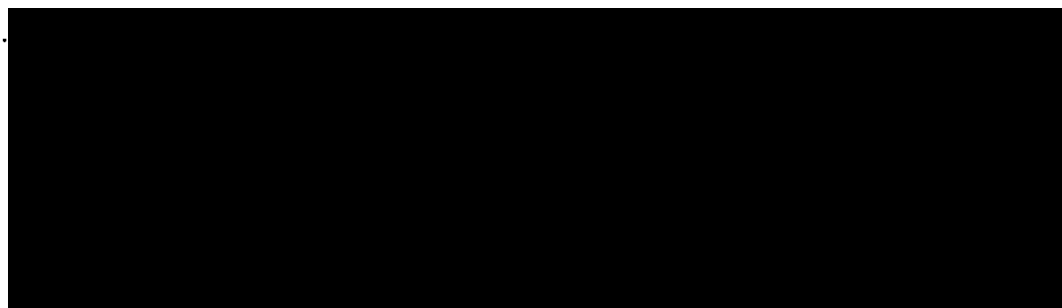
9.



10.

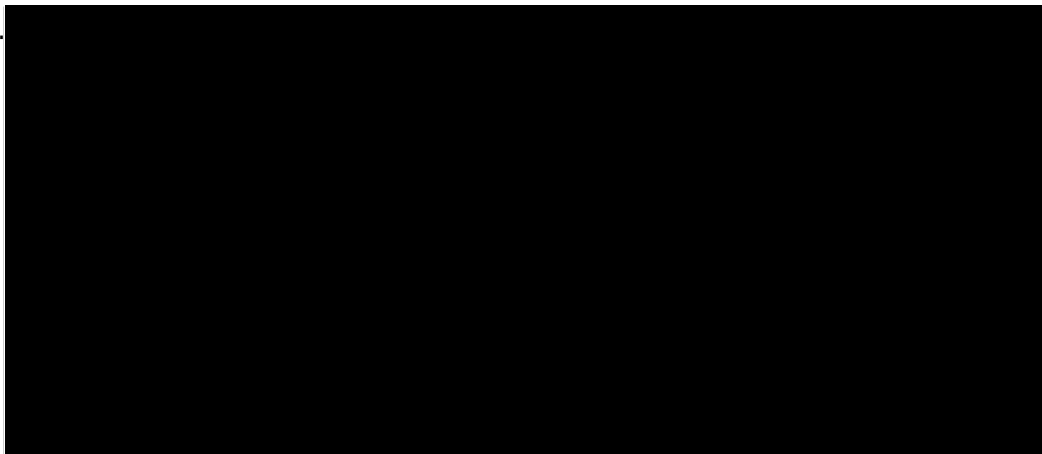


11.

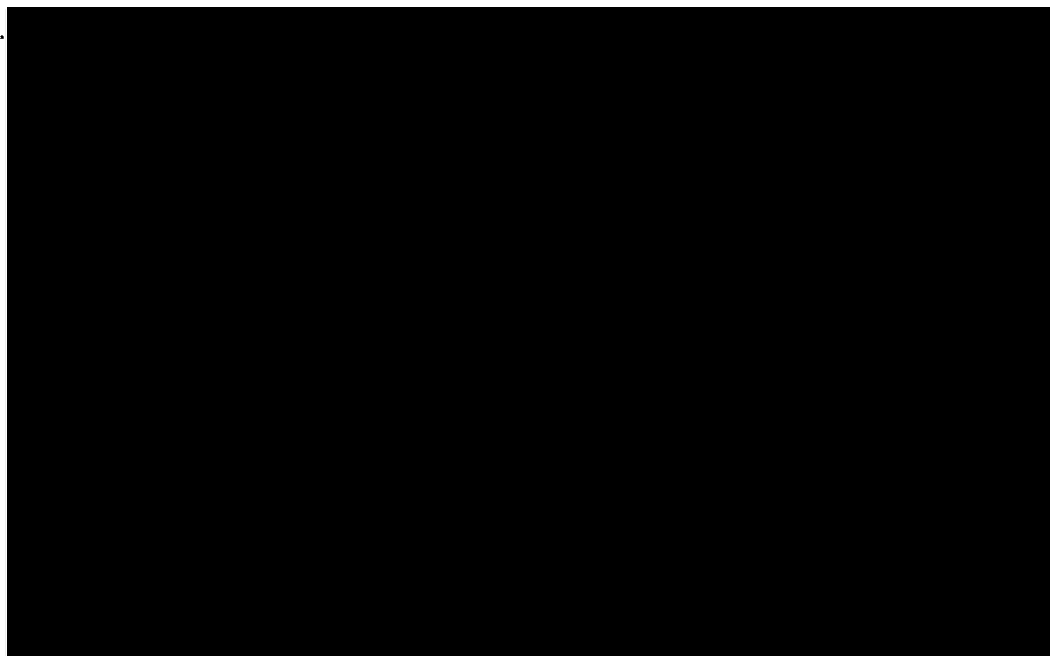


PRIVATE

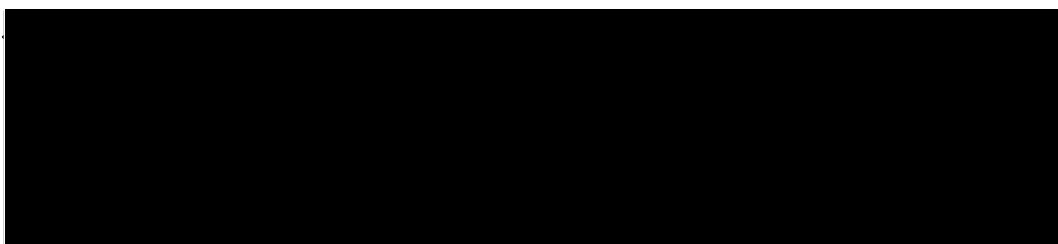
12.



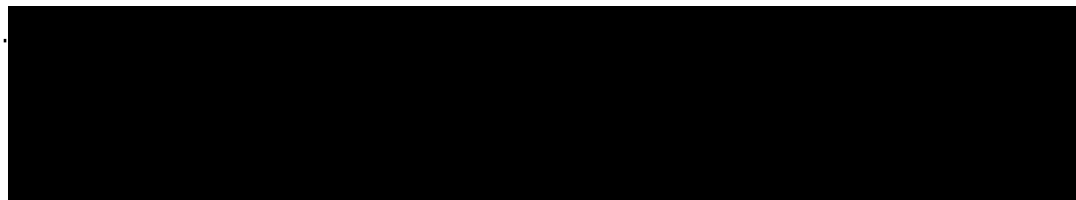
13.



14.

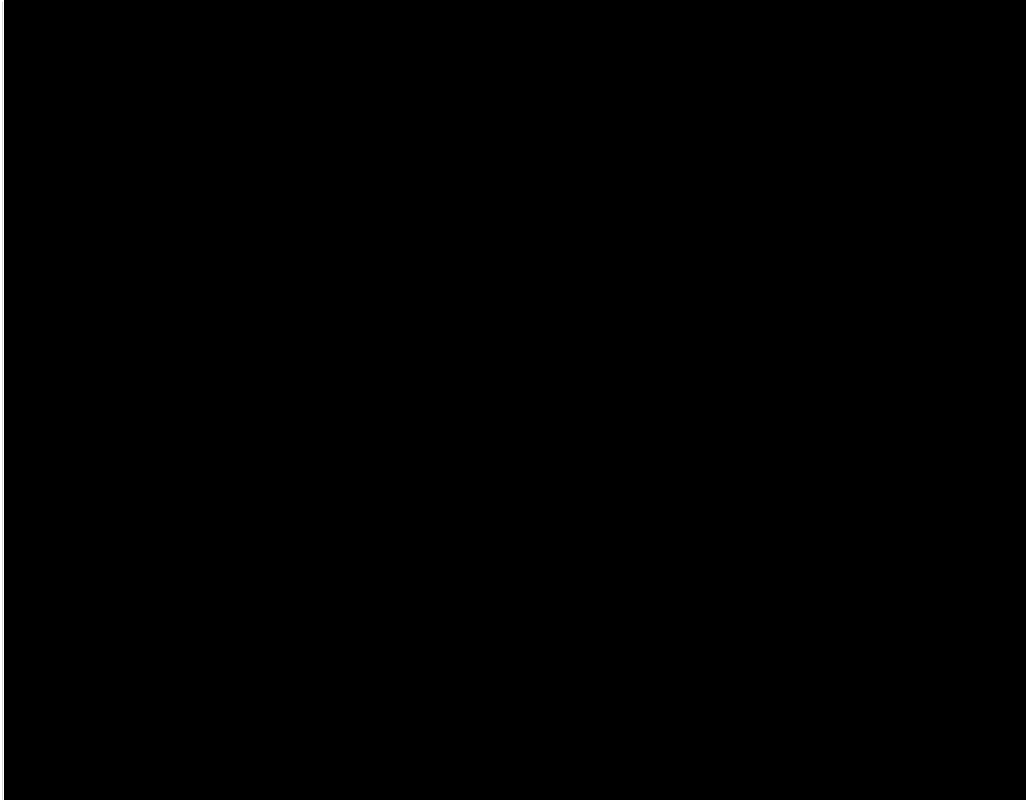


15.

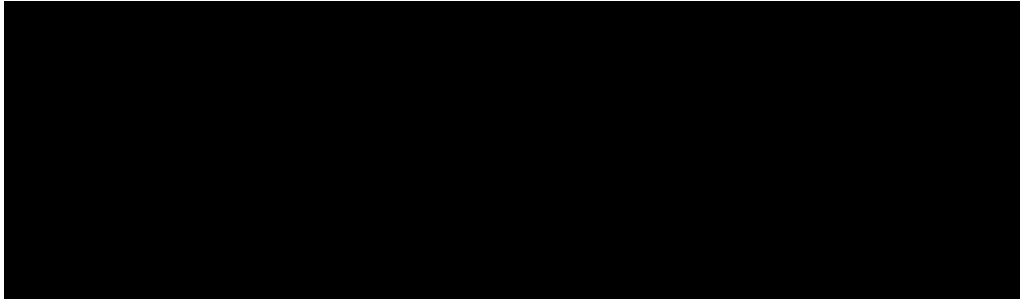


PRIVATE

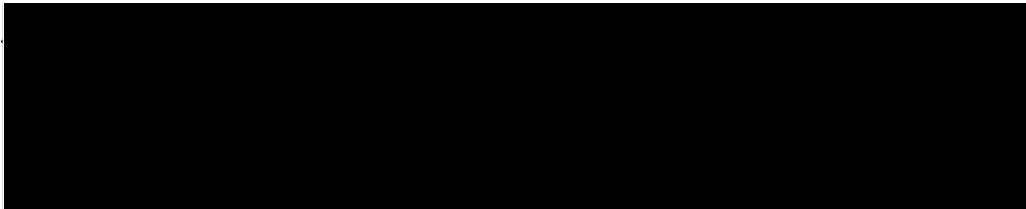
16.



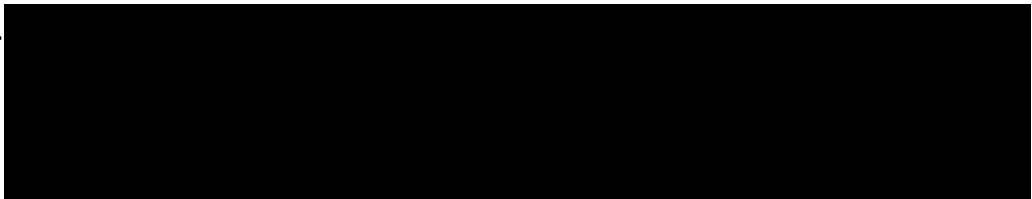
17.



18.



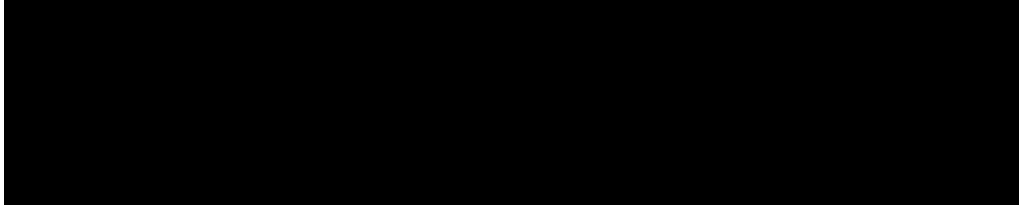
19.



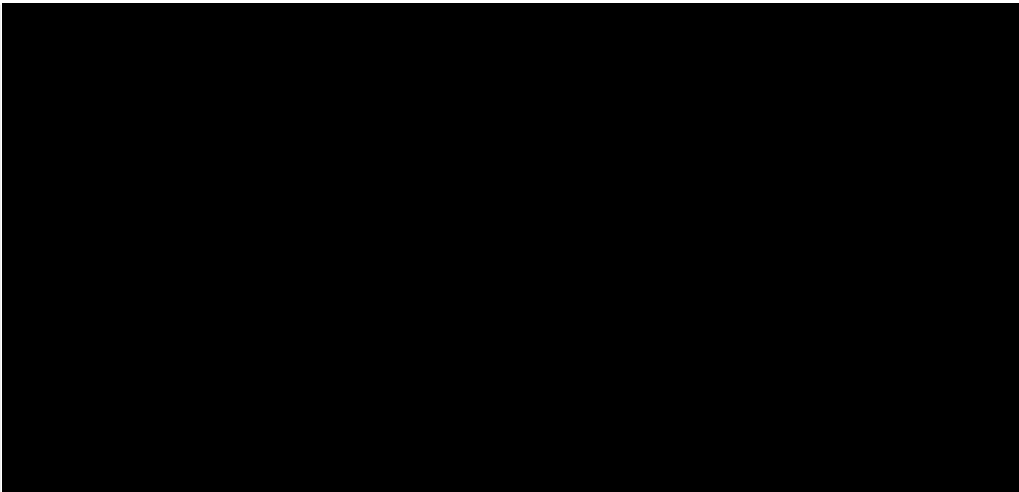
PRIVATE

Coneywarren Children's Home, Omagh

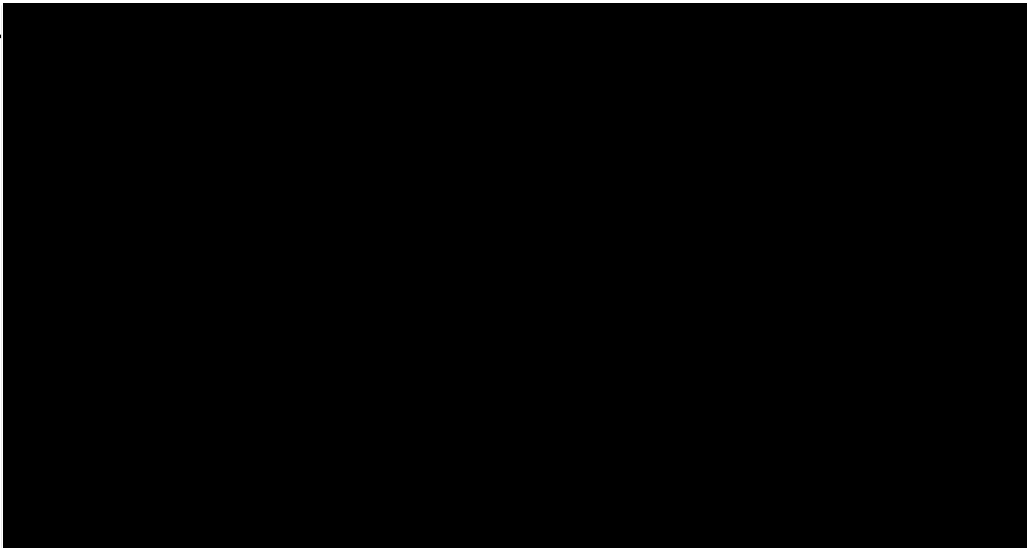
20.



21.



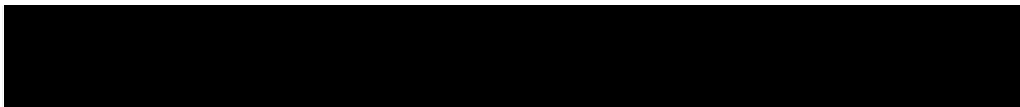
22.



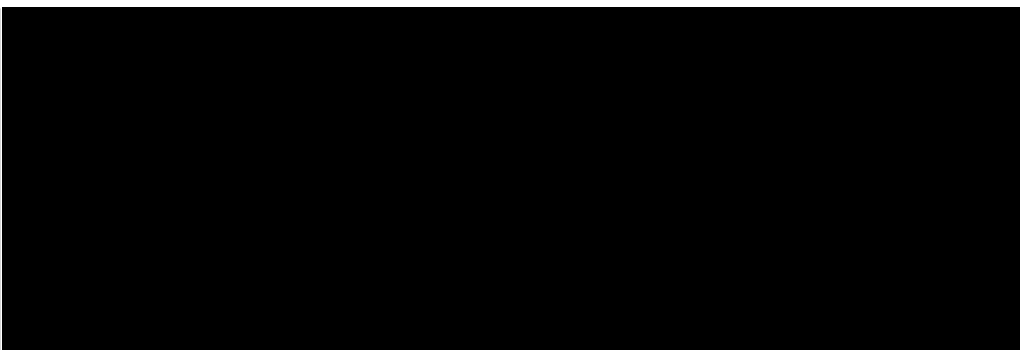
Gleneyre Children's Home

PRIVATE

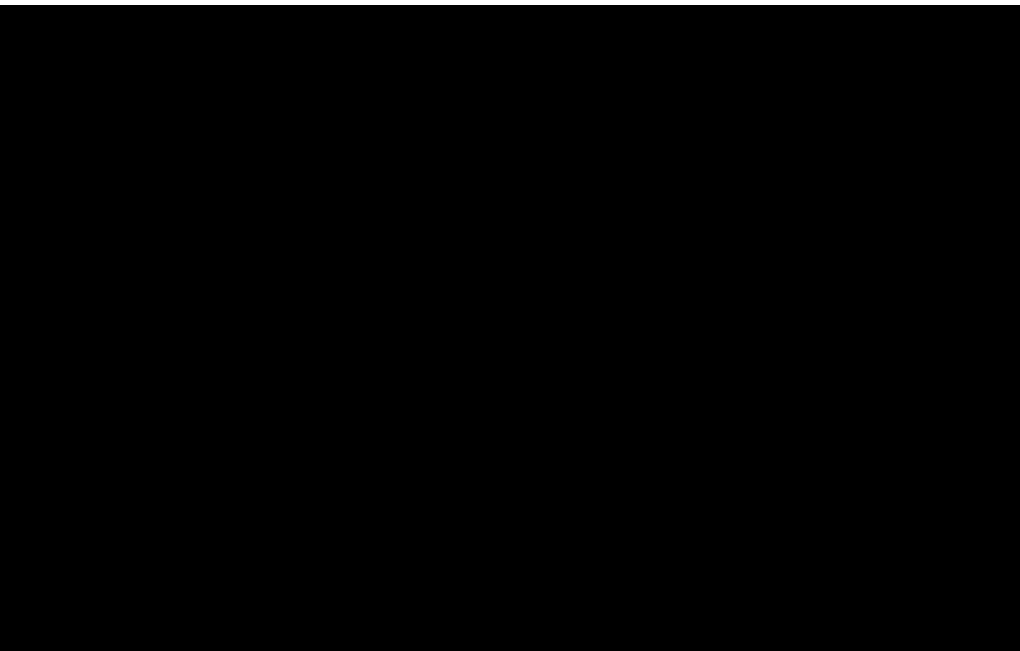
23.



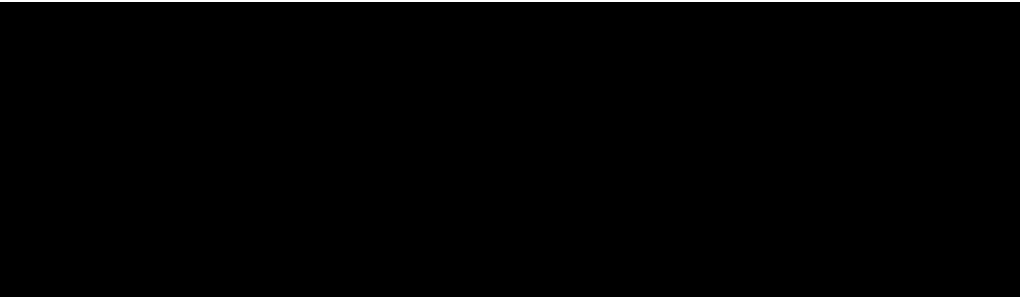
24.



25.

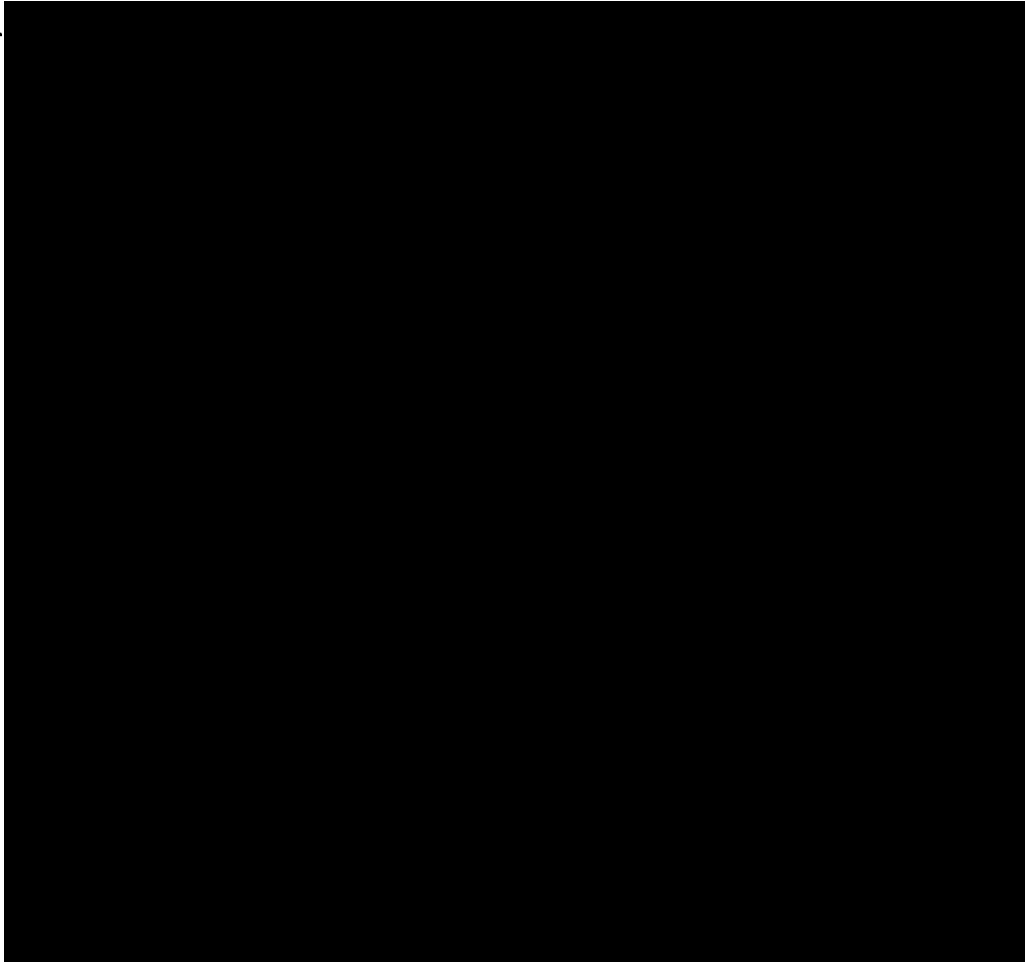


26.



PRIVATE

27.

**Rubane House, Kircubbin**

28. I was also in Rubane House in Kircubbin, but I don't recall the dates I was there. For some reason, they didn't want us to stay local. They placed us as far away as possible.

29. There was a lot of physical and sexual abuse going on in Rubane. The staff were allowing it. I wouldn't say that the boys were paid to do assault us, but they were getting little backhanders, a wee bottle of drink. It was the staff who gave the older boys ten minutes to sort us out if we did something wrong.

**Fivemiletown**

HIA 436

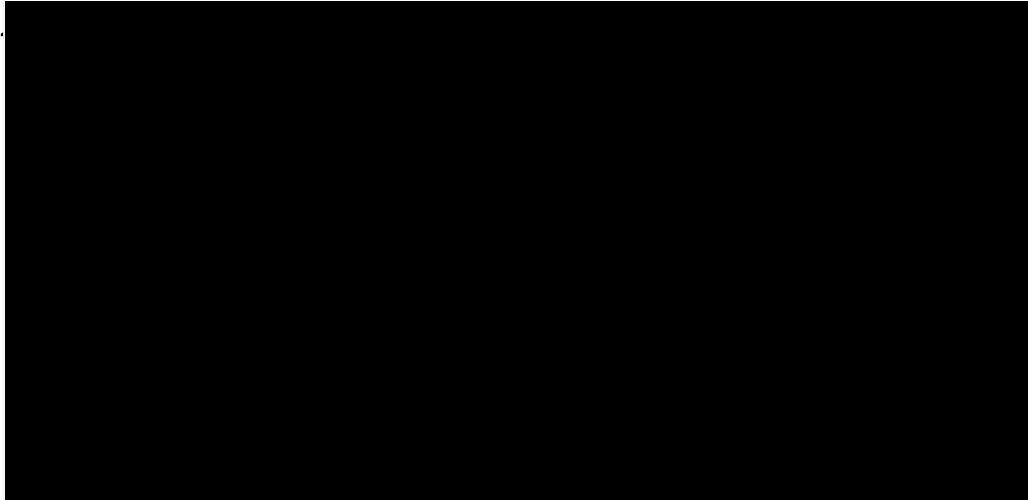
PRIVATE

8



PRIVATE

30.



31.



### Life After Care

32. At around the age of [REDACTED] I went to [REDACTED] and passed my exams. I then went back to Tech and did a [REDACTED]

33. In between placements we were sent home. For months on end mum would be fine and then the situation would deteriorate. For example, one time my dad went to [REDACTED] for a few months for work, but my mum was taking sleeping tablets and drinking and would be falling all over the place. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would come round and have a few beers in our house, and I think my mum felt that the older kids would look after the younger ones, but it didn't work like that. Every time something went wrong, we were shipped out to a home. I remember coming home from school, and the Social Services would be back out again, because of whatever my mother or father had done. We lived in an estate where the residents would know straight away if Social Services had arrived, and it would spread around the estate. The neighbours would take you into their homes so that you couldn't be found. The neighbours were very good to us. They made sure we were looked after. If my mother wasn't looking after herself, the neighbours would make sure that we were fed, bathed and clothed. I think on several occasions, [REDACTED] and

PRIVATE

██████████ were going to be adopted. There were simply too many of us to be looked after.

34. I didn't like the environment I was living in. I felt like there was too much bad baggage in this country, and there was pressure to get involved in paramilitary activity, which I wasn't interested in so I decided to move to ██████████ when I was aged about ██████████ years. I decided that this was the start of a whole new life. I wanted a new identity but I still wanted to try and keep something of myself. I wanted to keep the name ██████████ somewhere, and I decided to change my name to ██████████ HIA 436 ██████████ to reflect the ██████████ My family still refer to me as ██████████ It's my father's name, but I think they understand why I felt the need to change my name.

35. I have a lovely flat in ██████████ I don't sleep in my bedroom. I sleep on the couch, with all the doors open and the hall light on. One night I had to share a hotel room with a work colleague, and he tried to wake me up several times, because of the things I was saying in my sleep. He said he couldn't wake me and he has always refused to tell me what I was saying because it was so bad. He only told me that I was shouting "stop it, leave me alone". He said I was having really really bad nightmares. My GP has recently prescribed me sleeping tablets but I'm reluctant to go down that road, because I am concerned about becoming dependant on medication like my mother and sister.

36. My GP referred me to a ██████████ about ██████████ years ago, and I was diagnosed as suffering from ██████████ I have been prescribed anti-depressants but I don't take them.

37. My experiences affected my ability to have a relationship. Whatever was done to me as a child has stuck with me.

38. I don't drink now. I haven't drunk for eleven years now. I stopped drinking because I didn't want to get drunk and start telling people about my past. I

PRIVATE

used to make excuses about why I couldn't go out with my colleagues for a drink.

39. There are certain smells that remind me of being in care, like whiskey, even though I've never drank whiskey in my life. I always remember the smell of whatever detergent our clothes and bedclothes were washed in. I don't like being in hotels where the bedding smells the same.

40.



41. I never found out whether things happened to [REDACTED] when he was in the home, because he died at [REDACTED] on his way home from a night out. [REDACTED] was in St Patrick's Training School as well and I have heard stories that something may have happened to him. I would hate to think that that was happening to [REDACTED]. I heard rumours that two of [REDACTED] friends, [REDACTED] HIA 162 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are taking action against St Patrick's Training School because of what happened to them. [REDACTED] was also in St Patrick's and he went really off the rails. I think this was a combination of what happened him in care, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

42. In September 1992, I had come back home for a holiday. I had a row with my mother about what happened to us, and I said that she shouldn't have put us into the homes. I was supposed to come back in December, but at that time I

PRIVATE

was living in [REDACTED] working for a company called [REDACTED] which caters for functions for the [REDACTED] I wanted to earn some extra money for Christmas. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

43. I have never reported any incidents to the police because I decided that if I was ever going to do anything, I didn't want to do it while my parents were alive. [REDACTED] and doesn't know that I have contacted the Inquiry. It was a huge decision for me to contact the Inquiry, and the examples I have given are only a sample of what went on because I have blocked out these memories for so long.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed [REDACTED] HIA 436  
Dated 23-1-14