

HIA REF: [ NL 4]

NAME: [ ]

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995Witness Statement of [REDACTED] – NL 4

1. I was born in Belfast on 8th February 1938. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. I had some contact with the Sisters of Nazareth and I went to Nazareth Lodge Children's Home on the Ormeau Road, Belfast for some work experience at the beginning of 1956. I recall I worked with the toddlers who were children up to the age of 4. [REDACTED]  
Belfast and so after a period [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This was in July 1956. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I was homesick and wanted to return to Belfast.

2. With the passage of time it is difficult for me to recall the precise dates of my work history but I can say that I worked in Nazareth Lodge (the Boys' Home) for a number of periods up to 1975. I worked for periods of time in Liverpool, Manchester and I worked in the USA as a domestic help. In all, I worked in the USA for four separate periods but no longer than a year on each occasion. [REDACTED]  
in Wales as a novice nun but left after 1 ½ years. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I found it difficult to settle in England and this is why I kept returning home. With the assistance of my medical records I have been able to identify periods of time during these years from 1956 until 1975 when I was definitely living outside Northern Ireland. In July 1956 for instance I was living in [REDACTED] London. In November 1957 I was registered with a GP in [REDACTED] Manchester. In March 1963 I attended the Royal Gwent Hospital and my address then was [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and again when attending hospital clinics in September 1963 and in January 1964, my home address was still [REDACTED] There are medical records dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 1972, 16<sup>th</sup> October 1972 and 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1973 when my address is noted as [REDACTED] Manchester. There are a number of records during 1974 and 1975 in which my address is given as [REDACTED] Liverpool. In 1975 I went to work in South Africa and stayed there almost continuously until 1991 when I returned to Belfast.

3. I have a number of testimonials and references which I obtained in connection with my various applications for employment and these confirm my irregular periods of employment at Nazareth Lodge in Belfast. The first is dated 26<sup>th</sup> August 1968 and is signed by SR 172 [REDACTED] of Nazareth Lodge in Belfast and refers to my work as a House Mother for the past two years. The next reference is from Kiddies Kingdom Nursery School in Johannesburg and is stamp dated 11<sup>th</sup> August 1975. This confirms my employment as a nursery school assistant. A third is dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1978 and is signed by SR 34 [REDACTED] and refers to my work during the 1960s with under privileged children.

4. The next one is dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 1975 and is signed by SR 47 of Nazareth Lodge and it states I worked for short periods as an assistant House Mother from July 1974 to September 1975. SR 47 then wrote a further reference for me which is dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1978 and refers to my work as a House Mother in Nazareth Lodge.

5. I am also enclosing two further references regarding my employment in South Africa. The first is dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 1980 from [REDACTED] and the second is dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 1990 from City Deep Adult Education Centre. I also have a number of certificates for Child Care courses which I undertook in South Africa after 1975 as I preferred to work with young children, particularly those who were disadvantaged.

6. I would estimate that during the period between 1956 and 1975 I would have worked in Nazareth for less than half of this period and my best estimate is that if I totaled up all the periods I worked in Nazareth Lodge it would be between 7 and 9 years.

7. A number of allegations of child cruelty have been made against me. I was interviewed by the police about these allegations on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1996 and again on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012. A number of people have also made statements to the HIA Inquiry. I deny I used excessive force or that I was cruel to any child. I also deny the sole allegation made by one former resident that I indecently assaulted him. Before I comment on the specific allegations, I intend to give some background information and describe the work I carried out at Nazareth Lodge.

8. Most of my work was with boys of primary school age, between the ages of 4 and 11. At some stage during the 1960s when I returned to Nazareth Lodge the decision had been taken to keep brothers and sisters together and so I would have had some limited contact with girls, but the majority of children I supervised and looked after were boys.

9. I was employed by the Sisters of Nazareth. They provided my board and keep and I received a very small wage. I normally stayed overnight in staff accommodation. Initially the staff members shared an attic room and sometime later proper staff quarters were provided. This was separate from the dormitories where the children slept.

10. I received no instructions or training during my work in Nazareth Lodge. I was given no information about any particular child. I worked under the direction of a nun who was in charge of each of the four groups of boys. I did not attend any meetings and no personal details about individual children were discussed with me. I did not meet social workers or get information from them when they called to visit children at the Home from time to time. I also received no guidance or instructions in relation to the discipline of children. When a child was unruly or misbehaved, I would have sometimes slapped them with my open hand. Normally I would have slapped them on their hands or their legs. On occasion I may have slapped them on their bottom. This was a spontaneous thing. I did not use excessive force or cause any bruises or marks on a child's body. I also used a ruler from time to time to slap a child but this would normally have been one or two slaps and again I never used excessive force. I did not carry the ruler around with me but would have picked it up if it was lying around. However more frequently I would have used my open hand to slap a child for misbehaviour.



11. In common with the other House Mothers, I worked very long hours at Nazareth Lodge. The day would begin at around 6am when I got up and after dressing I would go to the dormitory to waken the children. We all went to morning mass and then supervised the children at breakfast. After this the children would help us make their beds before going to school. If there was some spare time, I would ask the children to do other simple chores. Some of the older children would have been provided with cloths and told to polish the floors. They would have done this by putting the cloths on their feet and moving up and down. They did not have to get down onto their knees. This would only have been for 15 or 20 minutes. When the children were at school, I would have carried out general housework. This would include cleaning and sometimes ironing clothes. At mealtimes I would have supervised the children.

12. After school I would have continued to supervise the children and they normally went to bed between 6pm and 7pm. As some of the children were known to regularly wet their beds, I would have taken it in turns, along with the nun in charge of the group, to waken those children at around 9pm and bring them to the toilet close to the dormitory. If the bedclothes were wet, they would be changed and the soiled bedclothes left in a pile until the morning time. I would only have wakened up those children who were known to bed wet frequently. After this I had no further contact with the children during the night. A nun would have slept in a small cubicle or annex in the dormitory. Each of the four groups had their own dormitory and the nun in charge slept close by. If there were any further problems during the night, the nun would have dealt with it. My sleeping quarters were some distance away.

13. On Saturdays the children were sometimes taken to the Curzon Cinema on the Ormeau Road which was several hundred yards away. As the nuns would be out collecting money, I would sometimes have to supervise between 80 and 100 children by myself and bring them to the cinema on the Ormeau Road. I was always worried that something would happen to a child while I was taking such a large number out of the Home but thankfully nothing untoward ever occurred and I was always relieved when they came back safely. During the summer the children were taken away for a holiday for a number of weeks to Ballyhornan and if I was working there at that time I would have gone as well. There would have been nuns and other staff members there to supervise the children and I always recall the children were happy to get away during this time.

[REDACTED] – HIA reference 16.

14. HIA 16 [REDACTED] made a statement to the Inquiry about his time in care at Nazareth Lodge and the police interviewed me on two separate occasions about his allegations.

15. HIA 16 came to Nazareth Lodge around 1959 and stayed until 1967. I was working at Nazareth Lodge for part of the time he was in the Home. For substantial periods of time, I was living and working in England and Wales, although there were periods when I was working as a House Mother and I recall HIA 16.

16. In his statement to the Inquiry he alleges I used to beat him all the time. He said it was an almost daily occurrence. He alleges I used a rubber bat and struck him all over his body. He claimed I would go around all the groups bullying the boys and would hit them and call them names. He alleged I used to argue with the nuns and the other staff as well.

He claims he had plenty of bruises on him but that he never received any medical treatment as a result of these beatings. He claimed I would make him sleep with his head under the blankets to make sure he would fall asleep quickly. I reject all of his allegations completely. I never had a rubber bat. I never used excessive force or was cruel to him as he alleged. It is quite possible I had to chastise him from time to time and although I do not recall it, it is quite possible I would have slapped him if he was unruly or was misbehaving.

17. His account to the Inquiry is inconsistent with his allegations made against me in his two statements to the police. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

18. I was employed by the Sisters of Nazareth as an assistant House Mother and then was described as simply a House Mother. In his statement to the police he states I came into his dormitory when he was asleep and took him out to the shower room. He said I then told him to take off his pyjamas and that I would then touch his private parts and after this I would beat him with a rubber bat all over his back which left him bruised and very sore.

19. He said this type of abuse which was both sexual and physical was carried out on a regular basis from when he was about six years up until he left when he was eleven. He alleged he was abused sexually in this way about twice a week. However none of this is even mentioned in his statement to the Inquiry. This appears to be the most serious allegation he has made against me but yet it does not feature at all in his Inquiry statement. However what I recall is that HIA 16 [REDACTED] defecated in his bed regularly at night. As I have already stated, it was normal practice for either myself or the nun to waken those children known to have a problem at nighttime.

20. Whilst the usual difficulty was that some children wet their beds at night, I specifically recall HIA 16 [REDACTED] would have defecated in his bed. He might have been nine or ten years old when this happened and I recall he was difficult to deal with after this occurred. I would have to take him into the toilet and he would have refused to clean himself. I therefore would have had to wash around his bottom. For some reason he has chosen not to mention this in his statement to the police but instead has suggested I was sexually assaulting him for no particular reason. I am sure I was not the only staff member who would have had to wash HIA [REDACTED] in this way.

21. In his police statement he describes what he alleges is the last beating he got from me. He stated this was on a holiday in Ballyhorman, Co. Down during the last year he was in Nazareth Lodge. He was 11 at the time. He claims that one day, for absolutely no reason, when he was talking to NL 6 [REDACTED] I came over and grabbed him by the throat and pushed his head against a pebble dashed wall which resulted in the back of his head being cut open. He claimed blood ran down his back. He then was ordered by me to go and get a bath tub of boiling hot water but when he returned, assisted by HIA 21 [REDACTED] he claims he threw some of the boiling water over my leg and that I started screaming and ran off. The two individuals whom he claims were present, namely NL 6 [REDACTED] and HIA 21 [REDACTED] have not come forward to corroborate his account.



22. Initially when the police described this incident to me I said it did not happen and could not recall anything about it. This was because the police were putting to me allegations that I had carried out an assault on HIA 16 for no reason which resulted in him sustaining an injury to the back of his head. He then retaliated by deliberately throwing hot water over me.

23. Having thought about the matter subsequently, I have now been able to recall some details which could be related to this incident but I deny completely any allegation that he was assaulted or indeed that he deliberately poured hot water over me with the intention of causing me injury. I recall there was no hot running water in the chalets at Ballyhornan and so when it came to bath time which was on a Saturday evening staff members had to carry or supervise boys bringing a large pot of hot water from the kitchen over to the bath tub. Some of the older boys would have helped me carry this large pot. I recall on one occasion a small amount of hot water spilled over my foot. However this was an accident. I believe HIA 16 was carrying this pot and that two other boys were involved. I believe one of them was HIA 16 but I am not sure if HIA 21 was also there.

24. HIA 16 made a second statement to the police on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010 and he said he was part of the St. Martin's Group and that the nun in charge of his group was SR208. I believe he meant to refer to the Marion Group. I do not recall any SR working in Nazareth when I was there. There may have been an elderly nun called 208 at one stage but she did not actually work with any of the groups. In his statement he describes regular assaults and that I used a rubber bat to beat him all over his body. He alleges he was covered in bruises and was very sore. He claims I used to call him nicknames like rabbit and buck teeth. These are matters which he also has described in his HIA statement but I don't recall using those expressions or nicknames about him. It is always possible some of the other children called him these names but I have recollection of this. He alleges he saw me and another House Parent assaulting other boys using a rubber bat, like a tennis racket but I deny this.

25. In paragraph 7 of his HIA statement he claims that after he wet his bed, I used to threaten to put him in the washing machine. This is not true. I am aware others have made a similar type of allegation and I wonder if HIA 16 has spoken to other former residents about this. He describes this differently in his second police statement. He claims he was brought down to the washing machine and told if he wet the bed again he was going to be put in the machine and that it would be turned on.

26. He concludes his statement by claiming he saw me about two years earlier on the Antrim Road. He said he couldn't approach me as he was still in fear of me to this day.

27. While I am not in a position to say whether or not he did in fact observe me on the Antrim Road in Belfast I do recall very clearly meeting HIA 16 around the mid 1990s. I told the police about this meeting during my interview on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1996. He was a taxi driver who I now believe was working for Gransha Taxis, and he picked two of my sisters and myself up from the Glenowen Inn on the Glen Road, Belfast after we had a meal. I didn't recognise him but after he dropped my sister off at her home he said to me that he knew me. I had a friendly conversation with him and when I got out of the taxi at my house he said it would be nice to meet up sometime and have a drink. He shook hands with me as I was getting out of the taxi. I remember he said of his time in Nazareth that it was hard with the nuns being strict and I recall saying to him it was hard there for all of us.

28. In his account to the HIA Inquiry, HIA 16 [REDACTED] seems to imply that I beat him at times when the nuns were not around. He stated the nuns never saw the staff hitting him and that I used to wait until the nuns went to say their prayers before I came over to his group and started to beat him and the other boys. I note he has said in his statement that the nuns at Nazareth Lodge were all kind. However if the type of physical abuse he has described had in fact occurred, I do not believe it would have been possible for the nuns not to notice or be aware of it. In all of his accounts, he alleges I frequently left him bruised all over his body but yet no-one seems to have been aware of this and I was never reprimanded by any of the nuns for using excessive force or cruelty on children.

[REDACTED] – HIA reference 19

29. I have read the statement of HIA 19 [REDACTED] to the HIA Inquiry which is dated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2000 (?) and I am also aware he made a statement to the police on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010. I was interviewed by the police regarding his allegations on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

30. In his HIA statement he claims both NL 5 [REDACTED] and I would take boys into the laundry and that we would lift them, put them into the machine and close the lid for a few minutes and threaten to turn it on. He said he thought we did this as a deterrent to those boys who wet the bed. I note he refers to the boys as “us” and doesn’t specifically refer to himself when he describes this and he doesn’t mention the names of any of the other children who he alleges were put into the washing machine. However in his police statement he is more specific. He states both myself and NL 5 [REDACTED] used to take care of the laundry. He said on two occasions he recalled the two of us placing him inside the machine and closing the door for 30 seconds.

31. This did not happen. The laundry room was outside the main house. There was a lady who was in charge of the laundry room. I recall her name was [REDACTED]. The door to the laundry room would be locked when she wasn’t there. I did not have a key. I would have gone to the laundry room a few times every week, mainly to wash woollens which were done by hand. [REDACTED] would be there. On other occasions I would have left in some clothes to be washed or occasionally I would have picked up some clothes after they had been washed and ironed. I do not recall any occasion in which I would have gone to the laundry room, specifically with NL 5 [REDACTED]. It is possible she would have been there when I came into the laundry on occasion but we worked with separate groups of children and I would only come across her occasionally, most commonly during the supervision of children at mealtimes. I don’t recall HIA 19 [REDACTED]. I cannot say whether he was even in my group of children that I helped to supervise. I did work with different groups and I note he states he was placed in Our Lady’s Group. While it is possible I was looking after his group for a period of time, I believe the reason I don’t recall him is because I had only limited contact with him.

[REDACTED] – HIA reference 21

32. I have read the statement of HIA 21 [REDACTED] to the HIA Inquiry which is dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014. I am unaware if he made a statement to the police but I was not interviewed by the police in connection with his allegations.



33. He alleges from the age of 6 until he left Nazareth Lodge in August 1968 he suffered systematic physical and psychological abuse from me and that I dominated his existence. I categorically deny all the allegations he has made against me. In fact I do not even recall him although it is possible that I worked in his group for a period of time.

34. I do not believe I worked in Nazareth Lodge for a substantial part of the time he alleges I was abusing him. According to his account he was systematically abused by me from around 1962 until 1968 but I have already stated that for a substantial part of this time I was living and working in England, Wales and in the USA. However I would accept there were periods during the time HIA 21 [REDACTED] was in Nazareth Lodge that I was working as a House Mother. I refer to the reference from SR 172 [REDACTED] which is dated 26<sup>th</sup> August 1968. This describes my position as a House Mother for the past two years. This confirms my view that I was not working in Nazareth Lodge for most of the three or four years before this and so I could not have had any contact with HIA [REDACTED] during those particular years.

35. In his statement he describes incidents in which he was brought to the middle of the dining room, in front of all the other children, and food was forced into his mouth. During this time he alleges I was kicking and punching him and he states all the children in the room would have witnessed this. This did not happen. If this activity had taken place in front of all the children, then I would have thought others would have come forward and described it when making statements to the police. I also deny the allegation made against me in paragraph 9 of his statement in which he alleges I pushed a young boy called NL 72 [REDACTED] down the stairs. I vaguely remember NL 72 [REDACTED] but I don't recall if he had learning difficulties. I also don't know if he was in my group of boys but I definitely never pushed any child down the stairs.

36. He has described a serious assault during the summer holidays in Ballyhornan and that his foot was bleeding and he required to go to a local hospital for treatment. However he does not appear to have complained to anybody about his allegations against me on this or any other occasion and in particular he never mentioned any of this to the nuns with whom he appeared to get on well. He describes another assault on the very day he was leaving Nazareth Lodge but I find it puzzling he would not have gone to one of the nuns at that stage since he was about to leave Nazareth Lodge. I deny his allegations.

37. He concludes his statement by describing meeting both me and NL 5 [REDACTED] in later years. I have no recollection of meeting him in Andersonstown as he has alleged and I also note when he confronted NL 5 [REDACTED] she said she was unaware that I was physically abusive to him or any of the other boys. I also note he claims this meeting took place in 1976 or 1977 but I was not even in Belfast during those years. I have already stated I went to South Africa in 1975 and I have exhibited to my statement a reference from Kiddies Kingdown Nursery School in Johannesburg which is stamped dated 11<sup>th</sup> August 1975. In fact I remained in South Africa until 1991 apart from a brief holiday in January 1980 when I returned to Belfast for a few weeks.

[REDACTED] – HIA reference 104

38. HIA 104 [REDACTED] made his statement to the HIA Inquiry on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014. He stated he was born on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1963 and was admitted as an infant to Nazareth Lodge where he stayed until 29<sup>th</sup> August 1974 when he would have been 11 years old. He has described a single incident which he says occurred when he was between 8 and 10 years

old, between 1971 and 1973. He alleges that he was in the dormitory and NL 5 was making the bed and slapped him. He described me as her side kick and that I then came in and started to beat him as well.

39. I worked with a different group from NL 5 and it would be unusual for me to be working alongside or close to her in the morning time. I believe I was living and working in Manchester for most of the period between 1971 and 1973 but, I accept I was working in Nazareth Lodge when my mother died in 1974.

This is confirmed in the reference from [REDACTED] which is dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 1975. I believe I obtained this reference before going to work in South Africa.

40. HIA 104 made a statement to the police about this alleged incident on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010 but he described it in a slightly different way. In his police account he alleged I was the person assaulting him in the dormitory when in the middle of this NL 5 came into the room and told me something which resulted in me leaving the room in tears. He alleges he later found out that I had been told that my mother had died whereas in his statement to the HIA Inquiry, he claims I had been told it was my father who had died.

41. I do not recall HIA 104. I have no recollection of hitting him. I have a clear memory that it was SR 34 who told me that my mother had died. My mother died on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1974. My recollection is she died on a Tuesday night and I was told this first thing the following morning by SR 34. My brother had come up to Nazareth Lodge to tell me and as soon as I heard I went straight home with my brother.

I cannot think the nuns would have told NL 5 first of all and then asked her to tell me. I therefore believe the allegation made by HIA 104 could not possibly be true.

#### [REDACTED] - HIA reference 110

42. [REDACTED] made a statement to the police on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012 and a statement to the HIA Inquiry which is dated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013. I was interviewed by the police about his allegations on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and I told the police I remembered a man called HIA 110 who used to be in Nazareth Lodge and that I met him years later when he was working in Milltown cemetery. While I cannot be certain, I believe he is the same person and if it is, I am surprised by his allegations as he was always friendly and chatted to me when I met him in Milltown cemetery. I agree with some of the things he has said. I have already mentioned that I used to supervise the children sometimes on a Saturday when they were taken to the Curzon cinema on the Ormeau Road and I also agree that some of the other older children would have polished the floor and this would have happened usually in the morning before school when there was some free time after breakfast. This would normally only be for 15 or 20 minutes at a time. They stood with a cloth beneath their feet and moved it up and down. But I deny the allegations in paragraph 9 of his statement. I did not strike any child across the face if they did not like the food. I believe if this happened it would have been witnessed by other members of staff who were in the dining room. I also recall during the 1960's dinners became subsidized by the state. I recall the school lunches were prepared and brought into the dining room and I believe there were two ladies employed by the Education Board to serve these lunches to the children. They would therefore have observed what was going on in the dining room and would have seen any such assaults as alleged. I recall one of



the dinner ladies was called [REDACTED]. While I agree [REDACTED] NL 5 [REDACTED] may also have been supervising lunches with me I do not accept any of the children were assaulted in this way.

43. I deny that I ever placed [REDACTED] HIA 110 [REDACTED] or any other child into the washing machine in the laundry room and threatened to turn it on. I have already said I did not have a key to the laundry room and could only access it when [REDACTED] was working there. I also deny I slapped him in the face as he has alleged. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] – HIA reference 183

44. I do not recall this person but I have noted in his HIA statement he was in Nazareth Lodge Children's Home from 1<sup>st</sup> September 1951 until 12<sup>th</sup> August 1957. I believe I would only have been working in Nazareth Lodge for six months during this time which was the early part of 1956 and I then went to the convent in Hammersmith, London in July 1956. During the six months I was there, I recall I worked with the toddler's group and [REDACTED] HIA 183 [REDACTED] would then have been 10 or 11 years of age and so I would not have supervised him. I deny I struck him or any child in the face for no particular reason as he alleges. I am satisfied his allegations against me are false and there was no reason for him to claim I was not suitable for that job because of what he claims was my vile temper.

[REDACTED] – HIA reference 225

45. [REDACTED] HIA 225 [REDACTED] has made a statement to the HIA Inquiry which is dated 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014. In it he says he was in Nazareth Lodge between 1965 and 1968. As his date of birth is 25<sup>th</sup> September 1956, it would appear he was placed there when he was 9 years old. I do not recall [REDACTED] HIA 225 [REDACTED]. He has claimed he observed me shoving a flannel into the mouth of another boy called [REDACTED] who wet the bed and that I beat him in front of everyone in the dormitory. I deny this completely. I do remember [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Sometimes I would have taken him or some other child out of the Home and brought him by bus to my mother's house for the day and then I would have brought him back with me that evening. It was like a day out. I recall [REDACTED] was one of the children and I took him to my parent's house a few times. I was quite fond of the child. There is no way I would have pushed a flannel into his mouth as [REDACTED] HIA 225 [REDACTED] has alleged.

46. He also claims I punched him and that he told his father who then attacked me and knocked me over. This did not happen. I do not recall his father or if he got a job painting around the Home. He alleges I attacked a number of boys when on holidays at Ballyhornan during the summer. He alleges I hit the boys with a small wooden bat. I deny this completely. I never used a wooden bat to hit anybody. I did sometimes use a

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.

[REDACTED] 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 19<sup>th</sup> July 1995 in which she stated she was born on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1964 and her maiden name was NL 8. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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, [REDACTED]. The police then approached HIA 48 [REDACTED] seeking to corroborate her account.

50. However when she made her statement HIA 48 [REDACTED] stated she had no recollection of me assaulting the two girls as described by NL 8 [REDACTED]. Given the description of this incident by NL 8 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] would have recalled this incident if it had in fact occurred. The fact is however NL 8 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]. I mentioned this to the police when I was interviewed by them a second time and I will refer to it later.



52. The police also told me NL 8 alleged on one occasion I had grabbed her and hung her up on a hook on the wall in the bathroom and that I left her suspended there for at least 20 minutes or possibly an hour. I then returned, lifted her down and put her into a bath full of cold water and pushed her head under the water until she started to choke. She thought she may have passed out in the bath. None of this happened. Usually there would be a number of people present when the children were being bathed. There were two sides to each bathroom and there would have been other staff members present bathing other children at the same time. It is also ridiculous that I could have left a girl hanging on a clothes hook and simply walked away without anyone noticing.

53. She described me attempting to choke her by putting my hand over her mouth in the dormitory because of bedwetting, threatening to kill her and also forcing her to stand in a cupboard all night because she had wet the bed the previous night. Again these allegations are all lies. I have already stated a nun slept in a cubicle at the side of the dormitory and it is impossible the nun would not have been aware of this happening. She alleges that sometimes after beatings her body would have been marked and bruised. She alleges I used a hand brush to beat her with. Again I believe it is impossible other staff members or nuns would have failed to notice this, particularly if she or indeed or any child had marks on her body. She also told the police in her statement that I forced her to lie on the floor in the dining room and put porridge into her mouth and if she spat it out I made her put it in again. She claims after being forced fed the porridge she had to go and get her daily dose of treacle which everyone had to get. I deny this completely. If this is supposed to have happened at breakfast time then there would have been other adults present including usually a nun. I also believe she is confusing treacle with a syrup known as virol or malt which the children did get most days. In fact my mother used to give it to me when I was a child. Some adults took it. It was supplied by the nuns.

54. She also alleged that I was forced to leave the Home by the Mother Superior because a complaint had been made against me. Again this is not true. I did leave the Home on a number of occasions because I was going to work elsewhere. I was never warned by the nuns about my behaviour towards the children and I have enclosed references from the nuns at Nazareth House regarding my work there. I do not believe the nuns would have given me good references if they thought I was abusing children. I deny trying to force feed NL 8 or any other child as she alleged. I note her brother DL 131 also made a statement to the police on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1995 and it was only after he made his statement that NL 8 came back to the police and made a second statement which included all of these serious allegations against me. Her brother's statement is very vague and he in fact states he can't remember the exact incidents because it was so long ago. I deny I beat him or dragged him along by the hair as he has claimed.

55. The police also interviewed me about allegations made by NL 272 who made his police statement on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1995. He alleges I punched him for misbehaving or for wetting the bed and that I would pinch him on the arm. I told the police I remembered NL 272 who came to Nazareth Lodge when he was about 10 years old and stayed for a year. I deny beating him or any other child for wetting the bed. If I did wake up some of the children to bring them to the toilet at night, there would have been a nun sleeping close by and so it would have almost impossible for me to strike any child without being observed.

56. The police informed me of allegations made in a statement from NL 95 taken on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1995. In his statement he says he was placed in care for a period of about six months at Nazareth Lodge Children's Home, Belfast when he was about 10 years of age. This would have been around 1969. He alleges I beat him with a stick on at least two occasions. He says he was beaten around the arms and legs but never injured, although he may have received bruising.

57. I deny his allegations. I am sure the nuns or other staff members would have asked questions if there was bruising on any child. I also do not recall this individual and I am not sure I was even working there for the full six months he was placed in the Home.

58. Although he describes being beaten by a stick, I would say that on occasion I used a ruler to hit children who were misbehaving. I would have used the ruler mainly on their hands and legs. I deny using a cane or any other implement to punish children.

59. The police interviewed me again on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012. They referred to a statement made by HIA 48 on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010. This was her second statement to the police. In her first statement which was taken on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1995 she said she recalled me giving her the odd slap on the ear for wrong doing but she had no recollection of any serious beating carried out on both her and her friend NL 8

60. However in her second statement to the police she made more serious allegations against me. She alleged I rubbed her face into the mattress if she wet the bed and that I told her and NL 8 to strip down to our pants and I would then beat them. She alleged that I locked both girls in a room and sometimes put them into a bath full of either cold water or hot water. She also alleged that after the two girls had run away and were brought back by the police they were beaten again. She claimed when any of the children had bruises they would not get out at the weekend and families were told they were sick. She described me as an evil woman.

61. I do not understand how she could make these allegations, particularly after she made no such claims when the police specifically spoke to her in July 1995 about similar allegations made by NL 8. On that occasion HIA 48 signed a statement in which she said she had no recollection of me giving the two girls a severe beating with a cane after they had run away from the Home.

62. As stated earlier, I reflected upon this matter after my initial interview with the police and during my second police interview, I confirmed that I did recall HIA 48. In fact I also remembered that she had in fact run away from the Home along with NL 8 and the police brought them back. I accept I did slap both girls, probably with a ruler. I did not use excessive force.

63. I thought it was appropriate to slap them because they had run away but that was the end of the matter and I certainly did not beat both girls until they were bleeding. I also informed the police that there was a small room in which shoes were stored. It was not a cupboard. I believe it is quite possible I told HIA 48 and NL28 to tidy up the shoes and put them together but the door was left open. It was not locked. They were not kept in there as a punishment. I believe they have exaggerated this to give the impression I was being cruel to them which was not the case.



64. The police also referred me to a statement from NL 273 in which he said he remembered DL 131 being hit by me with a brush or mop shaft. I deny this and if I used a large object like this on a boy, I believe he would have remembered it. DL 131 himself does not describe me hitting him with a brush or mop shaft.

65. I worked with young children in South Africa between 1975 and 1991 when I returned to Belfast. I have had no further periods of employment at Nazareth Lodge. I completed a pre-school foundation course in June 1992 and also obtained employment in a day care scheme in Belfast. I refer to the documentation attached to this statement.

66. I generally have happy memories of my time working with children in Nazareth Lodge. The conditions were far from ideal, resources were limited and I had to work long hours for little remuneration but I saw it more as a vocation than simple employment. As I said to one of the former residents whom I met, they were hard times for everyone and in particular the children. I am disappointed that a number of former residents have made these allegations against me but I do not believe I used excessive force or was unnecessarily cruel to the children that I helped to supervise.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed: NL 4

Dated: 11-01-2015

HIA REF: NL 4

NAME: [REDACTED]

DATE: 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Supplementary Witness Statement of [REDACTED] – NL 4

1. I refer to my previous statement which is dated 11th January 2015. I have now been asked to comment on the statements of five further applicants to the Inquiry who have made allegations against me.

2. [REDACTED] – HIA refereece 422.

I have no recollection of this person and cannot say whether he was in a group of boys that I supervised. In his statement at paragraph 14, he makes a general observation that I was wicked and a bully. He gave as an example if I caught him out of bed. I have already explained that once the boys went to bed I had no contact with them, apart from one late evening check at around 9pm. I would have taken it in turns with a nun to waken up those boys who were known to frequently bed wet. They would have been taken out to the toilets and then returned to bed. I had no other supervisory role after this.

3. He also claims that I told him to brush the floor in the dinner hall at Ballyhorgan. I have no recollection of this. The dining room was off the kitchen and it would normally be the kitchen staff who would sweep up the floor.

4. He states I asked him for money to get my hair done. This is not true. I never went to a hairdresser during those years. It was usually one of my sisters who fixed my hair or gave me a perm. I don't think I would have had much or any contact with this particular child unless he was in my group.

5. [REDACTED] – HIA reference 56.

I recall HIA 56 [REDACTED] My memory is that he was a nice child and that his mother would have visited him regularly in the Home. She may have been a shop assistant. She could have called to see him most weeks. He says he was in Our Lady's Group and for a period of time I did help a nun supervise this group.

6. In paragraph 9 of his statement he describes NL 5 [REDACTED] and myself patrolling the dormitories to check if the children were asleep. This was not the case. I have already stated I only supervised those children in my group and I had no reason to go into any other dormitories and I did not work alongside NL 5 [REDACTED] I only checked children who were known to bed wet and this would have been around 9pm. After this I had no further contact with the children until the following morning and the nun in charge would have dealt with any problems which arose during the night.



7. He also alleges that he saw me hit people with my hand. I did slap children with my open hand on their leg, hands and occasionally on their bottom. This was a form of chastisement. I was not overly physical with any child. His claims about [REDACTED] are not true. The only child I remember defecating in his bed at night was [REDACTED] HIA 16 [REDACTED] and I have referred to this in my previous statement. I do not recall [REDACTED] NL 174 [REDACTED] but I am sure I never rubbed any child's face in their own mess.

8. HIA 56 [REDACTED] is another former resident who has described me as returning to the Home dressed as a nun. I am very curious about this as I am clear I never worked with any children dressed as a nun. [REDACTED]

9. He also alleges that on one occasion I called his mother a tart and that I punched him on the shoulder. Again I deny this. I was not told the family circumstances of any child who was in the Home.

10. I have been informed that when HIA 56 [REDACTED] gave evidence to the Inquiry on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 he claimed some of the nuns and a fellow lay member of staff called NL 5 [REDACTED] were scared of me. This is not true. I got on well with my fellow workers and the nuns and was always able to return to work in Nazareth Lodge after being away for a while. I was also able to ask the nuns for references when I went to work elsewhere. I have been told HIA 56 [REDACTED] alleged I kept dogs in kennels at Nazareth Lodge. I have no idea where he got this information from. While it is possible there was a dog kept at Nazareth Lodge at one time I never had anything to do with it. In fact I have never owned a dog and I am nervous of dogs generally.

11. [REDACTED] - HIA reference 36.

I have been made aware HIA 36 made a statement to the Inquiry in which he stated he was admitted to St. Joseph's baby home in 1957 and to Nazareth Lodge in 1961 where he remained until 20<sup>th</sup> August 1968. In his statement he said most of the staff in Nazareth Lodge were really good people and were good to him. However he describes abuse carried out by certain individuals and from some older boys in Nazareth Lodge. He did not mention or make any reference to me in his statement to the Inquiry and so my solicitor was not notified and did not attend when he gave evidence. However I have been informed that when he spoke to Counsel to the Inquiry before giving evidence, he referred to me and said on one occasion after returning from holiday I pulled him into the dining room and beat him. He then went on to allege he saw me beating other children and he described me as having zero tolerance of children. He further alleged that I was frequently called to deal with children if they stepped out of line. In response to a question from a member of the panel he alleged that I hit him quite a few times.

I am shocked by his allegations. I cannot understand why he would not have made any mention of me in his HIA statement if his evidence to the Inquiry is to be believed.

I do not believe he was in the group of boys that I looked after and so I would not have had much contact with him during his stay in Nazareth Lodge.

I remember at some stage, probably during the 1990s [REDACTED] HIA 36 introduced himself to me and this is why I now am able to recall him. I believe he owned a shop [REDACTED]. I went into the shop and he recognised me. He told me his name and he talked to me for a while. He was very friendly. I therefore find it most surprising that he now is making these totally untrue allegations about me. I do note he said in his statement to the HIA Inquiry that he has kept in contact with some of the ex-residents from Nazareth Lodge and that they have reunions on occasion. I can only wonder if he was given my name by some of the other residents and then for some reason he has decided, at the last moment, to make up these allegations against me.

12. [REDACTED] - HIA reference 147.

I have been informed James Lee gave evidence to the Inquiry on Thursday 15th January 2015. The first thing I want to say is that I do not recall him and I understand he has said he was in the group in which NL 5 [REDACTED] was the main lay worker. However he has alleged that he was beaten on a number of occasions by both NL 5 [REDACTED] and myself. He has not described any of the incidents in detail and I understand he has not previously mentioned or referred to me until he made a short statement to the Inquiry which is dated 9th January 2015. Counsel to the Inquiry stated HIA 147 [REDACTED] had made two statements to the police and provided a number of medical reports which described the abuse which he alleges occurred. My understanding is that I am not mentioned in any of those earlier documents and this is why I was not asked to comment on his allegations before now.

As I do not recall HIA 147 [REDACTED] and believe he was not in my group, I have nothing really to say other than I deny I would have beaten him or used a PVC type of bat and a stick as he now alleges.

13. [REDACTED] - HIA reference 152.

I am aware HIA 152 [REDACTED] has made a statement to the HIA Inquiry in which he states he was in Nazareth Lodge between 1958 and 1966. He said he was placed in Our Lady's group and that SR 47 [REDACTED] was in charge of the group and she was helped by a lay worker who was myself. He alleged that another lay worker and myself used to go round the dormitories at night time and if the boys were not sleeping they would be taken out to the big washroom. I have already stated it was my practice to carry out a dormitory check on occasion at around 9pm and I would have taken boys who were known to bed wet out to the toilets. This may be his recollection. He has made no specific allegation against me and yet in his statement he has described the lay workers as evil.

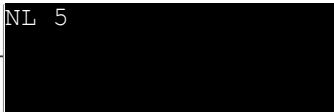
HIA 152 [REDACTED] also made a statement to the police on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2011 in which he alleges physical assaults at the hands of the nuns and lay women, but again he does not go into any detail or make any specific allegation against me. I recall being interviewed by the police about his allegations on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012. I informed the police I did not remember HIA 152 [REDACTED] although I did agree I did work with SR 47 [REDACTED] and help oversee the Our Lady's group. It is therefore quite possible SR 47 [REDACTED] was supervised by me for part of the time he was in Nazareth Lodge. I also agreed with the police that if a child was brought from the dormitory to the toilet and he did not need to use it, I would have waited some time in order that the child might



go to the toilet. My recollection is that I would only have kept a child waiting for a few minutes before taking them back to the dormitory.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed:  NL 5

Dated: 20.01.2015

HIA REF: NL 4

NAME: [REDACTED]

DATE: [REDACTED]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Second Supplementary Witness Statement of [REDACTED] - NL 4

1. I refer to my previous statements dated 11th January 2015 and 20th January 2015.
2. I have stated my employment at Nazareth Lodge between 1956 and 1975 was irregular and that I spent lengthy periods of time living and working in England, Wales and the United States of America. I have now been able to obtain a copy of my General Practitioner's medical file and I attach the following edited extracts in support of this:-
  - a) Front cover Lloyd George folder.
  - b) Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 1963 from [REDACTED], Newport.
  - c) Letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> September 1963 from [REDACTED], Cardiff.
  - d) Letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> January 1964 from [REDACTED], Cardiff.
  - e) Letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1973 from Manchester [REDACTED]
  - f) Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 1974 from [REDACTED], Warrington.
  - g) Letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 1974 from [REDACTED], Liverpool.
  - h) Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> February 1975 from [REDACTED], Warrington.

3. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - HIA REF: 48

4. I have been provided with a copy of this person's statement to the HIA Inquiry which is dated 27<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**- HIA REFERENCE DL269**

10. In his statement he has stated he was in Nazareth Lodge from approximately 1959 to 1965 and he makes a specific allegation against unnamed domestic workers that he was repeatedly beaten with a solid plastic racket. I have no recollection of seeing any such racket in the Home while I was there and I certainly did not use one to beat children with. I remember the name of DLA269 but have no personal recollection of him and I deny using excessive force on him at any time.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 6 Feb 2015

PERSON INTERVIEWED:

NL 4

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

- A Yes it was.
- Q And the sisters would have been aware.
- A Yes very much so.
- Q Give me the reasons why you would have smacked a child?
- A Well I would have smacked a child if they didn't, if they really didn't listen and do what they were told and you know they would climb on the, windowsills were about that wide and they'd be on (inaudible) the boys would be a wee bit wild at climbing. Get them down or get them if they would maybe not go to bed and they'd be jumping around and things like that and you would give them a smack, you know.
- Q Did you have to record that anywhere?
- A No.
- Q How young would the youngest child have been who you'd have smacked? Would you do it according to age?
- A Not at all no.
- Q Well depending on the age of the child.
- A It depend, it depended on the, it would have been a spontaneous thing, like you didn't sit and go I'll smack you now, it was just a spontaneous thing so I couldn't really, I just, it would just have been a spontaneous reaction.
- Q You don't believe it was over zealous as in too much?
- A I don't think so no.
- Q Were there written instructions for chastisement?
- A No there wasn't, not while, not while I was there, there wasn't.
- Q Did you ever ask the sister in charge, how do I chastise the child?



PERSON INTERVIEWED:

NL 4

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

A Well one of the staff would have taken them down or else one of the bigger boys, you know.

Q And when you say the bigger boys would they just...?

A I would say they would be about between 10 and 11.

Q And they would come along to help you?

A Yeah. Well they were in, they would be in the group and they would naturally.

Q OK. Who did you work with, what other lay staff did you work with?

A Other lay staff, there was, I can't remember all their names. There was [REDACTED] but I don't know if she worked constantly but (inaudible).

Q [REDACTED]?

A Uh huh and an [REDACTED].

Q [REDACTED].

A NL 126. [REDACTED].

Q NL 126.

A And a NL 5.

Q OK and you worked with all of those people?

A Well we were, you know we, how would you say it, yeah we...

Q Intermingled and worked together at different times.

A Yes, uh huh, yeah uh huh.

Q And what nuns did you work with?

A Well I worked with [REDACTED], I think she's passed away and I worked also with SR 71 and SR 47. There was a [REDACTED].

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

stayed, I stayed there for about maybe 15 years.

Q OK.

A That's why I didn't, I never had any and I didn't come, at one stage I didn't come home at all to Belfast for over 12 years.

Q OK.

A You know so.

Q Just to go back to when you said you, you would have smacked the children, did you ever use anything to hit them with?

A On a, on an occasion I would have slapped them with a ruler.

Q OK (inaudible) did you ever use like a wooden spoon or anything like that or?

A No.

Q No.

A There was never, I never saw a wooden spoon while I was there, tell you the truth.

Q OK, OK. Did you ever get angry with the children?

A I probably shouted at them.

Q OK.

A You know if they were doing something that they were told not to do, you know you'd probably raise your voice then you know.

Q OK. Was there any ever time when you smacked the children for misbehaving did you ever think you hit them too hard?

A Not really no, I don't, I don't recall ever hitting them too hard but it was just to let them know that they shouldn't be doing or whatever it was they did.



File 121  
PERSON INTERVIEWED:

NL 4

Recording Number and  
Recording Times:

frequently because it was like a Saturday that you would, they'd all sort of come into the changing room, sit and take their turn and get bathed and they'd be bathed, maybe several of them would have been bathed in one.

Q One bath.

A One water, you know they wouldn't change the water every time because they didn't have the heat.

Q OK and would you have bathed them by yourself or with some help?

A There was always somebody there, some, well sometimes I would have been there on my own yes but there would have been sometimes another girl there, you know.

Q OK and how often did they get bathed?

A They only got bathed once a week.

Q OK. What was the procedure for the children who'd wet the bed?

A They would, well they'd get up and, is that for the morning time or...?

Q Any time.

A At night time there would be, say 9 o'clock, around 9 o'clock, the children went to bed around 6, 7 at the latest and then by 9 o'clock either one of the nuns or one of the staff, we took turns in going round at 9 o'clock to what we called to, what's the word, wet, for the ones who had wet the bed to take them to the toilet. To toilet the ones that had, would have habit of wetting their bed.

Q OK.

A And if the bed was wet then the sheet, drawer sheet would be taken off, clean drawer sheet would be put on and the drawer sheets would be left

1           they cheered in the refectory when they saw her leave  
2           with her bags.

3  
4           You knew to stay out of her way in order to avoid  
5           being beaten. You recall on one occasion she called  
6           your mother a tart and said, "Who does she think she  
7           is?" and punched you on the shoulder.

8           Now I am going to pause there for a moment and just  
9           ask you about this person. You know that she has given  
10          a response statement to the Inquiry --

11   **A. Yes.**

12   Q.   -- about what you say about her.

13   **A. Yes.**

14   Q.   You have no complaint to make about the other lay staff  
15          member, NL5. Is that correct?

16   **A. No.**

17   Q.   You say that not only was NL 5 but other people in the  
18          home were terrified of NL4.

19   **A. Yes.**

20   Q.   You named -- did you say -- a staff nurse did you say?

21   **A.       NL 175       .**

22   Q.   Who you say was also terrified of this woman, NL4.

23   **A. No, but she stood up to her.**

24   Q.   You say that NL4 actually hated your mother.

25   **A. Yes. Jealous.**

1 Q. She was jealous of her. You have described how your  
2 mother used to come to the home.

3 **A. Because she was quite elegant and arrived**  
4 **She was jealous.**

5 Q. Just to be clear, in her Inquiry statement, which is as  
6 yet unsigned, because it is a supplemental statement,  
7 and I will read out from it what she said about you and  
8 what you have said about her, she said:

9 "I recall HIA56. My memory is that he was a nice  
10 child and his mother would have visited him regularly in  
11 the home. She may have been a shop assistant."

12 Is that right?

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. "She would have called to see him most weeks",  
15 which was right.

16 **A. Twice, twice a week.**

17 Q. Twice a week. He (sic) says:

18 "He was in Our Lady's group for a period of time --  
19 and for a period of time I did help a nun supervise this  
20 group. In paragraph 9 of his statement he describes  
21 NL 5 and myself patrolling the dormitories to check if  
22 the children were asleep."

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. "This was not the case. I have already stated I only  
25 supervised those children in my group and I had no



1 reason to go into any other dormitories and I did not  
2 work alongside NL5."

3 **A. She didn't actually have a group, NL5.**

4 Q. NL5 didn't have a group --

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. But what NL4 is saying --

7 **A. She was one of the lay staff.**

8 Q. Yes, but what I --

9 **A. There was a nun in each group, you know.**

10 Q. But was NL4 assigned to a group along with a nun?

11 **A. I think she helped out on Marion's group.**

12 Q. What she has said is that she didn't have any reason to  
13 go into any of the other dormitories, only the group  
14 that she was in?

15 **A. Because she probably had no authority to, but she did.**

16 Q. I think when you were talking to me, you said she had  
17 control over everyone. Once the nuns left for the  
18 evening she took over.

19 **A. Some of the nuns were scared of her. The nuns were  
20 scared of her.**

21 Q. The nuns were scared of her?

22 **A. Some of them. Not SR134.**

23 Q. Sorry. Not Sister?

24 **A. Not SR134.**

25 Q. She wasn't scared of her?

1     **A.   No.**

2     Q.   SR134, was she the Mother Superior?

3     **A.   No.   She was a teacher.**

4     Q.   A teacher.   You said -- she has said in her statement,  
5           just to read further from it, she only checked children  
6           who were known to bed wet and that would have been about  
7           9 o'clock at night.

8     **A.   Uh-huh.**

9     Q.   "After that I would have had no further contact with the  
10          children until the following morning and the nun in  
11          charge would have dealt with any problems that arose  
12          during the night.

13    **A.   No.   She checked every child.**

14    Q.   You say that --

15    **A.   Whether you wet the bed or not, if you weren't asleep or  
16          anything or your head wasn't covered.**

17    Q.   What happened if you weren't asleep?

18    **A.   Well, you got sort of slapped or -- this was in the  
19          height of summer.**

20    Q.   In the height of summer when it is still light outside.

21    **A.   We had no curtains on the windows and the sun was  
22          shining through and we couldn't sleep.**

23    Q.   She goes on to say:

24                "He also alleges that he saw me hit people with my  
25                hand.   I did slap children with my open hand on their

1 leg, hands and occasionally on their bottom. This was  
2 a form of chastisement."

3 **A. No. It was a bit rougher than that.**

4 Q. She says she wasn't overly physical with any child.

5 **A. She was.**

6 Q. She said that your claims about NL 174 are not true,  
7 that the only child she remembers defecating in his bed  
8 at night is another child whom she names as NL 28 and  
9 she gives his full name, but I am just going to call him  
10 NL 28

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. "I have referred to that in my previous statement."

13 She says she doesn't recall NL 174 but she is sure  
14 she never rubbed any child's face in their own mess.

15 **A. She hated NL 174 because he was able to answer her**  
16 **back. They are the ones ended up in Muckamore: NL 174**  
17 **NL 174 and DL 157 and a whole host of them. They**  
18 **never even got to Kircubbin.**

19 Q. You saw what she did to the boy NL 174

20 **A. Yes, I did. She rubbed his face in it.**

21 Q. Now she says that you are another former resident who is  
22 described her as returning to the home

23 She says she is:

24 "...  
25



1     A.   No,    It was a visit.

2 Q. It was a visit to the house?

3      **A.    Aye.**

4 Q. That's, in fact, what she says. She says:

"I stated in my previous statement on one single  
occasion I visited the home                                 and had tea  
in the parlour with some of the nuns. At that stage  
  
I had come home  
to visit my father, who was sick. It is possible that  
a small number of children saw me,

11

12

13     **A.**

14 Q.

15     **A.**

16 Q. But how was --

17      **A.**

18 Q.

19     **A.**

20 Q.

21

22     **A.**

23 Q.

24     **A.**

25

1 babies."

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You used to go over and see the staff

4 "I went in as I always knew there  
5 were sweets there. When I was in he  
6 locked the door and he took down my shorts and pants.  
7 He sucked my penis. He would have his trousers down  
8 exposing his penis and lower body. He sat me on his  
9 knee and his penis came up between my thighs. He made  
10 me touch his penis and he moved back and forward. He  
11 gave me Toffee Crisps and I ate the sweets while he was  
12 abusing me. I think he started to abuse me when I was  
13 about 6 years old. He abused me on a couple of  
14 occasions."

15 Now you know, HIA56, that someone else has given  
16 evidence to the Inquiry, and I am just going to use his  
17 first name, because I can't actually remember the  
18 reference that we have given to him. That's a boy  
19 called HIA 36 and you know who I am talking about.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You were friendly with HIA 36 when you were in Nazareth  
22 Lodge. He was in your age group. Isn't that right?

23 **A. Yes (inaudible).**

24 Q. In his statement to the Inquiry -- and the Panel can  
25 look at this. It is paragraph 5 at SNB-426. Can we

1 just pull that up, please? Paragraph 5 there he said:

2 "I was abused in Nazareth Lodge by a lay worker. He

3 He was an old

4 man at the time and he abused me in front of another

5 resident called ...",

6 and the name he has recorded there is your name:

7 "He worked in and

8 he made us strip off. It happened maybe three times.

9 I would describe the abuse as fondling. On one occasion

10 I remember a nun coming to and we were

11 naked and although I cannot recall his name now,

12 I remember her calling him. You had to come down

13 a flight of stairs, but she did not come down."

14 Can I ask you is he correct about

15 having to come down a flight of stairs

16 **A. No. A ramp.**

17 Q. A ramp?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. I think he maybe -- he gave evidence earlier this week

20 to the Inquiry and he did describe the layout

21

22

23 **A. , yes.**

24 Q. He said that -- he went on to say that his mother used

25 to come and visit the Lodge and you and he would have



1    **A.   A nursery, yes.**

2    Q.   Then from the nursery you moved into the Lodge, the main  
3       building.

4    **A.   To the main block, Nazareth Lodge itself, yes.**

5    Q.   That would have been around the time you reached school  
6       age.   Would that be right?

7    **A.   Most likely.**

8    Q.   Now in paragraph 4 -- I will come back and discuss with  
9       you what NL4 has said about the allegations that you  
10      make against her, but we will go through those  
11      allegations, first of all.

12       Paragraph 4 you say that:

13       "The physical abuse consisted of her punching and  
14      kicking me in addition to being physically force fed.  
15      She degraded and humiliated me in front of other  
16      children.   The home had a communal dining area, which  
17      was divided into four eating units, which reflected your  
18      group.   In most cases stew was the main diet, which  
19      I~had a huge dislike for.   I used to hide the stew in my  
20      trouser pockets and NL4 spotted the stain on my trousers  
21      and she asked me what I was doing.   I told her I didn't  
22      like stew.   Her response was to take the stew from my  
23      pockets and got me into the middle of the dining room,  
24      where she held me down on my knees and pulled my hair so  
25      that my mouth would open, and she forced the food into

1 the fortunate ones. In my group alone I think there  
2 would have been roughly about twenty boys, and out of  
3 the twenty, three or four might have went out for  
4 weekends out of that group. It wasn't for everybody.  
5 Some of the boys didn't want to go. So it wasn't --  
6 they weren't coerced in being pushed out or whatever.  
7 If you wanted to go to a foster home, you were given  
8 that option. You were encouraged, of course, but you  
9 didn't have to go if you didn't want to.

10 Q. I see. Thank you very much.

11 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA21. Can I ask when you  
12 were in Marions and NL4 was obviously in charge, were  
13 there other staff around that were there regularly as  
14 well?

15 A. There would have been staff on the next -- same level in  
16 the Sacred Hearts, SR 156 and NL74 I think it  
17 was, which was originally my group, which I missed  
18 immensely. To be moved -- I don't know why. Only the  
19 nuns can answer that, but I think maybe I might have  
20 been boisterous. So it was maybe my own downfall, my  
21 own fault.

22 In regard to N4 -- NL4 as far as I am concerned,  
23 this woman knew exactly what she was doing, that when  
24 the nun in my time, which was SR172, was in that  
25 queue -- in that -- charge of that group, she would go

1 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA423, I am sure you will be very glad to  
2 hear we don't have any more questions for you.

3

4 **A. Thank you.**

5 Q. Thank you very much indeed for coming to speak to us  
6 today. We do understand that many people find it very  
7 difficult. You are by no means the only one. So you  
8 mustn't in any way feel you have let yourself down by  
9 coming to speak to us or feeling upset. We understand  
10 that. As I say, I am afraid you have not been the only  
11 one, but we do what we can to make it as easy for  
12 people. Thank you for coming to share your experiences  
13 with us today.

14 **A. Thank you very much for listening. Thank you.**

15 **(Witness withdrew)**

16 MS SMITH: Chairman, I'm going to take the next witness, but  
17 would be grateful for a short break, say maybe --

18 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will rise until we are ready to deal  
19 with the next witness.

20 MS SMITH: Thank you.

21 (11.25 am)

22 (Short break)

23 (11.33 am)

24 WITNESS HIA225(called)

25



1 the best they could. I think would you accept that.

2 **A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. I have said that NL4 has given a statement to the  
4 Inquiry where she addresses what you have said about  
5 her.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. I am just going to read that section of her section in  
8 full. It is at SNB-80014. Perhaps if we pull that up,  
9 please. Again there will be names given here that will  
10 require redaction and the names are not to be used  
11 outside this chamber, but if we could just scroll down  
12 to paragraph 45, it says:

13 "HIA225 has made a statement to the Inquiry which is  
14 dated 10th March 2014. He says he was in Nazareth Lodge  
15 between '65 and '68. As his date of birth is , it  
16 would appear he was placed there when he was 9 years  
17 old. I do not recall HIA225. He has claimed he  
18 observed me shoving a flannel into the mouth of another  
19 boy called DL 157 who wet the bed and that I beat him in  
20 front of everyone in the dormitory. I deny this  
21 completely. I do remember DL 157. Sometimes I would  
22 have taken him or some other child out of the home and  
23 brought him by bus to my mother's house for the day and  
24 then I would have brought him back with me that evening.  
25 It was like a day out. I recall DL 157 was one of the

1        were always very relaxed and you might not have had all  
2        the staff group and all the Sisters there and there may  
3        have been a person or two persons in charge.

4    Q.   Presumably in Ballyhornan you would have been mixed in  
5        groups together.

6    A.   Yes.   We all ate together.   There was no refectory.  
7        There was a dining area.   We all ate together and we  
8        socialised and then went to the beach together.

9    Q.   Just clarifying that, because of NL4 suggesting she  
10        wouldn't have chastised other boys because they weren't  
11        in her group --

12   A.   No.

13   Q.   -- I'm presuming in holiday you would have been all --

14   A.   I am sure there are others who could comment with  
15        greater authority than I can.   I would just say  
16        I wouldn't accept that at all.

17   Q.   The last thing I just want to ask you is about older  
18        boys.   We have heard about physical bullying from older  
19        boys at that period.   Did you have any --

20   A.   I mean, I am a bit confused about that, because I don't  
21        recall any teenage boys looking after me or looking  
22        after us.   The bullying that I endured was bigger people  
23        -- either a little older than me but of primary school  
24        age or bigger than me, but I don't recall certainly in  
25        the Sacred Heart or the Marion group or indeed at all

1       that we are going to talk about didn't apply to every  
2       nun.

3   **A. No. I got on with most of them, so I did. They were**  
4       **okay with me.**

5   Q. In paragraph 3 you say that the lay workers were evil --

6   **A. Yes.**

7   Q. -- even worse than the nuns, and you say:

8       "I remember NL4 and another lay worker would come  
9       round our dormitories at night, and if you weren't  
10      sleeping, they would take you out to a big wash-room  
11      where they would make you sit until you were tired and  
12      then you would go back to bed. I'd pretend to be asleep  
13      when they walked around the dorm so I wouldn't be sent  
14      to the wash-room."

15      Now NL4 was asked about this by the Inquiry and  
16      essentially what she has had to say is that perhaps you  
17      are referring to children who needed to be woken or  
18      brought out of bed to go to the toilet so as to avoid  
19      wetting the bed. Is that your recollection as to why  
20      you were taken out?

21   **A. No, definitely not.**

22   Q. Can you just explain to the Panel what you remember as  
23      taking place that resulted in you being made sit on your  
24      knees on the floor?

25   **A. They used to go round the beds and check to see was your**

1     **A.   SR98.**

2     Q.   -- you think was there in your time.  I asked you how  
3           she may have been wicked or how any nun was wicked to  
4           the children.  Can you remember what you told me or do  
5           you want me to say it?

6     **A.   You can say it.**

7     Q.   Well, what you described to me was that she grabbed you  
8           and pulled you by the hair, by the ears, and that was  
9           how she would have been wicked.

10    **A.   Uh-huh.**

11   CHAIRMAN:  HIA48, would you just mind pulling the microphone  
12           over towards your -- towards you?  No, bring it towards  
13           you a bit more so we can pick up what you are saying.  
14           Thank you.

15   MS SMITH:  We have to get a note of all that you say, HIA48.

16   **A.   Uh-huh.**

17   Q.   So it is important we know what you are saying, although  
18           I am doing most of the talking.  I think we agreed  
19           that's how we would do this.

20   **A.   Uh-huh.**

21   Q.   You go on in paragraph 6 of your statement to say that  
22           NL4 -- and you see that's the designation we have given.  
23           I am going to use the name, but again remind people  
24           names are not to be used outside this room.  That's NL4.  
25           Paragraph 6.  You'll see that each separate block on the



1 too scared to speak out, because I thought nobody would  
2 believe me. I just want the truth to come out. The  
3 nuns aren't telling the truth about what went on. They  
4 are trying to cover it up, like they have always done."

5 You go on to say you reported the abuse you suffered  
6 to the police. A police officer came to your house,  
7 took a statement from you and you believe they  
8 questioned NL4 about October 2012, but you hadn't heard  
9 anything about that.

10 In fact, HIA48, we know you actually spoke to police  
11 in 1995, in July 1995. That can be seen at SNB-60497.  
12 If we just pull that up, please. Now, HIA48, this is  
13 the statement that you made on 24th July 1995. The  
14 reason you made this statement was that there was  
15 another girl, the girl who you were running away with,  
16 Josephine. She had spoken to the police. Then police  
17 came and spoke to you about what Josephine had said. Do  
18 you remember that?

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 **Q.** You say that:

21 "During my time there I was never sexually abused by  
22 anyone."

23 This is in Nazareth Lodge:

24 "Although I got the odd slap on the ear for  
25 wrongdoings, I have no complaint to make about anyone in

1 "There would have been incidents where I was beaten  
2 as well. I remember NL5 being rough with the kids and  
3 being violent. Also NL4 would have been cruel and  
4 violent to the children. I do not believe that the nuns  
5 knew that the domestic workers were being violent to any  
6 of the children."

7 Now can I just pause there again? You are aware,  
8 because I have told you, that we have received -- the  
9 Inquiry has received statements from the two women that  
10 you name here in paragraph 4, and I am just going to  
11 outline what they say, but can I just be clear? You  
12 describe NL5 as being rough with the kids and being  
13 violent.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Did she ever hit you?

16 **A. A couple of times.**

17 Q. Again NL4 is described as being cruel and violent to the  
18 children. Did she ever hit you?

19 **A. Yes, a few times, yes.**

20 Q. Now in their Inquiry statements and in respect, first of  
21 all, of NL4, she has given a statement which can be  
22 found at 80079. That's SNB, and at paragraph 10 at  
23 80080, if we can just go to 80080, she specifically  
24 addresses the allegations you make there at paragraph 10  
25 at the bottom -- if we could just scroll down, please --

1 Q. If you had stepped out of line.

2 A. -- if you stepped out of line. "Don't be afraid to."

3 Q. So you are not criticising --

4 A. I have been there when my mother has actually said that  
5 to her, you know: "Don't be afraid to, you know, give  
6 him a slap if he needs it, like, you know".

7 Q. You are not criticising her for --

8 A. No.

9 Q. -- the physical chastisement --

10 A. Definitely not.

11 Q. -- that you say she engaged in.

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. You mentioned as we were speaking earlier -- and this is  
14 not something that's in your statement, and we will get  
15 the transcript to NL4's representatives who need to deal  
16 with it.

17 A. Right.

18 Q. I have explained to you, if necessary, we might have to  
19 ask you to deal with this again for us --

20 A. Right.

21 Q. -- but, all being well, that won't arise. You mentioned  
22 to me earlier that you do recall experiences with NL4 --

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. -- that you didn't talk to the Inquiry staff about when  
25 you were doing your statement.

1 MS DOHERTY: Thanks, HIA36. Can I just check is that the  
2 only time that NL4 hit you, that one occasion?

3 A. No. She hit me quite a few times, but that was the  
4 worst I ever experienced from her, you know. I mean,  
5 I never met the woman. It is only because the kids were  
6 making such a fuss about me she tried to make an example  
7 of me, you know. I only wish at that time that the  
8 people that had taken me out had seen me and things  
9 might have been different, you know, but they were able  
10 to cover that up by just saying, "Look, he's away up to  
11 the dormitory and just leave him. Let him settle in" or  
12 something, you know, because I was crying. You know,  
13 when I -- when I had to go back, I was pretty upset  
14 anyway about having to go back, but -- especially when  
15 somebody was spoiling you for two or three weeks, you  
16 know. You had to go back and try and fit in with, you  
17 know, their -- that regime again, you know.

18 Q. The other thing was just to ask about whether -- other  
19 witnesses have talked about bullying by older boys --

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. -- physical bullying by older boys.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was that an issue for you?

24 A. Och, aye. It was an issue with every -- every boy.

25 They had like senior boys and, you know, they would --