

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 519

Witness Name: HIA 519

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 519

I, HIA 519 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] County Tyrone. I was part of a large family, I had [REDACTED] sisters and [REDACTED] brothers. [REDACTED] None of my brothers or sisters went into care, only me.
2. When I was a teenager I was warned [REDACTED] not to visit a local family whose father had been [REDACTED]. He was thought to be a [REDACTED] and I was warned off. I continued to visit them because their daughter had [REDACTED] like my brother and sister. One day when I was at [REDACTED] came in and said they were going to [REDACTED] they were interrupted when the [REDACTED] came past and I managed to get away. The threats towards me had been ongoing for some time and I decided to run away from [REDACTED]. I ended up in Belfast and got on boat. It turned out the boat wasn't going anywhere and the authorities became involved and decided I was at risk. I was placed in St Pat's in Belfast for one night.

PRIVATE

St Patrick's Training School – [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED]

De la Salle Home, Kircubbin – [REDACTED]

4. I was placed in a house away from the Big House. I can't remember if it had a number or a name, I just called it my house. My house was run by a couple who were the Housemaster and Housemistress. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I can't remember their names but they [REDACTED] he had [REDACTED] I believe they were in their [REDACTED] It was clear from the beginning that the Housemaster didn't like me, when I arrived he seemed to be reading my notes and looked at me with disgust.
5. The food at Kircubbin was very good, it was regular and it was plentiful and I have no complaints to make about this. I recall being unwell once and the doctor was called to see me, again I have no complaints to make about my general care.
6. One day, very soon after I arrived at Kircubbin, I was in a classroom with lots of other boys. [REDACTED] BR 3 [REDACTED] came over to me and put his hand on my shoulder and told me to come to see him after school. I waited for him after school and he took me over to the Big House and brought me to a room, locked the door and began to pull me towards him by my arm. I knew that something untoward was going to happen and I started to fight back. I tried to open the window and the door, I was shouting and roaring but he sat down and said 'I've got all day'. He wasn't concerned that I might be heard. At some point he lifted his cassock and exposed his genitals. We were in his room for

PRIVATE

about an hour when he pulled my hair towards him and forced my head up and down on his penis and he came in my mouth. He then just opened the door and let me leave as though nothing had happened.

7. When I left [REDACTED] BR 3 [REDACTED] room I was asked by my Housemaster where I had been, I told him [REDACTED] BR 3 [REDACTED] has asked to see me and he told me I wasn't allowed to come and go as I please and that wasn't an excuse. He told me to go into a room off the kitchen and he hit me with a leather strap. He really laid into me, he made me pull my trousers down and hit me on my backside and legs. I was sore for hours afterwards.
8. [REDACTED] BR 3 [REDACTED] wanted to see me from then on almost every day. I fought him off for a while but eventually I realised that if you were late back to the House I would be beaten by the Housemaster so I ended up giving in. Usually I was made to perform oral sex on him but sometimes he had anal sex with me. I was so keen to get back to the House I ended up doing what he wanted really quickly. This was a big mistake as I think this made me look like I was really keen and I think [REDACTED] BR 3 [REDACTED] ended up telling another Brother how good I was and how keen I was to do it. At some point there were two other Brothers involved. One joined in the abuse and the other watched. They were called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but I can't be sure who did what without seeing a photo.
9. The pain of the abuse was made worse by the beatings by my Housemaster I would get for being late. I would have welts on my backside from the beatings by the Housemaster and then I was anally raped by [REDACTED] BR 3 [REDACTED] and I was very, very sore.
10. The Housemaster would hit me around the back of the head and beat me on the bare bottom and legs for being late. He used a leather strap. I did tell the Housemaster that I was late because I was with [REDACTED] BR 3 [REDACTED] and that I was sore. I didn't see him hitting anyone else but I could hear people squealing and I could tell they were being hit, I could hear the strap as well.

PRIVATE

11. I reported the abuse to a [REDACTED] called **DL 422** he came to take me out for the day to visit my Mum and Sister and I told him what was going on. He asked me to explain to him what exactly they did to me and how it made me feel, I thought that he wanted to know far too much. He came back to see me the following week, took me for fish and chips and then took me to his house. He was drinking whisky and started kissing me, he was really rough with me. He sexually assaulted me and anally raped me. I told him I didn't like it, that it wasn't right and that he was taking over from **BR 3** **BR 3** I didn't realise at the time that he wasn't taking over the abuse he was an additional person on the scene.

12. Another man called **DL 423** came on the scene and took me to his flat. I thought he was [REDACTED] He wasn't rough like **DL 422** **DL 422** and, without trying to categorise them, he seemed nicer. He did sexually assault me and tried to rape me but stopped for some reason before he penetrated me.

13. I ran away from Kircubbin a couple of times but I was lifted by the Police and brought back. I remember once hiding in some outbuildings on the land and the police and the Brothers out looking for me.

#### Life After Care

14. [REDACTED]

15. At some point I returned to live with my family but eventually I moved to [REDACTED] and settled in [REDACTED] I lived there for [REDACTED] years and worked in a number of places as a [REDACTED] I spent [REDACTED] consecutive

PRIVATE

years as the Chairman of the Residents Association where I lived. I friend in [REDACTED] became unwell and I moved there [REDACTED] years ago to care for him. I have now settled in [REDACTED] and have no plans to leave.

16. [REDACTED] and I believe this is because of the experiences I had in the care of the De la Salle Brothers in Kircubbin and the abuse I suffered elsewhere.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed           **HIA 519**          

Dated           9/7/14

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 519

Witness Name: HIA 519

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

---

---

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 519

---

I, HIA 519, will say as follows

Personal Details

I was born on the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] County Tyrone. I was part of a large family of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I was put into care as far as I can remember a few times to St Patricks and to De La Salle Home between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but I am not clear of dates and time frames.

I used to walk a nun [REDACTED] from the convent and back again from a local boys club [REDACTED]

I did this twice a week for some years

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I became persona non grata to everyone.

I lived in my own world in the attic of our home only going to school or the convent to collect the nun and return her afterwards.

I became very much a loner and I had no friends up until I was [REDACTED]

I became friends with a family nearby [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The mother a local woman had married a [REDACTED], and he was not welcome into our deeply republican area, and was seen as a [REDACTED]

I was clearly warned of on several occasions to keep away from them but I ignored these warnings and I was threatened several times about my connections with this family.

On one occasion when I was at [REDACTED] awaiting to collect the nun and I was at the [REDACTED] I was approached by masked gunmen who said they were going to blow my kneecaps off.

They were only interrupted by being told there was an army foot patrol approaching.

I then decided to run away and ended up in Belfast but got onto a boat that was going no-where and was picked up by the police and returned home and then it was decided I should be placed in care for my own protection.

I was told I would live under another name to protect me.

St Patrick's Training School [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**De La Salle Home Kircubbin** [REDACTED]

I was then moved to De la Salle, and I believe it was **DL 422** who brought me there, but I am not certain.

**Arrival**

I was talked to by brothers and civilian staff and they were checking a file on me and I immediately felt they were not happy with me because of whatever was in the file.

I was taken to a big house I now know was a chalet, and met a couple who were my house parents. They had to my memory [REDACTED] They had [REDACTED] and he had [REDACTED] and she had [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED] face.

I was given tea and bread with butter and jam on it but I do not like butter and eat dry bread and I was told that was stupid, and I would eat what I was given.

The housemaster took an immediate dislike of me, and I felt that very clearly from the start.

I was given a [REDACTED]

I was chatted to by other boys but I ignored them and kept to myself.



### **Sexual Abuse By De La Salle Brothers**

When I was at school after arriving I was sitting in class and [REDACTED] **BR 3** came over to me and put his hand on my shoulder and asked to see him after school.

I waited behind after school and he told me to come with him and we went to the big house and upstairs to quite a large room.

He locked the door and sat down in a big chair, and as I stood there he got up and grabbed me by the arm and was pulling me towards him.

I pulled away and knew that something untoward was going to happen and I said "let me out". I tried to open the door and the window, and I was shouting and roaring and others must have heard me.. Brother **BR 3** just sat there and quietly said in his [REDACTED] voice "I've got all day" He lifted his cassock and exposed his genitals, and I then knew what was up.

I did not relent for about an hour trying to get out and shouting and roaring, and I felt like I was exhausted by this time and he got up and he pulled me towards him by the arm and sat down and forced my head on his penis., and pushed my head down on him until he came in my mouth.

He then got up opened the door as if nothing had happened and told me to return home.

When I got outside I felt sick because his semen was a horrible taste and I could not stop trying to be sick.

### **Physical Abuse By House Master**

When I got to the chalet the housemaster was angry and asked me where I had been and I told him in the big house with brother **BR 3**

He said you cannot come and go as you please and that wasn't an excuse .

He told me to go to a room of the kitchen and he told me to pull down my trousers and he laid into my backside and legs with a leather strap. I was sore for hours afterwards.

I cried at the beginning but eventually I stopped as it seemed to make it worse as the more you cried the harder he hit you so I held it back and did not cry unless he hit me on a spot from a previous day and that was so sore I just reacted.

I hated my housemaster so much that I felt like retaliating but I became totally submissive to what was going on.

I was going to hit the housemaster once as I snapped when he hit a spot from a previous beating, and I was so angry and turned right towards him in his face he seemed to know I was near breaking point.

### **Sexual Abuse By De La Salle Brothers**

**BR 3** would ask to see me almost daily after that and he would approach me in his class or come into other classes and place his hand on my shoulder and ask me to come and see him after school.

Initially I fought him off but after a few weeks I was compliant and went along with it feeling I had no choice.

Sex was always carried out mostly oral but often anal which I hated the most.

I just got on with it but eventually it became more difficult because I had welts on my arse, and my arse was black and blue and my legs so anal sex became

I would look at books on a bookshelf and look at pictures on walls to think of something else while the abuse was going on.

I always got hit by the strap by my housemaster for being late and I then tried a plan to prevent me getting the strap but my plan was sadly a serious error on my part.

I thought if I just gave him oral more quickly I would get him to come quicker, and once he came I could go home and hopefully be in time to avoid the strap.

However my keenness to give him oral more quickly appeared to turn him on and whilst he did come quicker it did not stop the housemaster using the strap.

Because of the severe use of the strap leaning over the table in the room meant my fresh welts and soreness from the strapping from previous days made anal rape very hurtful.

**BR 3** did not seem to care my arse was sore a mess when he raped me.

I also got sick and felt sick a lot gagging a lot of the time because when I was anally raped sometimes there would be excrement on brother **BR 3**'s penis, and he would sometimes go from my arse to my mouth and that meant I was having my own excrement put into my mouth and whilst that was making me gag it was making **BR 3** excitable as he was forcing his penis down my throat.

When I went home afterwards I was always feeling very unwell because I would either have the taste of excrement or semen in my mouth and I always rushed home to get the inevitable strapping. Out of the frying pan and into the fire.

Out of the two events the sexual abuse and the physical use of the straps was the worst event to happen.

Both were horrible but the sex abuse was not as long lasting as the pain from the use of the strap.

The best way to explain the difference is if I had to chose which I wanted I would say the sex abuse rather than the physical abuse although in reality I wanted neither.

So good was my oral skills that **BR 3** had other brothers

Occasionally with him in the room in the big house I would see other brothers and whilst I was giving oral sex they were standing masturbating or occasionally after [REDACTED] BR 3 [REDACTED] was done they would immediately put their penis straight in my mouth and whilst I was still coping with [REDACTED] BR 3 [REDACTED] semen left in my mouth in came another load and that always made me gag and want to throw up.

Rape anally by other brothers was rare about five times, oral rape was more common about twenty times, but from [REDACTED] BR 3 [REDACTED] it was never ending.

### **Other Boys And Life At Kircubbin**

I never seen other boys being abused but I was aware of talk about it but I never engaged with this chat and I kept my head down.

I did hear other boys getting strapped, and caned, but I never seen it happen but I could hear it while it was happening because some boys cried more than others.

I did see boys and myself get a slap with a hand across the back of the head.

The brothers did look at you in the showers and after sports and it was obvious what was in the minds, and they all seemed to have a clique of boys they had around them.

I liked the school lessons and I enjoyed watching TV, and I liked going down to the farm, and I often went there on my own.

I used all my free time to be alone where possible.

I ran away a few times and I stated away a few times but I was hiding on the farm or buildings nearby.

There were activities and day trips and I got involved in Hurling and I got a medal.

I did feel like taking a hurly bat and defending myself against the housemaster but I could not figure out how to take it with me so I dropped that idea.

I liked TV a lot and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The food was ok apart from not being allowed to eat [REDACTED] and I stole [REDACTED] often and got punished for it. I still to this day eat [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

One brother at one time was going to use the cane on me after I stole a loaf but after pulling down my trousers he said I had had enough, and just slapped me on the back of the head instead with his hand.

I stole loaves a few times from a local shop and kept them in a shed just behind the playground near the farm.

**Sexual Abuse By [REDACTED] DL 422**

I was taken by [REDACTED] DL 422 to see my mother and sister in [REDACTED] and I told him when he was driving me back that I was being messed about with and I was upset.

He pulled over and asked me to tell him about it, and I did and I cried and he put his hands on my crotch and lifted my hand unto his and I said yes like that only far worse.

I asked if he wanted to see my arse from the strapping, but he said no not today I will come and see you again shortly.

A few days later he came to take me out and I first thought it was to see my mother like before but he took me for a can of pop in a cafe and we talked a little about what was going on and then we drove to a big house in [REDACTED] which was his house, a posh place.

At his house he tried to give me whisky and I didn't want it and eventually he took me into his bedroom and started abusing me.

Unlike previously with others he was different he was all kissy feely and [REDACTED] and it was all full of his whiskey and I hated his whiskey taste and I didn't want him to kiss me.

He was all over me kissing, forcing my head unto his penis, and then he anally raped me, and he was big and it was sore because he was very rough.

Unlike before it was not all over fairly quickly and he was getting drunk and kept on with more which was nonstop and lasted for hours and hours until early morning and he gave me cornflakes and tea, and then took me back to Kircubbin.

I felt like I was trapped and I had tried to ask for help but **DL 422** instead abused me.

I hated him after that and he did the same thing to my memory about three more times, and he was more aggressive each time biting my lip when kissing me, and treating me rough.

### **Sexual Abuse By [REDACTED] DL 423**

Another man came to see me [REDACTED] he was called [REDACTED] **DL 423** and I was very quiet with him, and he took me to see my mother in [REDACTED]

After seeing my mother he took me to his home [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I was very sore that day after several previous hard strapping's from the housemaster, and I showed him how bad my arse was from the beatings and said the housemaster was a real nasty man and that what he's doing to me and I'm ready to snap.

He was lowered down looking at my arse and legs and saying well don't even think of doing anything back or you will be in trouble, and I started to cry, and he had his hand around on my penis and I just felt here we go again.

He did on another occasion try to kiss me in his car when he pulled over, but I was rebellious, and the next time he took me to his home he asked to see my arse again and it was in a bad way and whilst he had an erection and was feeling me and he did put his penis near my arse he did not penetrate and I felt it was off putting how bad my arse looked, or that he didn't want to do anything.

After that he just seemed nicer never touched me again and I liked him more than anybody else because by this time he was the nicest person towards me.

### **Leaving De La Salle Boys Home At Kircubbin**

I was eventually allowed to go home as I believe the local priest in [REDACTED] had spoken to people to secure my safe return.

### **Life After Care**

I was very unhappy after my life at Kircubbin and I retreated to my former self a loner and stayed up in my mother's house attic most of the time.

I ran away from Northern Ireland on the [REDACTED] and sneaked on a bus boat and train and arrived in [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED]

I stated with a family I had met on the boat for a while, then I was in a homeless hostel for a while, and then I found a job.

I then had three jobs at the same time and I carried on with life after that.

I wrote to Pope John Paul in [REDACTED] and told him about the abuse I suffered.

I moved to [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and I now live there.

Despite my sexual and physical abuse experience I have not allowed it to affect my faith, and that remains intact.

I have not had a good life following my abuse at Kircubbin, and I have

I hate the smell of whiskey and the smell of excrement as they remind me of the past.

I have a lot of nightmares and depression, and the abuse has severely impacted upon my life.

I have never done drugs and I'm a non drinker, but I have a handful of friends and still keep myself to myself generally and live in isolation.

I have had various jobs and I live in England and have no intention of ever returning to live in Northern Ireland.

I know many others now hate the church and have given up their faith but I have the strength to not allow the failings of a few no matter how many that few is in the bigger picture to destroy my faith.

I do not like those who abused me, but I can only hope that the churches will do something to stop it continuing in the future.

### **RUC Interview 1996**

The RUC came to see me in [REDACTED] around end 1996 /early 1997 about my time in Kircubbin.

I was interviewed where they interview arrested people, and they were like good cop bad cop.

At the time I was concerned they were there to knock the catholic church and they were protestants so in the RUC at that time they were there to be against Catholics I felt.

I was very reluctant to knock the church as a whole and tried to just say what happened to me by some individuals so my approach was being careful rather than just knock the church for them.

One asked me to explain what happened, and the other said "Well your taking up the arse now aren't you".



I felt they were assuming I was gay.

I objected to that and I explained about [REDACTED] and apart from saying we are here about your time at Kircubbin they looked at me like I was crazy.

They asked me about my family and my brother, and I felt they were not too happy to be talking with me at all because [REDACTED]

I am not my [REDACTED] maker and have no control over his life decisions and we do not get along at all and I have no contact with him and have not done so for [REDACTED] years apart from my father's funeral in [REDACTED]

The RUC were not very nice.

I got a follow up letter saying no action would be taken against [REDACTED]

**DL 423**

I was told on the phone he was a married man [REDACTED] and he denied it.

I said married men can be abusers but I was told the decision had been made.

I was advised **DL 422** had died so they could not pursue my allegations him.

I received no feedback at all from the RUC about my allegations against the brothers, or the housemaster.

### **PSNI December 2012**

I spoke to the PSNI in November 2012 about my time at Kircubbin and was advised to go to a PSNI station in Northern Ireland on my next trip.

I went to the PSNI station in Strabane in December 2012 and I was told it was not there business as the interview with me took place in England.

I showed them the card which said the RUC had visited me in [REDACTED] and they the RUC would return to Northern Ireland , and the abuse happened in Northern Ireland and they told me it was nothing to do with the PSNI, and sent me on my way.

I complained to the Police Ombudsman but several of their letters got lost and the complaint went no-where.

### **PSNI 2013**

I subsequently complained to the PSNI in Newtownards and they made several failed attempts to interview me.

They then said they were going to get the [REDACTED] Police to interview me on their behalf.

### **[REDACTED] POLICE 2014**

A [REDACTED] officer came to see me mid 2014

An officer did come without appointment and when my buzzer rang I looked out my window and she was discussing my case on the phone and I shouted down to her from my fourth floor, to stop that.

I sent her packing as I was disgusted by her lack of privacy.

She apologised and it was agreed she would return again, but she failed to turn up twice, and I said it was a waste of time getting me all worked up and then not turning up.

I complained to the PSNI and they had a bad attitude about it and they have not made alternative arrangements to interview despite saying they would since 2012.

The purpose of the interview was to take a proper statement from me that they had not done properly in 1996/7.

### **PSNI 2014**

The PSNI have not taken a statement from me despite their promises and talking about it for two years.

The Evidence I gave to the RUC in 1996/7 was only half dealt with, and there was no proper feedback.

The attempts to rectify that have not been good and the PSNI are not being helpful at all.

[REDACTED]

I have given evidence during a daylong video recording with [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I have given evidence to [REDACTED]

Statement Of Truth

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

Signed           **HIA 519**          

Dated           25-07-11

[REDACTED] Juvenile Court [REDACTED]

**HIA 519**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Schoolboy

**HIA 519** lives with his mother, father and [REDACTED] in a three-bedroom terrace house in the above estate. This area has been the scene of frequent and furious civil disturbance. The home is reasonably well kept, fairly neat and clean.

Mr. [REDACTED], **HIA 519** father, is employed as a [REDACTED] with [REDACTED], earning approximately £30.00 per week. He impressed as an introverted type of man and it is fairly obvious that he had little effective control over his family. Mrs. [REDACTED] impressed as an earnestly well-motivated woman who sought only good for her family. However, she also found it practically impossible to control her [REDACTED] sons, especially the younger, **HIA 519** brother [REDACTED].

**HIA 519** and his brother [REDACTED] entered adolescence at practically the same time and they found that in the home situation they were able to produce refractory behaviour which often went unchecked. This lack of effective control soon led both boys to begin to avoid attending school and once given to the habit of ditching it soon developed as normal practice. Their continued truancy led to confrontation with the teaching staff, such that when **HIA 519** did return to school he found himself having problems of communication with the staff at [REDACTED]. After a period he left this school and began to attend [REDACTED] School, where it must be said that his attendance did improve for a period. His brother was committed to Training School sometime later.

**HIA 519** was placed on probation by [REDACTED] Juvenile Court on [REDACTED] having pleaded guilty to [REDACTED]. The co-defendant in this case was his brother [REDACTED]. He related quite well to the probation order and was attending school quite regularly.

**HIA 519** did appear slightly naive with reference to the area in which he was [REDACTED]. I feel too poor about his ambition to eventually join the [REDACTED]. This latter man was apparently intimidated out of the area by subversive elements and apparently **HIA 519** also came under threat. Both the R.U.C. and the Welfare were notified about this situation. Shortly after [REDACTED] **HIA 519** ran away from home and was discovered trying to board a boat for Liverpool. He was conveyed to St. Patrick's Training School. Since this was unsatisfactory I removed the boy and placed him in De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin, where he appears to have settled in quite well. The Northern Ireland Office is exploring the possibility of extra statutory financial provision to cover the three weeks prior to this Court case. It is our decision to apply for an extra condition, viz. a condition of residence.

In conclusion it will appear that the boy's needs are being fulfilled at his present residence, i.e. De La Salle Boy's Home, Kircubbin, and since both his parents, and indeed the boy himself, are in agreement, I respectfully ask the Court to amend the probation order and affix a condition of residence.

[REDACTED] DL 422 [REDACTED]