

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORIAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 to 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF **NL 114**

I, **NL 114** will say as follows:-

1. I have been provided with a Witness Statement by **HIA 10** and a Witness Statement from Sister Brenda McCall. I provide this Witness Statement in response.
2. I was born on [REDACTED] I attended [REDACTED] Secondary School in [REDACTED] and left school at aged 16 years i.e. May 1977.
3. A Careers Teacher at School recommended that a summer job at Nazareth Lodge in Belfast and I took up this post as I wanted to go to Rupert Stanley College in Belfast to do a childcare course at the end of August. When I was due to leave Nazareth Lodge I was asked by the Head Nun to stay on and I did so rather than go to college.
4. I left Nazareth Lodge in 1987 to look after my mother who had heart failure.
5. My job at Nazareth Lodge was known as a house parent and there were five sections of about sixteen children in each. In respect of each of these sections there would be a nun in charge and four house parents who worked in shifts, two house parents to each shift. There was myself and **NL 150** and two other house parents called **NL 212** and **NL 213**
6. There were sixteen or seventeen children in my Section, the youngest child about 5 years old and the eldest 18 years old.

7. The two house parents on duty would get the children out to school in the morning with the help of the nun in charge of the section and this was Sister **SR 46** initially and later **SR 222**. Sometimes a **SR 156** would also help out. After coming on duty at 7.30am you would get the children dressed for school and then take them down to the dining room for breakfast. After breakfast one member of staff would wash the dishes and the children had a rota for drying the dishes. The house parents were back on duty roughly about 1pm to prepare for the children coming back from school.
8. We would have walked down to St. Michael's Primary School to pick up the younger children but the secondary school children walked home themselves. At about 3.30pm the children changed out of their uniform into their casual clothes and then got tea and biscuits.
9. After the children had the snack the house parents and one of the nuns supervised homework. This would normally be **SR 2** and they watched some television until teatime at 5pm when they got a full meal and then there was outdoor play.
10. I would have gone off duty at 9pm, the younger children having been put to bed but the children would still have been up.
11. I remember **HIA 10** (now **HIA 10**) as having been in my charge. I remember her as having been one of three sisters at Nazareth Lodge. I don't remember precisely when **HIA 10** came to Nazareth Lodge except that she was the youngest of the three children, **NL 130** being the oldest and **NL 87** **NL 87** the second children.
12. During my time at Nazareth Lodge there was some re-organisation in that the five separate groups became three separate groups. I don't remember having much contact with **HIA 10** in later years because I was in charge of a different group of children.

13. I have read the Statement of **HIA 10** and I have no recollection whatsoever of curling tongs ever being used as Nazareth Lodge. I deny that I ever used curling tongs on **HIA 10** hair or on any other girl's hair.
14. My recollection is that with the older children we had no involvement in their bathing and they would have gone to the shower themselves and tended to their own hair.
15. Nor can I remember the children's hair being checked for lice and I never did nor did I use a lice comb.
16. In relation to the allegation concerning an incident in a lift I was never in a lift with **HIA 10** I do not recall any child being in the lift, which was the lift was to the front of the Lodge and visitors used the front entrance.
17. The only time I used the lift was for taking the meals trolley up to the children for the serving of their meals upstairs. No child accompanied me in the lift to take up the meals trolley. I do not believe the children themselves used the lift as they came in the backdoor from school.
18. I deny that I assaulted **HIA 10** I did not slap her on the face and did not tell her that no one cared about her, no one wanted her, or that she was worthless and would amount to nothing.
19. Similarly I did not ever see **NL 150** assault **HIA 10** nor make such comments to her.
20. In my experience the children under my care were very well looked after and well resourced with pocket money and leisure activities.

Dated this 12 day of February 2015

Signed:.

NL 114

OTHER 37/41

OBSERVATIONS

(Include any additional matter relevant for DPP consideration, eg sectarian background of case, whether any other incidents linked to the present case are being separately investigated)

These complaints came about as a result of police interviewing past residents of Nazareth Lodge Children's Home, residents over a 20 year period. Approximately 650 residents have been interviewed and no other complaints have been made against [REDACTED] NL 114

RECOMMENDATIONS
AS TO CHARGES
AND PROCEEDINGS*

(Stated shortly by reference to offence, IP, date and venue)

Due to the nature of the allegation and to the passage of time I feel there is insufficient evidence to secure a conviction in this case and accordingly would recommend no further action.

Signature of Reporting Officer



Date

16/8/96

STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: [REDACTED] HIA 10

NL 150, who was a member of staff, used to slap me about the face and NL 114 another member of staff, used to do the same.

Before my sisters and I were fostered we were advertised as being up for fostering in some paper, I think it may have been the parish news. My foster parents showed this to me when I went to live with them. I do not recall a priest by the name of Father Brendan Smyth.

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

[REDACTED] HIA 10

CHECKED AND CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL SIGNED :

INCIDENT B255 170796 OP23

OTHER DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

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DOCUMENT D877

NL 114

I might've struck out or something, you know a smack or something, never to the fact, never in a, a beat, you know all the time (inaudible), no way.

When you say you struck out now, what would you be talking about.

NL 114

Och just -

- Would that've been regular but.

NL 114

Och no way, no, no. I can't even recall that child honestly.

Right.

NL 114

I can recall [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but I can't recall [REDACTED], was she the youngest one. If I seen a photograph -

- She was the youngest, ehhe, they were the older sisters, them 2.

NL 114

When you started off I'm getting them mixed up in a family downstairs, there was 3 wee girls but I can't even recall [REDACTED] and the only reason I can recall [REDACTED] would

INCIDENT B255 170796 OP23

OTHER DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

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DOCUMENT D877

But you can't recall ever -

NL 114

- No, not, no way did I do those things on those 2 children, no. I can't even recall

[REDACTED].

Ehhe. That covers most of it. Well as you say there, you might've, you might've hit out.

NL 114

I just ehhe -

- Obviously a smack on the bum or something like that, is that what you're talking about.

NL 114

Never no punishment or anything like that there, not, I've never given out punishment like that.

Well why would you've hit out there like. What sort of a scenario are you talking about.

NL 114

I don't know. I don't know, I remember they were put to their rooms just, put to bed early and that was by [REDACTED] SR 46's, not orders, but it was just the done thing if they done something wrong they were really

**Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions**

Royal Courts of Justice Belfast BT1 3NX
Belfast 542444

RUC Ref: [REDACTED]

DPP Ref: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: DE LA SALLE ENQUIRY
R -v- [REDACTED] NL 114

Chief ConstableDIRECTION

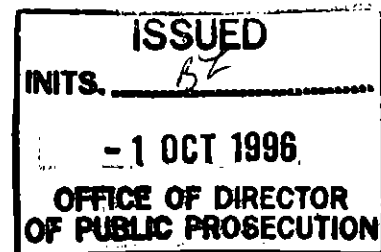
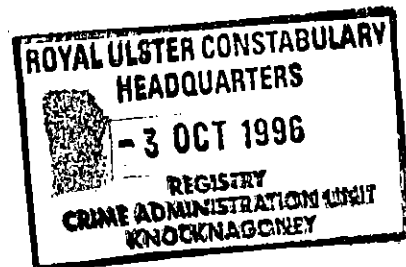
I direct no prosecution.

The evidence is insufficient to afford a reasonable prospect of conviction for any specific offence.

Police investigation file is returned herewith.

A T G WHITE
for Director of Public Prosecutions

1 October 1996



AW/MB

any such thing.

Right.

SR 153

Never I'm certain of that now.

Right.

SR 153

(inaudible).

She goes on to say as well, now is a very,
it's very ehm a brief complaint it's not -

SR 153

Yeah.

- too much to it, it was another day that she
was sitting on the fire escape waiting for
her sisters to come home from school and
again she got a beating for no reason. Again
she, she couldn't remember the exact details
of that there.

SR 153

No, the children, children came in from
school from the other side.

Right.

Name: SR 46

Date: 21 January 2015

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of SR 46

I, SR 46, will say as follows: -

1. I have been shown a number of documents numbered SNB 60174-SNB 60254. These are records of police investigations carried out some time ago and include a number of allegations and a copy of my interview notes.
2. I confirm that the response I gave then to the allegations of NL 58 at pages SNB 60206 – SNB 60210 are the same now as then. I have no recollection of any report of this kind. I also have no memory of any meeting of the girls as described.
3. I have also considered the allegations made by NL 88. I remember NL 88 and her brother NL 59 her twin and also her older brother and younger brother. I liked NL 88. She was a very pleasant, friendly girl. I think she is now working as a psychic. I recall an incident when I saw a love bite on her neck and asked her about it. She denied it at first and then asked how a nun would know about things like that. I explained that I was not always a nun. I reported this to her social worker who then investigated the incident and it turned out that her father had been abusing her. Social services became involved and there were restrictions imposed on his visiting and he reacted very badly. On one occasion he was grabbing me by the shoulder and a staff member, NL 114, saw him through a window and ran down the stairs to make sure I was ok and told me I was needed somewhere else. NL 114 then told me she had lied as I was not needed but she was just concerned about me.
4. I do recall an incident where NL 88 complained about Brendan Smyth. Again my memory now is pretty much what I recalled in my police interview. I recall NL 88

PRIVATE

ruler with white stitching which she hit us with. If she wanted to hit you she would grab anything that was nearby. We were also hit with bamboo canes. The nuns favoured the children of families who had money and the families who appreciate how their children were looked after.

8. **NL 150** and another member of staff called **NL 114** would curl your hair and they would burn the back of your neck with the curling tongs intentionally. When checking for lice, the staff used a silver lice comb, but they did it so hard, it left me with scares and cut on my head and neck. I remember bleeding, and seeing other girls bleeding.
9. **NL 114** was a terrible person. I was in the lift once with her and **NL 150** I mentioned my grandmother and said she was dead. I was then slapped on the face and told that no one cared about me, no one wanted me, that I was worthless and I would amount to nothing. I was told the same thing all the time.
10. **NL 150** married **NL 14** the grounds man. He would come up in the evenings with sweets and get us to rub his shoulders and his feet. He had wondering hands and I tried my best to stay away from him. He would play with your hair and then rub his hands down your back and then move round to your front and I would then wriggle away. He would pretend to tickle us, and then accidentally touch your chest, and his hand was always around your bum. There was another grounds man called **NL 151** and my sister **NL 130**, told me that he interfered with her. He used to take her out on the bus and that it was when it happened.
11. My uncle came to visit us on a Sunday and he would bring three packets of polo mints. He was not allowed to take us out at the start. He would just sit with us in the Lodge. They made us sit in a foyer, close to the living room, so there was always someone from the Lodge around and we could not talk freely. There were a couple of occasions when we were allowed to go to his house. I do not remember my brothers ever coming to visit.

Lists of contacts with NL 215 and HIA 5 during 1984

Case transferred to me 19/12/83 from [REDACTED]

Date	Details
21.12.83	Met NL 215 and HIA 5 and SR 119. Noted NL 215 looked sad/upset as I left. Boys coming home for Christmas.
04.01.84	Phoned SR 119. Boys happy-go home each Saturday-overnight once per month.
06.01.84	Visit to Nazareth House is postponed-also home visit HIA 5 had measles.
13.01.84	Nazareth visit. HIA 5 and NL 215 needing cuddles-then active playing for one hour+. Did not want me to leave. HIA 5 was going to Beavers-home tomorrow. They asked for extra weekend-promised consideration/discussion.
21.01.84	Home visit cancelled. NL 215 has measles
25.01.84	Appointment with Principle Harberton school re. HIA 5. Positive-spent time with HIA 5, very friendly.
03.02.84	Nazareth visit boys out playing. HIA 5 very boisterous-good fun.
29.01.84	Nazareth visit. Boys well, out in park. SR 119 -all well after weekend home visit. Informed that NL 215 was anxious- disturbed when younger.
24.03.84	Nazareth visit. Took boys out. NL 215 very active-both excited sister SR 119 stated both "demanding and waring".
05.04.84	Nazareth visit. Time spent with NL 215 and HIA 5 -didn't take them out-gave sweets-pleased. All seemed well. Boys asked to go home at weekends.
03.05.84	Contact with Harberton school principal re. HIA 5. Settled-pleased with progress.