

PRIVATE

HIA REF: NL 170

Witness Name: NL170

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF NL170

I, NL170 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] I qualified as a social worker in 1993 when I was twenty six years old. I have a BSSc in Social Studies from Queen's University. I have a Diploma in Social Work from the University of Ulster in Magee. I also have a Masters in Applied Social Studies and a Diploma in Systemic Practice (Family Therapy) from Queen's University in 2011. I am currently employed as a social worker in a [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
2. When I first qualified I got a job in the Threshold Richmond Fellowship, Residential Mental Health team. I saw a job advertised in the Belfast Telegraph for a residential social worker in Nazareth Lodge. I commenced my job as a residential social worker in January 1994. I remained there until September 1995.

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Roles and Responsibilities

3. There were three units in Nazareth Lodge and SR18, Sister SR222 and SR148 were in charge of each unit. There was also an independent unit. SR52 was in charge of Nazareth Lodge.
4. I was attached to SR18 unit. As a residential social worker I did shift work. For example, I would start work early afternoon until the next day. There was a bedroom for the residential social worker which was on the same floor as the children. SR18's room was in the middle of the children's bedrooms. There were approximately ten children's bedrooms in total. From my recollection the children had single rooms. I think there was between 6 and 8 residential social workers for each unit. We all rotated shifts and one social worker always stayed overnight in the unit. During the day there as about five or six social workers on shift. At the weekend there was less on shift.
5. A typical day involved getting the children up and ready for school. Once they had gone to school we tidied the unit, linked in with the field social workers in charge of the individual children and carried out work with individual children who were not at school. We also worked with children when they returned from school.
6. The social workers I can remember who worked with me in Nazareth Lodge were NL221, NL261, NL172, NL262 and NL171. NL171 started around the same time as me.
7. Each unit was independent from the other two and rarely came together. Although sometimes two units crossed over with each other during holidays in Donegal. If there were siblings in a different unit they would come across and visit our unit.
8. An ex resident called NL165 frequently returned to the unit to visit. I think he must have been in SR18 group as this is the unit he came

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to. He spent a lot of time with SR18. I did see him come out of Sister SR18 bedroom and I believe he stayed in there overnight. One evening after checking on the children I was walking through the internal corridor in the unit and I walked past Sister SR18 bedroom. The door was wide open and I saw NL1 in the room naked. On another occasion I saw NL165 come out of Sister SR18's bathroom and go into her bedroom wearing only a towel. My suspicion and the shared concern of the other civilian staff members in the unit was that NL165 and Sister SR18 were having a relationship. I am sure the other nuns knew what was going on. SR148 was in charge of a unit and she was very close to Sister SR18 and she knew everything that was going on in the home. I am sure she knew something. I thought to myself 'what is going on here?' but the view of the time was that you can't say anything about the nuns. That was the atmosphere that existed in the home. Whilst I was of the view it was entirely inappropriate relationship I felt that I couldn't say or do anything about it.

9. One day the unit was told to stay indoors. We heard later that someone had sprayed painted graffiti on the outer wall of the home and that the graffiti was about SR148 sexually abusing a former resident. There was another incident about graffiti being sprayed on the convent wall which involving allegations against SR18. There were rumours circulating around the home that both SR18 and SR148 grooming boys.
10. On one occasion I walked past SR18 bedroom in the evening and her door was open. She was lying on top of her bed naked and she had boys from the unit all around her on the bed. The boys were wearing their pyjamas. One day SR18 was wearing civilian clothes and she undid all the buttons of her blouse exposing her bra to show the boys her sunburn. She also pulled up her skirt and you could see her pants. I think Sister SR18 was in her fifties at this time.
11. As a result of his closeness with SR18 NL165 had a lot of power in the unit. He told the children what to do and even came on holiday with the unit to Donegal.

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12. There was an older resident called NL242 who lived in the independent unit in the Lodge. I think he may have been 17 or 18 years old. I witnessed SR18 bringing breakfast to him in his bedroom. We all thought they were having some form of relationship. I didn't report my concerns about SR18's behaviour because I think I was in a state of disbelief at what was going on. I was usually on my own whenever I directly witnessed anything and I felt that no one would believe me. I felt so powerless within the system.

13. In the unit SR18 listened in on our telephone calls from the extension upstairs. We used to hear the extension being lifted. Sometimes she even spoke during the conversation. We even made comments during the call just to let her know we knew what she was doing. She prevented us from talking freely to the children's social workers. I would usually wait until Sister SR18 was in the convent so I could make telephone calls privately.

14. When I arrived in Nazareth Lodge in January 1994 it was mindboggling. I had never worked with nuns before. I had worked in other environments before including Africa. However, I had never worked in such an environment where there was silence, power and authority, all of which surrounded the nuns.

NL164 (NL 164)

15. NL164 was a resident in SR18 unit. I was NL164 keyworker at a time. This meant that I was involved with him on a daily basis and did work one on one. I loved him. He was a very witty, intelligent and a real character. I think he 'camped it up' to annoy her. He twirled and danced a lot. I believe he was struggling with his sexuality and he didn't know how to deal with it. I had a good relationship with him. SR18 hated him. I think NL164 also hated SR18. Staff who were in the home longer than me such as NL221 and NL261 indicated that Sister SR18 had a reputation for 'grooming' boys. She would have chosen a boy

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who hadn't hit puberty as her 'favourite'. I witnessed her choosing a boy called [REDACTED] as her pet. At one point I was told [REDACTED] NL164 was her treasured boy. She then broke off the relationship when he hit puberty. She turned against him like she did other boys who used to be her favourite. There was part of [REDACTED] SR18 that I really liked. She could be very warm and funny. However she also had another side of her which wasn't nice.

16. In June 1994 I recall that there was an incident involving [REDACTED] NL164 and another resident in the unit called [REDACTED] NL260. There were concerns amongst the staff that [REDACTED] NL260 was a sexualised child. [REDACTED] NL164 made a complaint against [REDACTED] NL260 and after that [REDACTED] NL260 was moved from the unit.

17. I remember [REDACTED] NL165 in the presence of [REDACTED] SR18 tormenting the children, in particular, [REDACTED] NL164. He wound the kids up a lot, both verbally and physically. He would have physically pushed [REDACTED] NL164 with Sister [REDACTED] SR18 blessing.

18. I also recall [REDACTED] NL221 telling us that he had witnessed [REDACTED] SR18 physically attacking [REDACTED] NL164 in his bedroom. [REDACTED] NL260 had been on an overnight shift the previous evening. I don't believe that [REDACTED] NL260 reported this.

Report of September 1994

19. In September 1994 I wrote a report for [REDACTED] SR52 (at SNB-17968 to SNB-17971). I have been shown a copy of this report by the Inquiry Solicitors. The report outlined my concerns over three incidents involving [REDACTED] NL164. I recall that I first raised my concerns with [REDACTED] NL169, the social worker who oversaw all the residential social workers in Nazareth Lodge. She advised me to speak to [REDACTED] SR52 the Mother Superior. I recall speaking to [REDACTED] SR52 but I do not remember whether she told me to put my concerns in writing or whether my training as a social worker made me do it. Either way, I produced the report for [REDACTED] SR52 and handed it to her. I think she told me not to report my concerns to anyone else and thanked me for speaking to her. I believe she meant that I shouldn't tell social services or

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go outside the system that operated within Nazareth Lodge. I kept copies of my report.

20. NHB137 was NL164's social worker. He stood out from the other social workers as he made regular visits to the home – his monthly visit together and any other time NL164 made a request to see him.

21. I remember NHB137 coming to speak to NL164 and I in Nazareth Lodge on 14th September 1994. I specifically remember Sister SR18 buying NL164 a pink hairdryer either the day before or on the day of the visit. I saw the hairdryer myself. She knew that NHB137 would be coming as he would have booked in for a visit and NL164 probably told her NHB137 was coming. She often bought NL164 gifts when NL164 threatened to tell NHB137 about her behaviour. When NL164 received gifts from her his attitude towards the staff changed and he turned on us. He became provocative and verbally abusive.

22. On 14th September I remember NHB137 stood at the door of the unit and I remember asking him what was going to be done about the complaints I had made involving NL164. He said that there was nothing he could do and that he didn't want to hear anymore. He had a helpless tone in his voice when he said it. His attitude was that this was the Sisters of Nazareth and that nothing could be done to change things. I cannot remember if I gave him a copy of my report which I had prepared for SR52. I would have thought that I did and I cannot understand why I wouldn't have as I was the person that contacted him to raise my concerns. NL164's attitude was also very much 'no one is going to listen to me'. I liked NHB137 as he was very good with NL164 but my abiding memory of him is him telling me he was powerless to do anything about my complaints and that he didn't want to know anymore.

23. NL164 and SR18 had a volatile relationship. NL164 could explode. When someone is being emotionally abused where can you go. I never witnessed SR18 being physically abusive with anyone. I did hear her and NL164 screaming at each other.

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24. SR18 didn't particularly like girls and she didn't like a resident called NL168. After I left Nazareth Lodge I had occasional contact with NL168 who is, I believe, now a social worker. NL168 would contact me at my place of work. Her own social worker would locate me. SR148 ruled in a similar way to SR18. She had her favourites and she apparently groomed girls who controlled the unit in her absence.

25. I have read the comments made by NHB137 when he gave evidence to the Inquiry. He said that NL165 acted like a staff member. I don't agree with this comment. He was more like SR18 henchman but I do agree that NL165 spent too much time in the home.

Report of November 1995

26. I have been shown a report by the Inquiry Solicitors which I wrote to Judith Chaddock, SSI Inspector, in November 1995 (SNB-17972 to SNB-17977). I left Nazareth Lodge in September 1995.

27. I recall an SSI Inspector visiting Nazareth Lodge to speak the young people and staff. Judith Chaddock may have visited Nazareth Lodge at one point while I was there and I may have made my feelings known to her and as a result she may have asked me to write this report. I cannot recall the details of how this report came about.

28. This report outlined the concerns I had about Nazareth Lodge. One of the incidents I detailed in the report occurred in July 1995 when I was in Donegal with the unit, SR18 and another residential social worker called NL172 (at SNB-17973). I recall that on one evening NL172 and I were off and we went out to a local bar to relax. SR18 had taken the children out in the minibus. When we arrived back to the holiday home around 1am SR18 spoke to us. She told us that she had left NL164 in Culdaff. NL172 and I were horrified as it was pitch black and there were no street lights.

Report for

SR 121

I was doing an overnight shift with [redacted] NL 171 on Monday 5 September when [redacted] NL 171 asked me had I known that [redacted] NL 164 said he was attacked on holiday in Donegal by two ex-residents [redacted] NL 165 and [redacted] NL 166. I said that at the time of the holiday I had heard this. I did not go into any detail with [redacted] NL 171.

The following day, Tuesday September 6th, another resident [redacted] NL 167, told me of an incident when [redacted] SR 18 allegedly locked [redacted] NL 164 in the electric cupboard in the kitchen. He described the incident as though he had been present and said that when [redacted] NL 164 was let out of the cupboard after 5 minutes he looked as though he was about to cry. I did not question [redacted] NL 167 at this stage as another resident was present.

Following this, however, I chose to speak to [redacted] NL 169 as I was concerned about what I had heard. I spoke informally to [redacted] NL 169 as I simply wanted advice on what to do. I mentioned 3 incidents and following this [redacted] NL 169 advised me to speak to [redacted] SR 121.

The three incidents I spoke of were as follows.

On [redacted] NL 168 after the residents had returned from Donegal [redacted] SR 18 told me of a conversation she had with [redacted] NL 168. I recorded the conversation at the time. [redacted] NL 168 said that during the second week of the holiday [redacted] SR 18 had asked her if she drank alcohol. [redacted] NL 168 said she did not. [redacted] SR 18 then said that [redacted] NL 168 was not a good liar and then apparently asked if [redacted] NL 168 knew her limit. [redacted] NL 168 replied that she did. [redacted] NL 168 then told me that Sr. gave her permission to go to an over 18s disco, said that she

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29. Another incident which I remember and which I detail in my report at SNB-17975 was when NL164 was forced to eat food from a bin by SR18. At the dinner time in question NL164 didn't want to finish his burger so he put the rest of the food on his plate in the bin. SR18 came back from the convent and went through the bin which she randomly did. She saw the burger and demanded to know who it belonged to. NL164 admitted it was his. She didn't allow anyone to leave the table until he had finished all of the burger. Once he finished he left the room and went outside and spat out the burger against the convent. It was his act of defiance. SR18 didn't see this.

30. My life was difficult when I worked in Nazareth Lodge. SR18 was verbally abusive to me. She called me 'one of them' in front of the children as I wasn't a Catholic. However I think I wanted her approval at times. In retrospect I think we all fell into wanting to please SR18 as working there was very hard. I was however critical of the way things were done in the home and she didn't like my connection with some of the children. She tried to undermine me publicly and criticise me in small things such as making the beds. If she didn't like them she undid them and made me make the beds again. One day I was in a small study room in the unit. I heard SR18 and SR148 outside the room and I heard SR18 say that she hated me and my relationship with some of the children.

31. I think I was extremely frustrated in Nazareth Lodge at the time. I felt like I was caught up in a system and the face of that system was SR18.

32. I recall speaking to [REDACTED] who was NL173's social worker. He told me he wanted something done about the way things were run. Some of the staff felt that something needed to be done and others sounded almost helpless and that's the way things were.

33. I was desperate to leave Nazareth Lodge. We all were. I remember sitting in the office with the other staff and when one person got a new job we were all jealous. It was a standing joke who was going to get the next ticket out. I

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think all the staff were looking for other jobs. My complaints about Nazareth Lodge included the working conditions such as hours and pay but Sister SR18 created a difficult working environment. In September 1995 I got a new job in a field office in [REDACTED] with Down and Lisburn Trust.

34. While I was sitting at lunch talking with new colleagues I happened to discuss my experiences from Nazareth Lodge. I think I was still reeling from the shock of it all. The other social workers told me that I should do something about it. I think I then spoke to my senior social worker who escalated it to Alan Chard. I had a meeting with him and I gave him a copy of my report which I had prepared for SR52 in September 1994. This started an investigation. I don't recall being contacted further after my meeting with Alan Chard. I did hear later that SR18 was removed from Nazareth Lodge following the investigation.

35. Staff who worked in Nazareth Lodge before I came told me that there were rumours going round the home that people were sexually abused by Sister SR18. However I did not know any details. I remember Father Brendan Smyth being on the news at the time and SR18 saying in front of the children that he was a wonderful man and that if he was free she would have him back at anytime.

36. When I left Nazareth Lodge I also did shifts as a residential social worker in [REDACTED] which was run by the Belfast Trust. It was a very different children's home from Nazareth Lodge. In my view Nazareth Lodge was an oppressive system. It was very hard for staff to work in that environment and hard for staff to do anything to change it. How children survived in it I don't know.

37. I always wish I did more at the time. I didn't know enough as I was only newly qualified and I tried to work within the system as I thought that was what I had to do. I wish I fought harder at the time to get people to listen. You don't get taught in college how to fight the system.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed NL170 

Dated 23 April '15

4.

behaviour. She said she had hit [NL 164] on the face. [NL 164] later explained that she and [NL 165] had both hit [NL 164] because of the way he had treated [NL 168]. [NL 166] said the lights in the room were turned off before they hit [NL 164]. I asked [NL 164] the following day if anything had happened to him. He said that after everyone had gone to bed he was downstairs with [NL 166] and [NL 165]. He said that [SR 18] had given permission to [NL 166] and [NL 165] to hit [NL 164] but not to hurt him too much. [NL 164] added that [NL 164] turned the lights out and that he could see her outline at the door and hear her laughing as [NL 165] and [NL 166] hit him. He thinks he was hit with a shoe. He said he was pushed to the floor before being hit, that he was not hit hard but that he was frightened. I asked [NL 164] what he wanted to do and he said that no one would believe him against [SR 18] and that there was no point complaining as he would only end up having to drop the complaint. [NL 164] also said that he had dropped a previous complaint because people did not believe him. The rest of the week in Doregal [NL 164] asked me to take him home and he said repeatedly he was afraid of [NL 165] and [NL 166]. I remained very concerned about this incident and felt that if [NL 164] did not wish to make a complaint then there was little I could do. However, when Vanessa explained he had told her about it I decided to speak to [NL 169].

[NL 170]

file SR 121

One afternoon, while I was in town with [NL 164] and [NL 168], [NL 168] informed me that [NL 164] had been "beaten up" by [NL 165] and [NL 166], two ex-residents, while the children were on holiday in Dargal. [NL 164], at this point, told [NL 168] to be quiet saying that it didn't matter. I asked [NL 164] if what [NL 168] had said was true. [NL 164] replied that it was. He then proceeded to describe the incident to me. [NL 164] alleged that this incident occurred following a previous incident between himself and [NL 168] earlier that evening. This particular incident had been recorded in [NL 164] sky book as occurring on the 12th of July. He had apparently tripped [NL 168] around the room by the hair. In [NL 164] opinion this behaviour had been the reason as to why he was later assaulted. [NL 164] alleged that [NL 164] tripped him causing him to fall to the ground while [NL 166] hit him across the head. According to [NL 164] Sr [SR 18] was present throughout the assault. He said that Sr had turned the lights out and that he could hear her laughing throughout. He also said that he was able to see her standing at the door.

I asked [NL 164] why he did not pursue this incident at the time, [NL 164] said that he felt that he would not be believed. He also added that he was unhappy about the outcome of a previous complaint that he had made regarding [SR 18]. [NL 164] had retracted this complaint after speaking with his social worker. He said that he did not follow up the complaint because no one would believe him, "these was two against one". I asked [NL 164] what he meant by this, [NL 164] said that it was both [NL 221] and [SR 18].

I then asked [NL 164] if he would record the incident for me as I felt that I had a duty to follow up the matter. I also asked [NL 164] if he wished to make a formal complaint regarding the allegation. [NL 164] replied 'Yes'.

I later spoke with [NL 168] about [NL 164] allegation asking her what [NL 164] had told her. [NL 168] gave the same account as [NL 164] had given. She added that, on the same night that [NL 164] had assaulted her, (12th July) [NL 166] came up to the bedroom and told [NL 168] and [] that she had given [NL 164] two black eyes because of his previous actions towards [NL 168]. [NL 168] told me that [NL 164] did not have any marks on his eyes when she saw him on the following day, therefore, she thought that [NL 166] had been joking. According to [NL 168] it was not until [NL 164] told her about the incident that she realised this had been on the same night.

I asked [NL 168] to record what [NL 164] had told her, and, what [NL 166] allegedly said. [NL 168] declined to give a written account. She said that she did not want to be involved as she was afraid that it would be angry with her. I told [NL 168] that this was fine, adding that I would have to record what she had told me. [NL 168] accepted this.

I contacted [NHB 137], [NL 164] social worker, to inform him that [NL 164] wished to make a formal complaint.

[NL 171]

CRAIGAVON/BANBRIDGE COMMUNITY
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST

CONTACT SHEET

CLIENTS NAMES

NL 164

ADDRESS

Restricted Info.

DATE	CONTACT	CODES	PURPOSE	CONTENT	OUTCOME/ACTION	SIGNATURE
13 Sept 94	Keyworker Margaret Lodge	S C T L I O P		ring to home to say she had completed reports in regard to incidents whereby NL 164 had been locked in the kitchen.		
		S C T L I O P		by [redacted]. She was advised not to share this information with Social		
		S C T L I O P		Services. - [redacted] has a copy of her report which she would give to me this pm when I visit the unit.		NHB 137
		S C T L I O P				

CODES: S Initiated by Social worker
C Initiated by Contact
T Contact by Telephone
L Contact by Letter

I Interview in Contacts home/office
O Interview in Social Services office
P Other interview or contact (specify)

Indicate nature
of contact by

NOTE: In child abuse cases
all contacts including
attempted contacts
should be recorded

This is a report for Judith Chadwick following
 — ~~an~~ conversation of Monday 6th November 1995.

I explained to Judy my concerns on leaving
 Nazareth Lodge and my reasons for doing
 so.

On a professional level I am quite disheartened
 as I believe the staff group are not given
 either a professional rate of pay, or
 professional terms and conditions. Although
 our starting rate of pay is equal to that
 of statutory field workers, we do not receive
 yearly increments for years of service. Similarly
 I believe staff morale would improve if,
 for example, we were offered pension schemes
 and better terms for sickness pay.

Another example highlighting my frustration
 regarding employee terms and conditions would
 be in reference to holiday times when staff
 take the unit to Dolegal. This year we worked
 for seven days, living in the same building
 with the children and we did not, contrary
 to Union recommendations, receive overnight
 pay. I worked from 9.30am to 1am or later
 on alternate days and from 9.30am to 7.30pm
 the remaining days. I was allocated eight
 hours in lieu only, despite the overtime and
 was told that this was a holiday for me as
 much as for the children. I have already
 raised these issues with a member of
 Nazareth Lodge's Management Committee, Muriel
 Summs.

More pressing concerns regard my perception

of how some of the children in the unit would be treated. I have forwarded Judy a copy of the report I was asked to write by [SR 121] following my discussion with her last year. This related to two incidents with [NL 164] and one concerning [NL 163]

A further incident which occurred this July in Donegal relates to [NL 164]

[NL 172] and myself were working in Donegal for this particular week of the children's holiday. We had left the house around 7.30pm as we were off for the evening and we returned at 1.15am. Sr was in bed at the time and several of the children were watching a video. [SR 18] came at to speak with [NL 172] and myself and she informed us that she had left [NL 164] in Cuddaff following an argument with him. Sr. explained that she and [NL 164] had started to argue in the minibus while they were at the beach. I do not know what the argument was about. She explained that both [NL 164] and herself had struck blows at each other and that this had taken place in front of the children. Sr then told [NL 164] to get out of the bus and explained that he could make his own way home. [NL 164] had been left in Cuddaff, which was approximately 25 minutes away by minibus, between 9pm and 1.30am. [NL 164] returned as we were talking. He told [NL 172] and I that he had walked around for several hours and had then gone into the house of a friend of Sr's

other members of staff.

Unlaid I consider the working environment within this unit to be made more difficult by the above situations, I also consider the unit to be seriously understaffed. We are frequently left on our own to manage all the children and I was given no option recently and told that I had to supervise unit one and two for my shift. All of the staff group have raised their concerns about staffing levels to no avail. We frequently manage the unit on minimum and less than adequate, or safe, staffing levels. I have received very little support or professional social work input into my role here.

- Judy - I could go on for hours + hours and have seen many things. Please let me know if there is any more I can do!

NL 170

5.

have believed at times that this annoys
 [SR 18] for example, at times when I
 have been talking with [NL 168] Sr has
 given me another job to do, after clearing.
 I overheard Sr. discussing with [SR 148]
 her distaste at [NL 164] telling her he liked
 me working here, and following my discussion
 with [SR 121] last year I am aware that
 Sr told [NL 168] and [NL 164] I had complaints
 about her and that I could not be trusted.

I believed very strongly that this was an
 attempt to cause the young people to
 remain cool or distant with me.

further issues which concern me relate to
 similar situations of the same of the young
 people being treated unfairly. I witnessed

Sr. telling [NL 173] to go away because
 she hated him and he was stupid; of [NL 168]

[] continually being told she shouldn't be
 here as there were children who needed the

bed more, and to remember that she was only
 in an emergency bed and could be returned
 home or placed in Middlesbrough at a moment's
 notice. I have continually had to deal with
 children who are angry and upset at how
 they have been treated by Sr. and who feel
 powerless to do anything. I have raised
 these concerns with Sr. only to make my own
 position more difficult as I would then be
 told off for something in front of staff and
 children alike. I have been informed by
 children of comments made about me by Sr,
 and have witnessed this occurring against

play together. **NL 165** was not on my unit and I had no responsibility for him. Some of the older children would have kept in contact with us and it would not have been unusual to see the children who had left the Home to come back to visit. I cannot say that I remember **NL 165** returning to the Home after he left but, as stated, this would not have been unusual.

14. I knew **SR 18** from when she came to work at the Home which would have been approximately in or around the mid to late 80s. I would have been friendly with **SR 18** as I would have been with the other Sisters who were also part of the community. We worked and prayed together. I can say though that I have absolutely no idea about the allegations that **NL 170** makes in relation to **SR 18** at paragraph 8 of her statement.

15. In relation to the comment at paragraph 9 of **NL 170** statement about graffiti on the outer wall of the Home, I remember an incident about graffiti being written. I was told about the graffiti but never saw the graffiti or told what had actually been written. I believe the graffiti was written by someone who had to leave the Home and struggled when he left as he had significant psychological issues. As stated I was aware of the graffiti being placed on the wall but was unaware of the content. I deny totally though the allegation that is being alleged to have been contained in the graffiti about me.

16. **NL 170** also talks about rumours that I was "grooming boys" at paragraph 9 of her statement. I have no idea why anyone would say this and I totally refute any such allegation. I note that also in paragraph 24 of **NL 170** statement she refers to the fact that apparently I "groomed girls" who controlled the unit in my absence. As stated, **NL 170** did not have any input nor did she work with anyone within my unit and I am unsure as to why or what basis she has said the things about me that she has mentioned in her statement.

17. I cannot comment in relation to the other allegations in the statement made by **NL 170** **NL 170** or what she states in relation to **SR 18** I did not witness any incidents nor was I aware of anything as suggested. If I had have been aware or thought something was going on I would have taken action.

have received contracts of employment. Staff complained that they could not understand differentials between their salaries and from the figures quoted to us the amounts paid to them appear to be low. Mother Paul said that the scales were based on a National Joint Council scale but she was unable to explain the basis of remuneration.

Staff work split shifts and they appear to work between 56 and 70 hours per week. All staff, with the exception of one temporary member is resident. They have very little freedom to socialise during off-duty periods and complained that they have neither a staff sitting room nor a staff kitchen. We were told that a staff sitting room had been prepared but that as yet it had not been used. They complained that they had little privacy in their rooms and that the Sisters frequently complain that they are noisy. The home does not provide a television for them though they may go to the group sitting rooms to watch television.

As a staff group they appear to get along well and they seem to enjoy working with the children. However their relationship with the nuns is very poor and none of the staff is content. Their principal grievances are to do with salary levels, split shifts and living conditions. While these are important considerations we would be equally concerned about their professional development which is virtually non-existent.

VOLUNTEERS

The only volunteers who come to the home are student priests. They appear to make a valuable contribution and most of the children are glad to see them. We were advised of one exception. They take the children to the swimming pool, play games with them and in one group they provide assistance with homework. All of their contact with the children while they are in the home is supervised and they are not available in the evenings. It is assumed that the vetting process undertaken by their college is adequate for the purpose of ensuring their suitability to visit the home.

FUNDING

The Eastern Board has recently increased the weekly payment from £80 to with effect from 1 April 1983. We did not see any documentation on this matter but were advised that a condition of the increased payment was that 2 additional staff would be employed in each group. By making this a condition the Board is effectively imposing a staffing level on the home and their action in this matter needs to be clarified. Prior to this decision being made the home was incurring

11. With regard to paragraph 18, I never physically attacked or hit any child in my care.
12. With regard to paragraph 19, [REDACTED] SR 121 [REDACTED] showed me [REDACTED] NL 170 [REDACTED] report and we discussed it after which I was advised to resign my position.
13. With regard to paragraph 21, I never bought [REDACTED] NL 164 [REDACTED] a hairdryer or any gift, other than on his birthday, Christmas or special occasions.
14. Paragraph 23 states that I screamed at [REDACTED] NL 164 [REDACTED] I may have raised my voice on occasions but I would never have screamed at anyone.
15. I refer to paragraph 24, it is untrue that I did not like girls or that I did not like [REDACTED] NL 168 [REDACTED]. I do not comprehend what [REDACTED] NL 170 [REDACTED] means by [REDACTED] SR 148 [REDACTED] groomed girls. [REDACTED] SR 148 [REDACTED] was a very experienced social worker who always acted in the best interests of the children. I confirm that [REDACTED] SR 148 [REDACTED] and I had a very good relationship. We discussed all that was happening in the Home and she was a great support to me and a mentor. Most afternoons [REDACTED] SR 148 [REDACTED] and I walked our dogs around the football grounds discussion such matters.
16. With regard to paragraph 25, I reiterate paragraph 2 herein.
17. With regard to paragraph 28, I have already addressed this issue in my statement of the 8 April 2015.
18. In regard to paragraph 29, I have already addressed this issue in my statement of 8 April 2015.
19. In paragraph 30, I did on one occasion correct [REDACTED] NL 170 [REDACTED] for her untidy bed making. I reject the allegation that I was ever verbally abusive to [REDACTED] NL 170 [REDACTED] or that I referred to her as 'one of them' meaning a non-catholic. I am appalled at this allegation. I would never have said that I hated [REDACTED] NL 170 [REDACTED].
20. With regard to paragraph 32-33, the staff always appeared to be happy and content in their work and enjoyed working with the children. We had very good times working together. When [REDACTED] NL 170 [REDACTED] left our employment we had a party for her and we

gave her a gift. NL 170 thanked me for all that I had done for her during her time working with me. I had no idea that NL 170 was desperate to leave Nazareth Lodge or that any other member of staff felt this way. From my recollection the only other member of staff to leave the Home during my time was Vanessa who left to have a baby.

21. With regard to paragraph 35, I am stunned by the allegations of rumours about me this is the first I have ever heard of this. I totally and absolutely refute that I ever expressed any opinion about Brendan Smyth. This is yet another outrageous allegation.
22. I have also been asked to respond to the statement of HIA 363 dated 9th April 2015. In paragraph 33 of her statement she makes some allegations. I came to Nazareth Lodge at the end of August 1986 when HIA 363 was 16 years 6 months. To the best of my recollection she was living in the independent unit and was employed as a secretary in University Street. I reject any suggestion that I was grooming boys in the home. My door was always open at night and the older children, if they were out late with friends, would call back to let me know they were home. Sometimes they would sit and chat about the evening in the same way children in family homes would do with their parents.
23. The only time I would buy a child presents would be at Christmas presents as the "Santa Claus" presents or a small present at their birthday.
24. I was certainly not conscious of having favourites but I recall NL 165 would have made a special effort to seek me out to tell me what was going on rather than speak to the staff.
25. I would never allow NL 165 or any of the children drink in the home. I am sure they may have sneaked a can of beer in sometimes but I did not permit it. I completely deny I allowed them to drink poitin.
26. While it could be right that someone would see NL 165 in my room as the door would have been open I don't recall this as a specific incident. I do not think HIA 363 would have seen this as she was in the independent unit at the time I was there. I did not wear my veil when I was in bed, nor did I wear it when we went swimming on the beach while on holidays.
27. I did not buy NL 165 a car. I would not have had the money to buy anyone a car. I recall NL 165 went to America or Canada and worked one summer. I did change some cash for him from dollars to sterling.
28. I completely deny the allegation at paragraph 35. This simply didn't happen.

Statement of Truth

file SR 52

One afternoon, while I was in town with NL 164 and NL 168, NL 168 informed me that NL 164 had been "beaten up" by NL 165 and NL 166, two ex-residents, while the children were on holiday in Dargal. NL 164, at this point, told NL 168 to be quiet saying that it didn't matter. I asked NL 164 if what NL 168 had said was true. NL 164 replied that it was. He then proceeded to describe the incident to me. NL 164 alleged that this incident occurred following a previous incident between himself and NL 168 earlier that evening. This particular incident had been recorded in NL 164's log book as occurring on the 12th of July. He had apparently trailed NL 168 around the room by the hair. In NL 164's opinion this behaviour had been the reason as to why he was later assaulted. NL 164 alleged that NL 165 tripped him causing him to fall to the ground while NL 166 hit him across the head. According to NL 164, SR 18 was present throughout the assault. He said that Sr had turned the lights out and that he could hear her laughing throughout. He also said that he was able to see her standing at the door.

I asked NL 164 why he did not pursue this incident at the time, NL 164 said that he felt that he would not be believed. He also added that he was unhappy about the outcome of a previous complaint that he had made regarding SR 18. NL 164 had retracted this complaint after speaking with his social worker. He said that he did not follow up the complaint because no one would believe him, "there was two against one". I asked NL 164 what he meant by this, NL 164 said that it was both NL 221 and SR 18.

I then asked [NL 164] if he would record the incident for me as I felt that I had a duty to follow up the matter. I also asked [NL 164] if he wished to make a formal complaint regarding the allegation. [NL 164] replied 'Yes'.

I later spoke with [NL 168] about [NL 164]'s allegation, asking her what [NL 164] had told her. [NL 168] gave the same account as [NL 164] had given. She advised that, on the same night that [NL 164] had assaulted her, (12th July) [NL 166] came up to the bedroom and told [NL 168] and Karen that she had given [NL 164] two black eyes because of his previous actions towards [NL 168]. [NL 168] told me that [NL 164] did not have any marks on his eyes when she saw him on the following day, therefore, she thought that [NL 166] had been joking. According to [NL 168] it was not until [NL 164] told her about the incident that she realised this had been on the same night.

I asked [NL 168] to record what [NL 168] had told her, and, what [NL 166] allegedly said. [NL 168] declined to give a written account. She said that she did not want to be involved as she was afraid that it would be angry with her. I told [NL 168] that this was fine, adding that I would have to record what she had told me. [NL 168] accepted this.

I contacted [NHB 137], [NL 164] social worker, to inform him that [NL 164] wished to make a formal complaint.

CRAIGAVON/BANBRIDGE COMMUNITY
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST

CONTACT SHEET

CLIENTS NAMES

NL 164

ADDRESS

Restricted Info.

DATE	CONTACT	C O D E S	PURPOSE	CONTENT	OUTCOME/ACTION	SIGNATURE
	NL 170 Keyworker Margaret Lodge	S C T L I O P		NL 170 ring to home to say she had completed reports in regard to incidents whereby NL 164 had been locked in the kitchen.		
		S C T L I O P		by Sister. She was advised not to share this information with Social		
		S C T L I O P		Services. - NL 170 has a copy of her report which she would give to me this pm when I visit the unit.		NHB 137
		S C T L I O P				

CODES: S Initiated by Social worker
C Initiated by Contact
T Contact by Telephone
L Contact by Letter

I Interview in Contacts home/office
O Interview in Social Services office
P Other interview or contact (specify)

Indicate nature
of contact by

NOTE: In child abuse cases
all contacts including
attempted contacts
should be recorded