

HIA REF: []

NAME: [DL 503]

DATE: [27 October 2014.]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of DL 503

I, DL 503, will say as follows: -

1. My Social Work career was as follows;

2. I am now retired from Social Work responsibility for working with HIA.41 in [redacted] with [redacted] Social Services Department. When I assumed I was employed as a [redacted] I remained in this role until [redacted] predominantly as [redacted], until I became an [redacted] Social Worker in the [redacted] Trust in [redacted]. Within this role my main responsibilities were to [redacted] [redacted] working with young people and the Trust's Aftercare Team.

3. I have been shown HIA 41's statement and have formulated this response both from my own knowledge and recollections of the situation and Trust records from that time.

4. In relation to my role as a Social Worker working with HIA 41 my role was focussed on enabling the client to be reunited with his mother. This process had already started prior to my involvement in [redacted] as a consequence of the Trust's view that the home situation had stabilized, particularly in respect of the lifestyle of HIA 41's mother. My understanding and perception of the situation at the time was that the objective of reuniting HIA 41 with his mother was shared by all parties and this continued to be the case during the period of home visiting, which lasted until [redacted]. Ongoing assessment of the home situation appeared to confirm that the mother of HIA 41 had developed a much more settled lifestyle. As such, I was unaware of the concerns outlined by HIA 41 in paragraph 44 of his statement in relation to his reported experiences on his visits to Belfast to see his mother.
5. As indicated by HIA 41 in paragraph 50, the accommodation in the flat was cramped although I was unaware it was as cold as outlined. With regard to the absence of HIA 41 from the house, my understanding is that she was working at the time. HIA 41's love for and commitment to his dog was a significant issue for him and he worked very hard to resolve this in the interests of the animal.
6. In relation to the concerns outlined by HIA 41 (subsequent to his return home) in paragraph 51, when I became aware of significant conflict emerging between he and his mother and when attempts to resolve the situation were unsuccessful, the Trust supported and facilitated HIA 41's independent occupancy of the flat, whilst his mother, [redacted] moved to the flat below.
7. HIA 41's move to his own accommodation was challenging in a variety of ways, however he generally appeared to cope well, with support from his mother, and his relationship with her did appear to improve at this time. With regard to concerns outlined in paragraph 54 regarding financial support, the Trust did provide support for clothing and food as necessary.

- 8 In paragraph 55 HIA 41 indicates that I rarely saw him. My recollection is that I would have seen HIA 41 according to statutory requirements, that is, on at least a monthly basis, subsequent to his return home from Rubane. On the occasions I was unable to keep arranged appointments to see HIA 41, I would have endeavoured to see him as soon as possible afterwards.
- 9 With regard to the children of HIA 41's mother, _____ referred to in paragraph 55, HIA 41 is correct to observe that no discussions were held at this time with him, although this did become a feature in subsequent years.
- 10 With regard to the access to records referred to in paragraph 55, my recollection is that there was a different regulatory framework pertaining to such access at this time. I do not accept that I indicated to HIA 41 that there were no records.
- 11 In paragraph 57 HIA 41 indicates that I ignored all pleas for help. It would be my view that I have always made myself available to him, both at that time and also on the various occasions he has been in contact with me since leaving Care.
- 12 HIA 41 was someone whom I enjoyed working with and believe that I made positive and meaningful attempts to support him at what was a difficult point in his life.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed DL 503

Dated 27 - 10 - 2014

EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

PROGRESS REPORT ON CHILD IN CARE

Child's Name: **HIA 41** d.o.b. **[REDACTED]**

Home Address: **[REDACTED]** Section admitted/committed to care: **95**
Belfast

Date: _____

Parental Rights Order Yes/No: Date: _____

Previous placements in care:

Fit Person Order **[REDACTED]**

Order	Placement	date	Reason for leaving				date
			Planned move	Break-down	Dis-charge	Other	
1	Convent of Mercy	[REDACTED]	✓				[REDACTED]
2	Nazareth Lodge	[REDACTED]		✓			[REDACTED]
3	Kirkubbin	[REDACTED]					[REDACTED]
4							
5							

Present Placement: *Children's Home/~~Foster Home~~/~~Home of the~~ (*Delete as appropriate)

Address: **De La Salle,**
 (Include Name of **Kirkubbin**
 Foster Parents)

Date Placed: _____

Dates of visits since last report. Identify to whom the visit was made, e.g. child, parents, and underline those on which the child was seen.

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Mother visited monthly.

PRIVATE

Life out of Rubane House De La Salle Boys Home

43. **DL 503**, senior social worker, Lower Crescent was then put on my case 6 months before I left. Obviously from the social service records to place me where he saw fit. He was a _____ the previous social worker **DL 502** was a numboid idiot who spoke of what do you want to do when you grow up. Pathetic and useless.
44. **DL 503** was a cunning, skilled man at his job not for my benefit but to clear up another case. He operated like a headless chicken. He set about getting my biological mother to get a flat/house but she got a one bedroom bedsit, _____ Rent 65 pounds and month. She only wanted one child, **DL 87** as he was _____ and the other reasons only she knows. The rest of her children meant nothing to her. I only knew of us _____ and me. She did have a child called _____ which she gave to the _____ family _____ and _____ of _____ born _____ when born. I had heard of her and met her once as a child. **DL 87** was in chalet _____ and went to **DL 406** and **DL 101** who all lived in chalet _____ He took no part in the home and did as he liked going home to his mother at weekends and monthly and holiday times. **DL 503** started arranging me to go out to _____ on a Saturday now and again and return on the bus at 4-5pm. I was left to walk miles to get the bus from the home and walk in the dark on my own it was very frightening. My biological mother met me at Oxford St Bus Station and instead of getting to know me at her bedsit took me to a pub on Ann St with a man she was kissing and drinking vodka and coke called _____ I stood at the bar until 4 and got the bus back to the home. This happened often and sometime to a bar called _____ beside _____ it was on the corner next to _____ Upstairs people in the bar would say here's **DL 407**'s kid that how she's known. _____

1 A. And it was actually Social Services that brought her
2 there and I've explained what happened when she did
3 come.

4 Q. Do you want to say something to the Inquiry about that,
5 because I know you have said to me?

6 A. Well, I mean, she basically only wanted one child was
7 DL 87 . She didn't want -- she had other
8 children and she did work as . The Brothers
9 sent me out on a Saturday that I was supposed to visit
10 her flat, but I was stood in Ann Street in bars where
11 she was drinking. One of the men she was with was
12 called . Then I got the bus back to Rubane.
13 I had to walk three miles in the dark, you know, to get
14 the bus and back.

15 So there were different social workers all the time
16 here, not just one social worker coming and interacting.
17 They were different. I never knew that any Social
18 Services until three years ago knew any of the De La
19 Salle Brothers or the Sisters of Nazareth, and they were
20 scheming between themselves, working hand in glove.
21 I didn't become difficult. I have two exemplary records
22 from two of the Sisters from , and the reason was
23 that SR 30 left the group and two brutal nuns
24 came on to the group. I'm sure you'll hear their brutal
25 -- brutality.

1 Q. Well, just coming back to what the records are showing,
2 at 3055 this document would suggest that consideration
3 was being given for preparing you for the discharge
4 about 18 months before you actually did leave.

5 Go on just to RUB30563, please. Again this is
6 an internal case review, which is suggesting that there
7 was fortnightly contact with your mother in preparation
8 for your gradual return to her, but what you are saying
9 about that is you were put on a bus, sent out and there
10 was no real supervision?

11 A. I never really had any contact with her. I would have
12 went to the woman you describe on the Antrim Road. The
13 Social Services, [DL 502], writes of this "Must be
14 investigated", because I obviously said something
15 innocent that I didn't. I never was -- I never had
16 a relationship with my biological mother and still don't
17 to this day, and [DL 502], the social worker, was to
18 investigate that, and all of these addresses are all
19 made-up addresses, nothing to do with me. I never slept
20 in them at any time. [DL 503] took me, the Jack
21 Russell dog I had, left me in the street and he drove
22 off in his car and that was the first time I had ever
23 stayed there in her bed-sit. The violence and the
24 drinking was no different from the [redacted], where
25 residents fled out of the [redacted] where she