

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 48

Witness Name: [REDACTED] HIA 48

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] HIA 48

I, [REDACTED] HIA 48 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in the Mater Maternity Unit, Belfast.
2. I am one of ten children. I have four older brothers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and five younger siblings [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Two of my siblings died when they were young. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
3. My parents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were separated and I lived in [REDACTED] with my mother and siblings.
4. I was placed in Nazareth Lodge when I was seven years old and remained there for five years until I was twelve. Most of my siblings stayed at home but I think my brother [REDACTED] was in Nazareth Lodge at the same time as me and my other brother [REDACTED] was in Kircubbin.

Nazareth Lodge, Belfast ([REDACTED] - [REDACTED])

5. I don't know why I was placed in Nazareth Lodge. I was in the Sacred Heart Group. [REDACTED] SR 184 was in charge but then [REDACTED] she left so

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SR 52 was in charge. SR 52 was a lovely nun. There were some nice nuns and some wicked nuns.

6. NL 4 was the civilian member of staff in charge of our group. She was left in charge of us whenever the nuns were at prayers or in care meetings. She was a wicked one. I used to wet the bed sometimes and she would grab your face and rub your nose in the soiled sheets. She would beat me as well with her hands or with whatever object she had to hand. She took a stick to my hands. You didn't have to do anything wrong to be beaten by NL 4. She just constantly beat you for nothing. On one occasion, she stripped me and another girl to our pants and locked us in the dining room. It was freezing cold. She also forced us to wash in cold water. I still remember the smell of the Jeyes fluid from the bath. I saw other children getting beaten by NL 4.
7. Another staff member called NL 14 used to chase me and hit me. He was wicked. Other people said he touched children. NL 122 hit me as well – NL 5 was the staff member in charge of the little boys' group but I had nothing to do with her.
8. The food in the Lodge was really poor. I would call it slops. We got porridge but I wouldn't eat it, it made me sick. For dinner, we just got a tiny bit of meat and a bit of potato. If you didn't eat your dinner, you would be given it the next day. The cook was a lovely woman. It wasn't her fault the food was so bad; she was just doing her job. There were some lovely people in the Lodge.
9. I went to school It was alright. I could read a bit but my maths wasn't good. Before I went into the Lodge I had been going to St. Kevin's school on the .

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10. We used to play outside in the big field. There were swings and monkey bars and we loved getting out to play but we dreaded going back in. I had lots of friends in the Lodge.
11. We went to Mass every morning and on Sundays. I made my First Holy Communion in the home but there was no fuss at all. I just made it with all the other children and there were no family members invited.
12. We went to Christmas parties outside the home and we were given toys but when we got back to the Lodge they were taken off us by [NL 4]. I don't remember ever having a special dinner at Christmas or anything. My birthday was never celebrated in the home. We went on holidays to Ballyhorgan during the summer and we were given more slops to eat there.
13. I don't recall ever seeing anyone inspecting the home or any senior nuns visiting. I don't believe I ever saw a doctor or a dentist while I was in the Lodge.
14. Whenever anyone came to visit me in the Lodge, there was always somebody present in the room during the visit. It would either be the nuns or [NL 4] [NL 4]. Someone from the Welfare used to come to visit me. I remember one social worker called [NL249]. My mother also visited me, as did my brothers who came up from Kircubbin to see me. Before these visits, the nuns and [NL 4] would tell me not to be telling tales but you couldn't say anything anyway because they were sitting there the whole time. I felt like they were listening in. I didn't tell anyone about the abuse anyway because in those days nobody would have believed you. I just kept it all in. You daren't talk about it and even if you did, no one would believe you.
15. I remember Father Brendan Smyth coming to visit the home. He would bounce me up and down on his knee and say I was a good girl. He would give me a bag of sweets as well. Looking back now, I can see this was inappropriate but I didn't realise at the time as I was so young. Although I was never sexually assaulted by Father Brendan Smyth, as an adult I now know

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he was getting sexual gratification from doing this to me. I also think he was abusing other children. We children in the home were very vulnerable. Father Brendan Smyth just got moved from parish to parish, it was a cover up.

16. I was always running away from the Lodge with another girl. We would just go anywhere but the police always caught us and brought us back. I remember going home at weekends and I always cried because I didn't want to go back to the Lodge. They would send you out in the best of gear at the weekends but when you came back they gave you old things to put on. It was all a front. It was the same at school. The nuns made sure you weren't going out to school in busted shoes but as soon as you came in from school, you were stripped and put into old rags.

17. When I was about 12 I was abused by a man who lived in [REDACTED] near Nazareth Lodge. He took me to a hut in Cherryvale grounds and put his hand down my pants. A busman found me and brought me down to the police station. I think the police phoned the Lodge then. I wanted the case brought to court but [REDACTED] NL 4 and one of the nuns told me not to be telling lies. When the case came to court they told me to say I didn't recognise the man. I was afraid so I said I didn't recognise him and the case was dismissed. I don't think there was a line up or anything. The nuns said that full sexual intercourse took place but that was lies.

18. I was discharged home for a trial period on 24th December 1976 and discharged from care in September 1977.

19. I spent a week in the Good Shepherd in Derry when I was 16 but I ran away on 12th June 1981 because I didn't like it. I went to live with a friend of my mother's called [REDACTED]

Life after care

20. The time I spent in Nazareth Lodge has affected my life greatly. I have never been able to work and I rely on unemployment benefit. I suffer from

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depression and am on medication for it. I still have dreams about the home and I wake up breaking out in a sweat.

21. I have three children – [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is 26 and is currently trying to get work. [REDACTED] is 10 and is in school. I am no longer with [REDACTED] father, we broke up six years ago. I never married.

22. My mother is still alive. She is 76 now and in good health. I go up to visit her every day; she doesn't live far from me. I can see now how tough she had it with ten children. She had to raise us on her own and it was hard for her. I had no contact with my father and he died in October 2012. We didn't find out until six months after he died; we heard it from his family. I am not close to any of my siblings.

23. I came forward with my story after hearing reports about Nazareth Lodge in the media. Before that, I was too scared to speak out because I thought nobody would believe me. I just want the truth to come out. The nuns aren't telling the truth about what went on; they're trying to cover it up like they've always done.

24. I reported the abuse I suffered to the police. A police officer named Fiona Mills came out to my house and took a statement from me. I believe the police questioned [REDACTED] NL 4 in/around October 2012 but I have heard nothing further.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

HIA 48

Dated

27.11.14

[illegible]

HISTORY SHEET

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HIA48 is coming home more often. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

November 1974.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HIA48 was at home frequently during the summer, and the sisters at Nazareth Lodge felt that these visits were upsetting the child [REDACTED]

HIA REF: _____

Witness Name: **NL 122**

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF **NL 122****NL 122** will say as follows:-

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] area with the family name of **NL 122**. I changed the spelling of my name slightly in later life. I believe I was placed as a baby in the nursery at St Joseph's Baby Home before moving to Nazareth Lodge Home aged five years where I remained until eleven years. I then moved to Kircubbin until I was sometime around the age of sixteen years. I have no wish to discuss my own experiences in any of these homes.
2. I returned on occasion to Nazareth Lodge [REDACTED] where I sometimes helped out a man named **NL 198** who worked [REDACTED]. **NL 198** retired and I secured his job. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] My immediate supervisor was **NL 11**. There were other employees there as well as me who did the same work such as **NL 200** and **NL 201**. I have no knowledge of a [REDACTED]. I never had any dealings or supervisory roles in respect of the children at the home. I have never chastised or punished any child at the home. I have read the allegations apparently naming me and I deny them absolutely.
3. I was asked to appear at a police station and had the allegations put to me. I did not bring a solicitor as I had nothing to fear from the investigation and denied the allegations to the police completely. The only explanation I can make is that the complainants are making a mistake over identification. I also believe that I never worked into nights and that the children at the home would have been at school when I was at work as I finished normally between 4.30 and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday. I had no connections to any of the children and would not even have known any of them during my employment.
4. I deny sexually or physically abusing any child at any time in any way. I deny the allegations and suggestions made by **NL 8**, **DL 40** and **HIA 48**. There is simply no truth in this and the incidents as described never occurred.

Dated this ^{10th} day of February 2015Signed **NL 122**

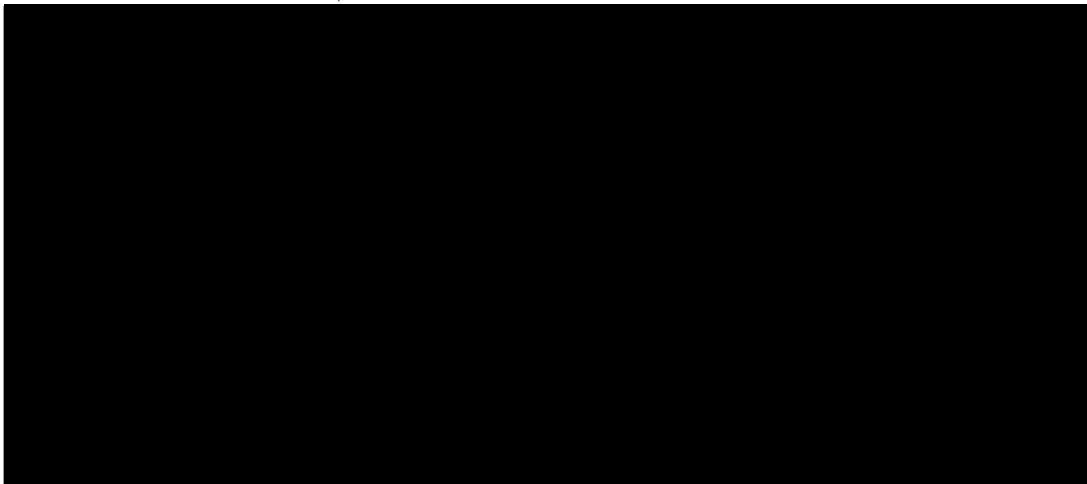
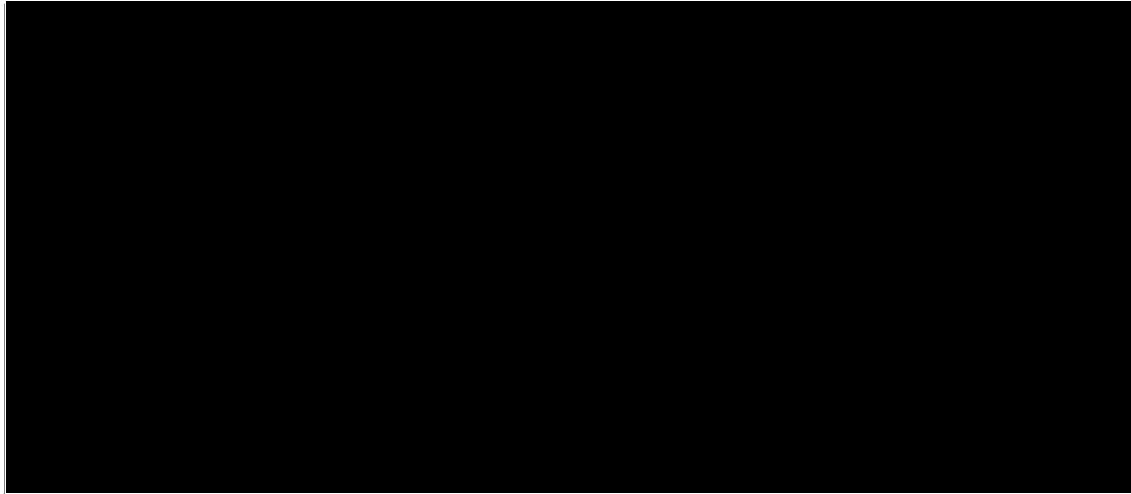
HIA REF: NL 4

NAME: NL4

DATE:

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Second Supplementary Witness Statement of NL4 – NL 4



HIA48

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4. I have been provided with a copy of this person's statement to the HIA Inquiry which is dated 27th November 2014. I have previously commented on the two statements made by HIA48 to the police but I was surprised to read she is now making further new allegations against me. My comments on these are as follows.

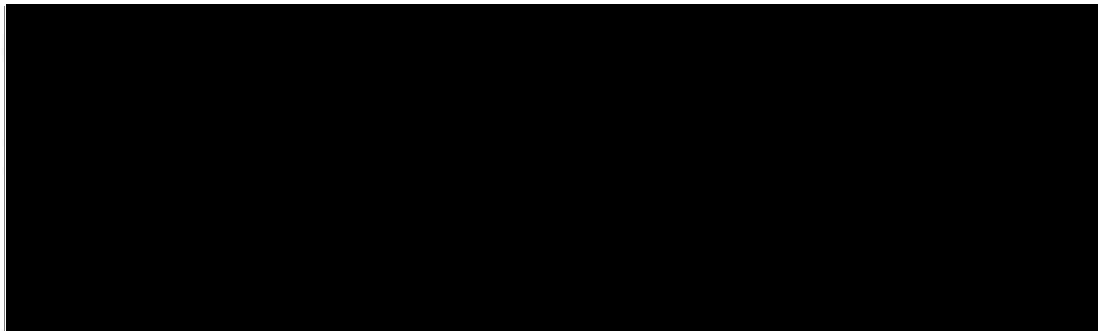
5. It is quite possible I worked with a nun supervising the Scared Heart Group during part of the time HIA48 was in this group but as I have previously stated, I spent a considerable part of the 1970's working and living outside Belfast.

6. I deny all the allegations she has made in paragraph 6 of her statement and I never put Jeyes Fluid into bath water. I do recall from time to time children would have been given toys as gifts when they went to Christmas parties outside the home and it is also true the toys would have been taken from the children and not left in the dormitories. However the toys would have been left in another room and the children could have played with them at certain times. I do not recall being in the home at Christmas time as I usually spent this with my own family. However I would say that the staff and the nuns ate food prepared from the same kitchen as the children and I also recall everybody ate the same food at the holiday home in Ballyhornan during the summer.

7. In paragraph 13 she claims there were no inspections and doctors and dentists did not visit the Home. My recollection is that whenever a child needed medical treatment, they would have been taken out to see the doctor.

8. I cannot recall what visitors came to see HIA48 during her time in Nazareth Lodge. My recollection is that usually visitors came to take the child out for the afternoon or at weekends but it is also possible visitors would see the child in the parlour of the home. I would not be present and I did not supervise visits as she has alleged.

9. In paragraph 17 of her statement she makes an allegation which I was not previously aware of. What I can say is I was never told or heard anything about an allegation she was sexually abused by a man outside the Home. If this did happen, and the police were informed, then I do not believe the nuns would have told me about it. I certainly would have no reason to become involved or attempt to influence what she told the police or a court. The police never mentioned this allegation to me when I was interviewed by them at Musgrave Street Police Station on 19th October 2012. If she is now saying this is what happened to her during her time in Nazareth I wonder why she did not mention it on either of the two occasions she made statements to the police.



Statement of Truth

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

Signed: **NL4**

Dated: 6 Feb 2015

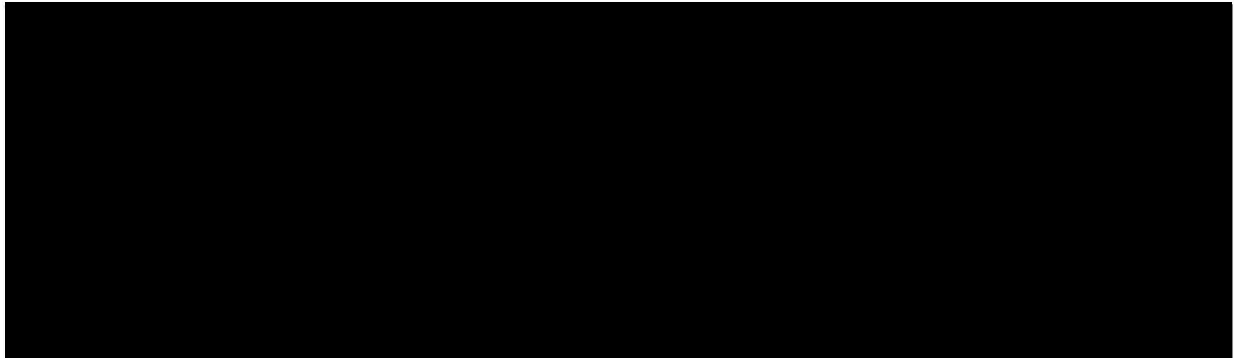
THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of [NL14]

I, [NL14] will say as follows:-

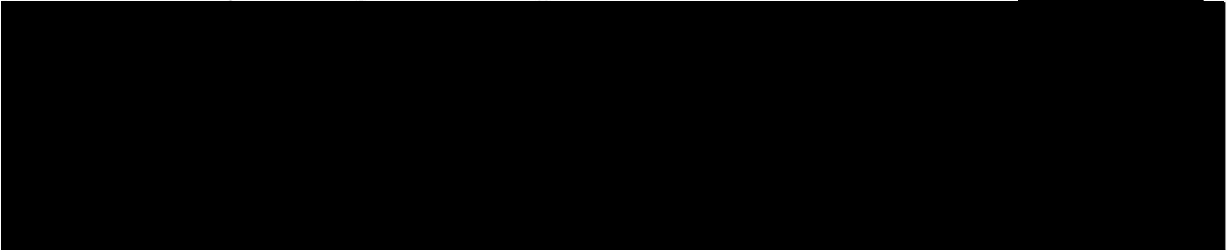
I was born on [REDACTED] and entered Nazareth Lodge as a child in the early 1950s. I stayed there until I was 11 or 12 when I moved to Rubane House. I enjoyed my upbringing in Nazareth Lodge and Rubane House and have no complaints about how I was treated in either institution.

I left Rubane when I was about 16 and went to work. Since leaving care I have always regularly called up to Nazareth Lodge to visit the nuns and I would often stay and have something to eat usually at tea time, about 5pm – 6pm when I had finished work.



Nazareth Lodge had living quarters and games rooms and a kitchen on the ground floor and bedrooms on the first floor. I was familiar with the lay out as I had lived there as a boy. I have never been in any of the rooms since leaving Nazareth Lodge, except when walking through with one of the nuns to get something to eat from the kitchen.

In relation to the specific allegations made against me I wish to assert the following. [REDACTED]



I know there was a [HIA48] at Nazareth Lodge. I had no contact whatsoever with her. I knew her because her brother was also there [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I totally deny the allegations HIA48 [REDACTED] has made against me. I was never a member of staff at Nazareth Lodge. I have never chased HIA48 [REDACTED] or hit her or was wicked to her. I have never touched any child in Nazareth Lodge. I completely deny the allegations HIA48 [REDACTED] has made against me and have no idea why she has made these allegations.

[REDACTED]

Statement of Truth

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

Signe

NL14

Dated

16-3-2015

EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
NORTH AND WEST BELFAST DISTRICT

149 Falls Road,
BELFAST BT12 6AF.

MEMORANDUM

From Mr. J.P. Dunne, A.P.S.W.
Ref. AD/mf.

To Mr. R. Blair, P.S.W.
Ref. 18th December, 1978.

Re: [REDACTED] HIA 48, [REDACTED].
[REDACTED]

We have been informed by Nazareth Lodge that there will be a place available for this child after Christmas. However, [REDACTED] SR 52 who had been closely involved with [REDACTED] HIA 48 during her previous admission to care has informed me that [REDACTED] HIA 48 had had a sexual relationship with a man who lives in [REDACTED], which is near the Nazareth complex. Apparently the relationship lasted for several months and according to the police medical reports, full sexual intercourse took place. The man met [REDACTED] HIA 48 coming from school and took her to a hut in Cherryvale grounds. When the case came to court, [REDACTED] HIA 48 said she did not recognise the man and the case was dismissed. Following the court case, the sisters escorted [REDACTED] HIA 48 to and from the bus stop and [REDACTED] HIA 48 was discharged home very shortly afterwards because of this relationship.

In view of this information the staff at Nazareth are very reluctant to accept [REDACTED] HIA 48 back feeling that this relationship might start again and Mrs. [REDACTED] has also expressed fears about this. We feel therefore that it might be in [REDACTED] HIA 48's best interest to be placed elsewhere in Board accommodation in the Belfast area if this is available because of the concern of the staff in the Nazareth Lodge - a concern which we are in agreement with. Perhaps the situation could be discussed with Miss J. Williams with a view to a possible admission to Williamson House, if accommodation is available there.

J.P. Dunne.
J.P. DUNNE (Mr),
Ass. Principal Social Worker.

NL 169

*Phoned [REDACTED]
Will send copies of reports.
Cannot trace file.*

small wooden ruler to slap children for misbehaviour. However he has said I went round the boys in bed who were in a different group and attacked them before I did the same to him. I would never have gone to another group as he alleges as I had no responsibility for them. I am sure there would have been a nun or other lay worker supervising this other group and I could not have simply gone into another Nissan Hut and beat these boys without another adult noticing. I do not recall what HIA 225 has alleged in paragraph 23 of his HIA statement. I do not believe I would ever have insulted a child because they had failed an exam such as the Eleven plus. In paragraph 20 he refers to a television show called "Tommy's Toy Shop", in fact I believe he means the TV show "Tea Time With Tommy". I recall going to the television studio with NL 5 and four boys who sang a song. I cannot recall if HIA 225 was one of them. I also do not remember if the four boys were given toys afterwards but if they were I do not accept I would have taken the toys away afterwards.

47. In addition to the HIA participants, I have been provided with details of other allegations made against me.

NL 8

48. She made a statement to the police on 19th July 1995 in which she stated she was born on [REDACTED] and her maiden name was [REDACTED]. She stated she was 7 years old when she returned to Nazareth Lodge and remained there for about 3 years – i.e. from around 1971 until 1974. I worked in Nazareth Lodge for only part of the time she was a resident. The police investigation report refers to an initial interview of NL 8 on 23rd January 1995. At that time she did not make any allegation against me although she did describe a minor incident involving another member of staff which allegedly occurred in the girl's toilets. The fact that she did give some information to the police but did not make any allegations against me at that time is surprising and the police have commented that this undermines her credibility.

49. In her second statement she describes in detail a particular incident involving both her and another child, HIA 48. The police then approached HIA 48 seeking to corroborate her account.

50. However when she made her statement HIA 48 stated she had no recollection of me assaulting the two girls as described by NL 8. Given the description of this incident by NL 8 which included me locking the two girls in a shoe cupboard before beating them so hard that their bodies were covered in welt marks from the cane, I believe HIA 48 would have recalled this incident if it had in fact occurred. The fact is however NL 8 has described this incident in an exaggerated manner to portray me as a cruel and vicious person. My immediate response to her allegations when put to me by the police was that they were simply untrue and they did not happen.

51. I also told the police I had some difficulty recalling NL 8 although during my initial interview I said I had a vague recollection of her. After the police interview I reflected on what they had said and after a period of time I did in fact recall some detail about this incident but not in the way described by NL 8. I mentioned this to the police when I was interviewed by them a second time and I will refer to it later.