

Name: **SR 18**
 Date: **[UNDATED]**

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of **SR 18**

I, **SR 18** will say as follows: -

1. I transferred from Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Derry to Nazareth House, Ormeau Road, Belfast on the 7th October 1973.
2. At that time there were three independent family groups in the home, each supervised by a Sister. Each group consisted of eight to ten children, made up mainly of two to three sibling groups. The units had just been refurbished. The layout of each was very homely, easy to manage and tastefully decorated. It consisted of four bedrooms, each with two /three beds, a lounge, dining room with adjoining kitchenette, a study room, two bathrooms/toilets, a laundry room and a bedroom for each Sister. The age range in my group was between nine and sixteen years. The senior Sister was responsible for all the groups. She attended to all admissions and discharges.
3. During school terms, from Monday to Friday the daily routine was as follows - rising at 7.30am for the older children who had to walk to the secondary schools and 8.00am for the younger children who attended the primary school on the grounds of Nazareth House. Children with learning difficulties were collected by special transport at agreed times. All of these times are approximate.
4. After washing and dressing the children ate breakfast and went off to their respective schools. All the children ate dinner in school.
5. The children arrived home from school between 3.30 and 4.00p.m. After a light snack they changed out of their uniforms, started homework watched television or listened to music.

6. The evening meal was served about 5.30p.m. The children helped both in preparing for the meal, by setting the tables etc, and after by washing and drying the dishes and leaving the dining room tidy. The evenings were spent completing homework, attending local clubs, eg girl guides, Irish dancing, ballet dancing, going to the shops and watching television, listening to music or playing games.
7. Bed times were staggered according to age. All the children ate a snack before going to bed. The younger children were bathed as and when necessary, while the older children were free to bath at any time. If a child wet his/her bed the child was bathed and the wet sheets put by the washing machine to be laundered by the staff.
8. The children on the whole were very well behaved. If they misbehaved they were usually disciplined by withdrawal of some privileges.
9. Weekends and holidays were less structured. The children were not called in the mornings. They were expected to get up in their own time, eat breakfast and tidy their rooms before dinner. The afternoons were generally spent either shopping in the local area or in the city, going for walks to the local parks, swimming, or in the minibus visiting seaside resorts and parks in Co Antrim and Co Down. Christmas was always a busy and happy time with numerous parties, pantomimes and concerts organised by local clubs.
10. At this time families and friends of the children visited but not on a regular or frequent basis. Some children went out for weekends, school and summer holidays with families. These families usually were friends or benefactors of the Sisters.
11. About 1975 the number of children in the home greatly declined so it was arranged that one group would close and the children move to another group. Another Sister joined the third group which meant there were two groups each supervised by two Sisters. The number of children in the home was then reduced to sixteen/eighteen. Also about this time boys were admitted to the home.
12. Before I left in 1977 when only two families had social workers, who visited on a regular basis.

13. I found the children to be pleasant, happy and helpful and I have fond memories of my time there. I find it difficult to summarise four years in a few paragraphs. A lot of changes took place in this period and I hope my memory serves me well. In conclusion I trust the above account gives some insight into how life was lived in Nazareth House, Ormeau Road, Belfast from 1973 to 1977.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

SR 18

Dated 07/11/14

Name: **SR 18**
Date: 11th November 2014

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of **SR 18**

I, **SR 18** will say as follows: -

1. I transferred from Nazareth House, Bishop Street, Derry to Nazareth House, Ormeau Road, Belfast on 7th October 1973.
2. At that time, there were three independent family groups in the home, each supervised by a Sister. The senior Sister was responsible for all the children in the home. Among other duties, she attended to all admissions and discharges.
3. I supervised a group of eight girls aged between nine and sixteen years. I remember **HIA 62** and all the other girls. I replaced **SR 153** who was transferred to Nazareth Lodge, Belfast. They spoke highly of **SR 153** found the girls to be very pleasant, helpful and well mannered.
4. With regards to **HIA 62** statement, I have absolutely no recollection of the incident **HIA 62** has reported. I have never asked any child/children to scrub bathroom tiles with a toothbrush. Regarding my saying that the three girls concerned would be out of the home at the end of the week, I would not have had any authority to carry this out.
5. I do not remember when these girls were discharged from Nazareth House.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed **SR 18**

Dated 13/11/14

Name: SR 18
Date: 19th November 2014

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of SR 18

I, SR 18, will say as follows: -

1. I transferred to Nazareth Lodge, Ravenhill Road, Belfast on the 26th August 1986. At this time, some of the children were on holidays with families and some had already returned.
2. There were three independent family groups in the home, each supervised by a Sister, who was supported by a team of staff, some qualified and some studying. I had obtained a Diploma in Education and taught in primary schools for fifteen years. The other two Sisters had already obtained their degrees in Social Work. During my time in Nazareth Lodge all three Sisters obtained a degree in Supervisory Management.
3. Each group consisted of ten to twelve children, mainly made up of siblings. The age range was between five and sixteen years. There was an independent unit attached to the family groups to accommodate four/five young people aged over sixteen. When I arrived, there were two young people living in this unit who had left school and were working. Later on a member of staff, who was a trained social worker, had the responsibility of preparing the young people for leaving care by helping with budgeting, finding accommodation etc.
4. During my time there, the unit was refurbished into smaller, well-decorated rooms for each individual child. Each child had their own bedroom and wash basin.
5. Mondays to Fridays in the school term allowed for a similar routine which was rising at 7.30am for the older children who had to walk to the secondary schools and 8.00am for the younger children who attended the primary school on the grounds.

Some children with learning difficulties were collected by special transport at agreed times. If there were any wet sheets, they were put in the laundry basket to be washed by the staff.

6. After washing and dressing, the children ate breakfast and went off to their respective schools. All the children ate dinner in school.
7. The children arrived home from school between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. After a light snack, they changed out of their uniforms, started their homework and then played outside or inside, depending on the weather. Some watched television or listened to music or played with visiting friends.
8. The evening meal was served about 5.30pm. The children helped both in preparing for the meal, by setting the tables etc, and after, by washing and drying the dishes and leaving the dining room clean.
9. The evenings were spent attending local clubs, swimming, ice skating, going to the cinema or the beach, playing football or rugby in the big playing field, watching television, completing homework, going to the shop and meeting friends or visiting family.
10. Bed times were staggered according to age. All the children ate a snack before going to bed. The younger children were bathed as and when necessary. Bedtime stories were read to them.
11. Weekends and holiday times were less structured. Some of the children went home to their families at the weekend; others went out with friends. The children left in the unit were not called in the mornings. They were expected to be up before dinner time. On Saturdays the children were free to go to the town with their friends or with the staff. In the evenings they would watch a video or play games on the computer. Those who wished could go to Confession in the local parish church. On Sundays, after Mass and dinner, the children either went for walks on the beach or the parks or to the local swimming pools, depending on the weather. Events in the local area and in the city were attended by the children; for example mini-marathons for charity, marches for peace, visiting the motor show and concerts in the Kings Hall.
12. During the school holidays, the children usually spent two weeks in County Donegal. At Christmas time, there were lots of invitations to parties and pantomimes. Some

children went to their families for Christmas, Easter and weekends. Shopping was done as and when required. The older children usually shopped by themselves while the younger children were accompanied by staff to make their purchases.

13. All the children and young people at this time had social workers. The relationship between social services and the Sisters and staff was excellent. The social workers visited regularly and they were very supportive. The six monthly case conferences were strictly adhered to.
14. There was a committee of volunteers who met regularly and carried out inspections every month and were available for consultation. The committee comprised of a retired social worker, a barrister, a head teacher and a doctor. I cannot remember the others.
15. I trust the contents of this statement gives some insight into how life was life in Nazareth Lodge from 1986 – 1995. I have fond memories of my time there.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed **SR 18**

Dated 19/11/14

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of SR 18

I, SR 18, will say as follows: -

1. I have been asked to deal with a number of issues which were raised by the Inquiry concerning complaints made by NL 164 and NL 168 and also my departure from Nazareth Lodge in 1996.
2. I do remember NL 164 very well. I think he was about nine years old when he came to stay with us. I know that he had a very troubled time prior to coming to us and I think he may have had up to twenty placements in different Institutions or Foster carers before he came to stay with us. He also had a very troubled relationship with his mother.
3. I recall he was a lovely child but one who was very difficult to deal with at times and had behaviour problems which made dealing with him a very stressful and complicated situation.
4. I would recall him as a very clever child and while he did not pass the 11+ I spoke with the principal of Aquinas and we agreed that NL 164 could go there. Incidents concerning his behaviour meant that he ended up transferring to [REDACTED]. I don't recall him being very happy at [REDACTED] and I think he may have had a very difficult time there.
5. I recall him coming home one day and he had foot prints on his blazer. He didn't tell me what had happened but I got the impression that other boys had actually thrown him to the ground and had walked on him when he was there.

I don't believe that he ever made any complaint about this to his social worker or to anybody else.

6. I have also read the statement of NHB 137 and I am very surprised at the comment he makes at paragraph 9 'SNB6093' that he didn't see children playing outside when he visited the house. The house had swings and a playground in the back and also had a large football pitch. My memory is that the boys were forever out playing football and would have played every minute if they could have. He also makes reference to the pool tables and games which he says were never used and it is possible that he did not see them in use but these would have been very regularly used in the evenings and at weekends. It was heavily used during holiday periods when the children were not at school.
7. At paragraph 14 of NHB 137 statement 'SNB6094' he discusses an incident. I don't recall the incident itself but I do remember the boys involved. Disputes are unavoidable in groups of children and there were occasions when the boys came to blows. Having read through the documents I think that the matter was very well handled and I have also noted the comments attributed to NL 164 at 'SNB6103' where he made threats to make allegations to get his own way. He was also very able to use his intellect to get his own way or to gain attention when he needed it. Unfortunately he would have considered himself to be better than some of the other people around him particularly members of the staff who he did treat badly on occasions.
8. The incident described at paragraph 15 and 16 is not one which I recall. Even having read all of the material available it does not ring a bell with me. NL 164 was a very strong willed child and confrontation about having his light on at night would be very possible. I do remember that NL 164 would have kept his light on late at night reading well after the rest of the children were supposed to be asleep. It is possible that confrontations with NL 164

about having to turn his light off were so common that I just do not recall any particular incident of this nature. In the supporting documents **NL 164** making reference to him having a right to have his light on and his exercising his rights generally, this would be very in tune with the type of comments that **NL 164** would have made. I know that there is a reference to him being given a bedside light. I do not remember that directly at all. I do remember an allegation being made by **NL 164** of sexual abuse and believe that this may have been in the field to the back of the house. I have read through the notes and my recollection of the incident would be in line with those notes and I am pleased that **NHB 137** agrees that the matter was handled properly and that the Sisters acted correctly in the way we dealt with the matter.

9. I have now also had the opportunity of reading the remainder of **NHB 137** **NHB 137** statement along with a very large number of documents detailing complaints which were mainly made by **NL 164** and some by **NL 168**. **NL 164** would have made regular complaints during his time in the care of the Sisters about very trivial matters. When I look back now I can see that he was a child who needed a lot of attention and would have done what he needed to do to get attention. If positive actions were not getting him attention, he was very capable of acting in a negative way and gaining the attention he needed in that regard. It is a regret that I perhaps did not realise this earlier in **NL 164** time with us. I liked **NL 164** and I know he liked me and he always looked for my attention. I did my best to give him loving care and attention whilst at the same time being fair to the other children in my care.

10. There are a large number of complaints set out and they cover a very wide period of time and a wide variety of allegations having been made.

11. In trying to come to an understanding of these allegations I think that it is worth noting that **NL 164** was a very individual child with very individual behaviour patterns which meant that he did not necessarily fit in very well.

The boys within the unit were generally 'just boys'. They would row, fight, settle their issues, play football and generally enjoy the rough and tumble of being boys. They hated it when I tried to reason with them and I think that they would have preferred a more direct punishment which would have been over so that they could then get back to doing whatever it was they wanted to do. Talking about things and understanding why they were wrong was not what they wanted.

12. **NL 164** was a much more sensitive child and preferred to sing, go ice skating or play tennis. He preferred the company of the girls in the unit to the boys. This made him stand out as being different and he didn't fit in with the other boys very well. My recollection is that **NL 164** was unable to discuss his issues or emotions with anyone including social workers. I recall being informed that a child psychologist whom he attended reported **NL 164** has significant problems with self esteem..

13. This is particularly sad as **NL 164** was clearly a very bright boy but unfortunately he would often use his intelligence to play people off against each other to get his own way or to gain himself some personal attention.

14. One of the things that I do note about a number of the complaints is that they were brought forward through third parties. That would be within my memory of **NL 164** behaviour. He would often get someone to make a complaint on his behalf. That way he would not be seen as the person bringing the complaint but would still be able to be the centre of attention and get some personal and direct attention because of the concerns.

15. I also note that a lot of these allegations were raised and when someone came to deal with them, they were withdrawn.

16. The comment raised at 'SNB6133' where the social worker noted that **NL 164** seemed to find it amusing to have had his social worker make a specific trip first thing in the morning to come and see him about an allegation that he was withdrawing, is entirely in keeping with my memory of **NL 164**

and the way he would have behaved. He would have found it particularly enjoyable to have been the centre of attention and to have caused someone to act in a way which really brought him to the fore.

17. I do clearly recall the investigation which took place in March of 1996. A Committee was set up from members of the Voluntary Visitors' Committee. I cannot actually remember who the committee members were but do remember Pat Kinder, Muriel Simm (whose funeral I attended) and Tom Cahill. Other members of the committee included a Mr. Murphy who is also now deceased.

18. I had a meeting with the Committee in Nazareth Lodge where we discussed a number of allegations and complaints and the Committee then took a view on the complaints which had been made. Some of these complaints had been made by NL 168 and some by NL 164.

19. I do have clear memories of some of these allegations and I have memories of how I would have responded to them.

20. The allegation about making a child eat food which was taken from a bin is not entirely accurate. NL 164 didn't want what everyone else was eating and wanted me to make him a burger. I went to the effort of making a burger specifically for him and gave it to him. Then I think everyone said that they were going to prayers or Mass and NL 164 took one bite from his burger and threw it into a waste paper bin. This was a bin for paper and was not a rubbish bin or a slop bin full of food. I lifted the burger out, it was clean and had not been covered in any form of dirt or debris, put it back on NL 164 plate and told him that it was a dreadful waste to throw such good food out. NL 164 didn't eat any more of the burger and left to go with the other children. When we all returned the burger had gone and had been thrown out by another member of staff. I explained all of this to the Committee and I think that they accepted that the incident had happened and that I had removed the burger from the bin. I also think that they did not accept that

I had made NL 164 eat the food or that the food had been removed from a dirty rubbish bin or a food slop bin.

21. There is an allegation in the letter of the 11th December at 'SNB49442' which

I think may be an amalgamation of a couple of other incidents. I do recall an incident in the minibus when I was driving and we were in Donegal. NL 164 was behind me and was getting very close to me and talking to me whilst I was driving. I asked NL 164 to sit back to give me space to drive and when I was trying to concentrate, NL 164 reacted badly and threw open the doors of the minibus. Obviously I was concerned and pulled into the side of the road and when the minibus stopped NL 164 jumped out. I asked NL 170 to get NL 164 back into the minibus and she got out and spoke to him but he simply refused to get back into the minibus. NL 170 got back into the minibus and I decided to bring the other children home and to send another member of staff, [REDACTED] out to collect NL 164. When [REDACTED] went out I cannot recall if she collected him and brought him back or if another person had picked him up and brought him home to us. I can confirm that NL 164 did not walk the ten or twelve miles he describes and also that he was not left out all night or for any protracted period.

22. Again when I think back to that incident, this was NL 164 looking for personal attention from me and I should either have got out of the minibus myself to persuade him to come back into the minibus or even have asked NL 170 to wait with him at the side of the road while I brought the other children back. This was an error in judgment when I think back now. I accept that I was wrong to leave NL 164 on his own and looking back I regret that deeply.

23. There was also another incident I recall when we were fishing with some of the other boys. NL 164 was sitting in the minibus talking to me because he did not enjoy fishing with the other boys. When it was time to go everyone got back into the minibus but it was another boy's turn to sit in the front for the journey back. NL 164 refused to get out of the seat and there was a tussle between the boys. When I intervened to support the other boy again

NL 164 got out of the minibus and refused to get back in and refused to sit in the back of the minibus. A cousin of mine who lived very close by brought NL 164 back up to where we were staying at the time and I think NL 164 probably enjoyed that because he was given one on one attention from my cousin and would have been able to sit in the front of the car rather than in the minibus with one of the other boys and therefore he was not sitting in the back. I think that possibly this allegation is an amalgamation of one or both of those incidents. Again I regret, in hindsight, that I left NL 164 and this was an inappropriate reaction to his behaviour.

24. I am also aware of this allegation that I did not speak to NL 164 for at least two months prior to the period when the complaint was made. That would not be accurate. There would have been times when NL 164 would have been acting up and would have rowed with me. He may well have used, and did regularly use, some very bad language and I would have told him that until he apologised I would not be able to speak to him. In saying that it would have been me refusing to enter into conversations with him as opposed to me completely ignoring his presence. Sometimes NL 164 would have apologised quickly but sometimes he would have taken a long time but sometimes he simply did not apologise at all. It is possible that the description of the incident would suggest that NL 164 was frozen out by me and I would simply deny that that was the case.

25. There were regular incidents with NL 164 and NL 168 particularly about their pocket money and clothing allowance. I recall incidents when NL 168 would come to me and ask for her clothing allowance and I simply had not received it from the Sister in charge at that point. This could have been the first day of the month and Sister may not have had an opportunity of going to the bank to get the money and so I could not give NL 164 or NL 168 their money. On no occasion were they ever refused their pocket money and would always have had their pocket money given to them.

26. I also remember occasions when NL 164 would often buy himself nice designer clothing and a single t-shirt could often use his entire month's clothing allowance and he would not have any money left for basics which he would have needed. He describes me as being reluctant to give him his money and I would believe that this is an example of when I would be talking to him and suggesting that he should not be spending all the money on one item but ultimately he would always have the money and would be entitled to spend it as he saw fit.

27. The minibus we drove at the start would have been one with the bench seats and would not have had individual seats. It is quite possible that the minibus capacity was exceeded sometimes.

28. I would also say that NL 165 did drive the minibus but would only have done so when I was with him. I don't recall him ever driving the minibus with the children on board.

29. I would categorically deny that on any occasion that I assaulted NL 164 or that I encouraged or initiated anyone else to assault NL 164. That is completely untrue.

30. The allegation that I told a child that I hated that child is one which I find very upsetting. I have never told a child that I hated them and I would categorically deny this allegation. I do remember the allegation being put to me and remember the child to whom it is alleged I had spoken to in this way. I can completely and utterly deny that I ever spoke to that child in such an unpleasant way.

31. I do recall commenting on a newspaper report of NL 168 brother being suspected of a serious criminal offence. NL 168 had confided in me about this matter and when it made the newspaper headlines I referred NL 168 to it in the kitchen. I did not do so to humiliate or embarrass NL 168 nor was I aware that I had hurt NL 168 feelings in any way. I made arrangements for staff to take NL 168 on a number of prison visits to see her brother.

32. The allegation about children coming into my bed is also one which I think has been misrepresented. If a child woke up in the middle of the night to go to the toilet or was afraid, my door was always left open. Some of the younger children may have come in and may have got in beside me where they would have settled down and gone to sleep. When they were back to sleep I would have transferred them back to their own bed. Again in hindsight this may not seem to be an appropriate thing to do although it was done at the time in a caring way for the child and there was nothing untoward about any of that.

33. I do not understand the allegation about communal presents and it may simply be that boxes of chocolates that were left may have been eaten on a Friday or Saturday night when the children were watching TV and maybe some of the children were away and didn't see these.

34. When I also think back about the role that NL 165 and NL 166 played, it is regretted in hindsight. NL 165 had been a resident with us for some time and then when he left he went to stay with his brother. He had a very bad time with his brother who was ultimately convicted of abuse of others (I do not know whether NL 165 was one of those he abused) but NL 165 came back to Nazareth with nowhere to stay. There was a room in the unit that NL 165 was allowed to use by me. In hindsight this was not a good idea but again was not done in any harmful way.

35. NL 166 was the sister of NL 267 and she would have had a very disturbed childhood. She was also in care with me for a period. In addition to [REDACTED], there were issues of familial abuse and I would have had a great deal of affection for NL 166. On the Donegal trip NL 166 had a very young baby and I had agreed to let her come with us for a bit of a break away. Again in hindsight it was perhaps not the right thing to let one of the older children come back and go with the children but it was done for the right reasons at the time.

36. After the interview with the Committee a number of the allegations against me were accepted in part or in totality. I remember that Pat Kinder was involved in discussing the outcome of the investigation but I cannot recall exactly how this came about. Pat's view that it would be better if I were to resign my position in Belfast rather than face the ongoing investigation. It was with great sadness that I agreed to do this and it was done for the best interests of the children and for the interests of the Congregation.

37. Immediately after the decision to resign I went to stay with my family for a time and then transferred to London where I was an assistant working with older people. Ever since the investigation and my departure in 1996, I have had no involvement with caring for young people or children. It is of great regret to me that this has been a situation in my life.

38. When I have responded to the Inquiry previously, it was, I thought, to give a general view of life in the home such as the daily routines, activities, holidays and so on. I often think back on my time and the children I cared for. I pray that they are happy and that they have been happy and fulfilled in their lives. I always think the best of the children that I cared for and hope that this process can help them with any memories they have which are of hurt and suffering. If I have hurt any child I offer them my fullest apology.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed  SR 18

Dated 07/04/15

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of SR 18

I, SR 18 will say as follows: -

1. I have previously provided a statement on the 11th November 2014 concerning HIA 62. I have now been asked to look at some documentation which the Inquiry provided to the Congregation including records from Social Services and social workers' comments concerning HIA 62 time in the care with Nazareth and her relationship with me.
2. I have had the opportunity of reading through the material and note a number of things in it. In particular there is some suggestion that the relationship between myself and HIA 62 was made difficult because of her desire to go to a dance or a disco. I have absolutely no memory of anything to do with going to discos at all. Even after reading this material this does not stand out as a concern that I remember.
3. I do remember that HIA 62 would have been late home from school quite often and would have gone out a lot in the evenings. It is was rare that I would have spent a lot of time with her when she was in my care. My major concern with HIA 62 was about her behaviour and in particular her behaviour with boys. I have seen a document 'SNB44649' and this refers to her having some form of relationship with a boyfriend aged twenty-three when she herself would only have been around fifteen or sixteen. That would have been my recollection of the major concerns which I had with HIA 62. A relationship between a young girl of that age and a boy significantly older than her, was something which would have given me great cause for concern. I think that that was the main concern between myself and HIA 62.
4. If HIA 62 was acting up for any reason and I had some problems with her, I may have had occasion to speak about her to her social worker or to the Sister in charge.

Regardless of whatever concerns I had with HIA 62 or my concerns for her future and her safety, I would not have had any power to remove her from my unit. I would have raised the concerns with HIA 62, subsequently with her social worker and with the Sister in charge, whom I believe at the time was SR 31. I think that this concern and the way I was handling the matter is reflected in the notes. I clearly had some matters which were of issue and they are debated in the notes.

5. I do not remember not feeling comfortable or happy with HIA 62 but these notes do suggest that I was struggling to control her and was suggesting that perhaps she should not be in the unit.
6. I note that there is a reference to me wanting to have HIA 62 sent to the Good Shepherd Convent in Derry. Again I do not remember this specifically but can see that it was an issue being discussed. I had been in Derry and would have been aware of the Good Shepherd Convent there and it may be that that was one of my concerns. It may also have been that moving HIA 62 from the Sisters of Nazareth Convent to the Good Shepherd Convent in Belfast would not have assisted with my major concern which was separating her from this young man and his interest in her. If she had gone to the Good Shepherd Convent in Belfast she would have been moving directly across the road and the risks to her of the young man in question, would not have been dealt with at all.
7. I have also noted the comments about HIA 62 moving from my unit to SR 153 or going away with SR 153 and issues of that nature. Again I do not remember this and believe that HIA 62 was only in my care for about five months and that may explain why I don't have a strong memory of this. Even when reading the notes I do not recall this discussion. It is likely that a situation of this nature would have been discussed with me as the leader of HIA 62 unit and I would have been asked to express my views. However, all decisions would have been taken in conjunction with the Sister in charge and the social workers who would all have had an input into who would have gone to which unit. I would have had no say in the number of children or the children being placed in my unit or being

moved out of the unit. Those decisions would have been taken between the Sister in charge and social services.

8. I have looked at the comments of SR 199 about SR 153. I would have described SR 153 as being a very gentle lady. She still would be a very gentle person. She may have taken a view about the girls being given more freedom and this may have been something that SR 199 may have disagreed with. I did not work directly with SR 153 and could not really comment on what she was like in her dealings with the children but it does seem that they had a very good relationship with her.
9. On reflection, it seems that HIA 62 had a particularly good relationship with SR 153 and she seems to have been very unhappy when SR 153 left. Whether she had a bad relationship with me or reacting with me because SR 153 had gone, I cannot really say at this time. I do think that HIA 62 acted up and was pushing some of the boundaries and that may have been part of the difficulty that I had when dealing with her. I don't actually recall having a bad relationship with HIA 62 but the documents clearly show that there was some problem between us.
10. I do not recall HIA 62 being a difficult child and it may simply be that the issues which were causing me difficulty were a combination of her growing older and starting to assert her own independence and partly as a reaction to SR 153 leaving.
11. I do not recall anything else which would assist the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

SR 18

Dated 07/04/15

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of SR 18

I, SR 18, will say as follows: -

1. I have been asked to deal with an area which I find very sensitive and painful from my time in Belfast. I do remember a young man, NL 267, who would have been in my care. NL 267 was only in the care of the Sisters for a relatively short time and I would have described him as a very pleasant and a mature young person.
2. NL 267 had a very troubled family background particularly with his mother. He had a girlfriend at this time and I think his relationship with her was also fraught.
3. When NL 267 came to the care of Nazareth he was about sixteen years of age and his room was not within the main unit with the children but was slightly outside my unit. When he would have gone over to the independent unit close by, where the young people went at around the age of sixteen, they would have been given their own keys to their rooms and would have been expected to look after themselves.
4. NL 267 asked me for a key for his room and, because he was sixteen and a very mature young person, I gave him his own room key.
5. This would not have been the normal situation within the unit as the children would all have been too young and the risk of them locking themselves in their rooms was quite high.
6. I do remember finding NL 267 hanged in his room and this was very upsetting, and continues to be a very upsetting memory for me.

7. I attended ^{NL}267 inquest and the suicide notes he had prepared were all read out to the Inquest. A note which he had left for me personally was given to the police by me and this was also available to the Inquest.
8. ^{NL}267 had enjoyed his time with us and I had a good relationship with him. It is a very upsetting issue for me to deal with.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed ^{SR 18}

Dated 07/04/15

Name **SR 18**

Date 24 April 2015

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of **SR 18**

SR 18

I, **SR 18** will say as follows;

I have been asked to respond to the statement of **NL 170** dated 23 April 2015

1. I refer to paragraph 7, the children were always free to go between the various Units.

2. With regard to paragraph 8, I totally and absolutely refute the allegations of a sexual or improper relationship with **NL 165**. The relationship I had with **NL 165** that of a Mother / son relationship. I refer to paragraph 34 of my statement of the 8 April 2015. **NL 165** from a very difficult background, he was fostered twice and both placements broke down. At the age of 14 he was placed in St Patrick's Training School, Glen Road. The Social Services asked me to take **NL 165** into Nazareth Lodge as the placement in the Training School was deemed inappropriate. **NL 165** was aged approximately 18 years old when he became homeless after his brother was imprisoned. **NL 165** never stayed in my room overnight, when he stayed in the House he had the use of the spare bedroom. I have been shown an account from **NL 168** in an interview with a Social Worker 27 November 1995 in which she stated that **NL 165** was 'harboured' by me within the Unit for a period in early 1995. It is correct that he stayed in early 1995 due to the crisis he found himself in. He came back and forward during this period. His mother lived in **SR 148** and his sister lived in **SR 148**. My priority was to try and get him settled in accommodation. **NL 168** said **NL 165** stayed in the room opposite her and I confirm this is correct. I certainly do not recall **NL 165** returning to the Unit either late at night or drunk. If I had any concerns about the safety of the children by reason of his presence I would not have permitted him to stay, although I acknowledge now that it was inappropriate. I am surprised to hear that **NL 170** felt there was an obstacle to discussing any matter with the Sisters.

3. I refer to paragraph 9, this is the first I have ever hear of graffiti being sprayed on the convent wall or anywhere about me. I am astounded at the alleged rumours that **SR 148** and I were grooming boys and I reject this in the strongest possible terms. My relationship with the children in my care was that of a mother / child or that at least that is what I aspired to develop.

4. I refer to paragraph 10, these are ludicrous allegations which I totally deny.

5. I refer to paragraph 11, **NL 165** did not have any power within the Unit nor did he have any responsibility for any of the children whether in the Home or in Donegal. I would have discussed with **SR 121** whether **NL 165** could come to Donegal in the same way as **SR 121** permitted me to bring **NL 166** and her toddler to Donegal that summer. It was done out of charity.

6. I refer to paragraph 12, **NL 242** came into our care when he was aged 14. He was one of 8 children, 6 of whom were in our care at different times. I had a very close relationship with them all. They had an exceptionally difficult family background. Sadly **NL 242** died 14 April 2014. I attended his funeral to pay my respects and to support the wider family. I was a guest at his sister's wedding in about 2004. I frequently encouraged the children to visit their Mother and would often supply them with groceries and some goodies especially at Christmas, Easter and holidays. When **NL 242** was in the Independent Unit I managed to get him a job with **NL 242**, a building contractor, who was a great supporter of Nazareth Lodge. **NL 242** agreed to take **NL 242** on as a favour to me. **NL 242** could not get out of bed in the morning; I hounded him to the extent that I sometimes would bring him a cup of tea and some toast, in order to get him to work. The implication that I was having some form of relationship with him is just crazy.

7. Paragraph 13, states that I listened into telephone calls. This is totally untrue, however I did have a telephone extension in my bedroom and if I ever picked it up to make a call and heard someone on the line I would have immediately put the receiver down. I certainly did not hinder anyone from speaking freely to social workers.

8. With regard to paragraph 15, I never hated any child in my care. Again I completely and utterly deny the very thought of grooming boys. This is all fabrication. I assume, 'the **NL 268** to whom **NL 170** refers was **NL 268**. He had foetal alcohol syndrome and was small for his age. He was a great character and I was very fond of him. He was no more a pet than the other boys in my group who with the exception of **NL 164** were mad about sport.

9. The incident referred to in paragraph 16, was dealt with in conjunction with **NL 260** **NL 260** social worker.

10. With regard to paragraph 17, I never allowed physical punishment or gave my blessing to any such action.

11. With regard to paragraph 18, I never physically attacked or hit any child in my care.
12. With regard to paragraph 19, SR 121 showed me NL 170 report and we discussed it after which I was advised to resign my position.
13. With regard to paragraph 21, I never bought NL 164 a hairdryer or any gift, other than on his birthday, Christmas or special occasions.
14. Paragraph 23 states that I screamed at NL 164 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 NL 168 NL 168. I do not comprehend what NL 170 means by SR 148 groomed girls. SR 148 was a very experienced social worker who always acted in the best interests of the children. I confirm that SR 148 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 SR 148 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 NL 170 for her untidy bed making. I reject the allegation that I was ever verbally abusive to NL 170 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 NL 170
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 NL 170 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 NL 171 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 242 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 242 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 242 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 242 a car. I would not have had the money to buy anyone a car. I recall NL 242 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

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

SR 18

Signed

Dated

27/04/15

File 95
PERSON INTERVIEWED:

SR 18)

Recording Number and
Recording Times:

of any visiting Priests. She then remembers Father Liam Mullan. She states he only came to see her, states he was from St Bernadette's, near Creaghy. She states he only visited occasionally.

13.20

She states that if Priests came into Nazareth there would have been a reception area where they had to come in. She states there was always a reception whilst she was there. She states that there was no record kept of those people coming in and out.

Question asked about who manned the reception.

14.30 **SR 18** states there would have been a Sister manning it with a helper, which would have been a lay person.

Question asked if she ever manned reception.

She states no.

Question asked about who the Mother Superior was.

She states Sister Gertrude and nobody else whilst she was there.

Question asked about training.

SR 18 states only her Teaching College, which was a recognised teaching qualification which she achieved from Glasgow in 1972 and took 3 years.

Question asked about how many children would have been in her group.

16.09 She states no more than 8.

Question asked about rules set in Nazareth.

States no general rules just per house but not formal rules, tried to create a home environment.

Question asked about written rules for chastisement.

States No

Question asked about how she chastised the children.

17.15 Discussion about chastisement. **SR 18** states she would have denied them things. She states she never saw any chastisement. She states she would not have ever physically chastised the children.

Question asked about who was responsible for feeding the children.

18.05 **SR 18** states the kitchen. She states she would have eaten with the children.

Question asked what she believes is the requirements for a child to grow up happy and

DOWN & CONNOR CATHOLIC FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY

Name: HIA 62

Address: Nazareth House,
BELFAST

CASE REFERENCE:

Residential Care

Date of Inquiry:

Date admitted

REPORT

28/3/74

Telephone call from SR 199, asking me to come and see her and HIA 62's housemother.

I called to see them that afternoon. SR 18 is very concerned about HIA 62's behaviour. Apparently, she is keeping company with one of the ex-Nazareth Lodge Boys who is aged 23 years. She goes off in the evenings and is known to frequent his flat in the area.

The previous night SR 18 awakened to discover that HIA 62 and two other girls had left the house and had gone to the Starlight Ballroom. They did not return until 3.30 a.m. which give great cause for concern and anxiety in these troubled times. Particularly since they had to pass through mixed areas to get home and there have been many assassinations in that area.

HIA 62's language to the nuns has got beyond control and she frequently uses 4 letter words. The nuns are worried about this also, but are much more concerned about the detrimental effect she is having on the other members of the group. One older sister is currently living with a married man and another sister has had an illegitimate child, which is in St. Joseph's. SR 18 feels that HIA 62 is now beyond their control and that they do not have adequate facilities to control her influence on the other members of the group. They are most anxious that she be moved out of Nazareth House as soon as possible and also complain that although her attendance at school is very good, her application to work is poor and her teachers agree that she is very wayward.

On one occasion recently a man working on a building site on the Ormeau Road, came up to the nuns to complain of her behaviour at 4 o'clock in the afternoon when this boy with whom she is keeping company. The nuns feel that if her behaviour with him (kissing, etc.,) in the broad daylight is so blatant, the chances of a more intimate relationship in his flat is highly probable and fear she

HISTORY SHEET

Date	REPORT	Initials of Officer
	<p>For previous information - see short rept. from Ngora House and [REDACTED] interview.</p>	
28.3.74	<p>Ref. NHB 122 - S. Wer Down & Corner planned NHB 123 APSW. HIA 62 is becoming difficult to cope with at Ngora Hse. and [REDACTED] SR 18 would like her removed tomorrow. It was agreed that [REDACTED] HIA 62 should be kept at Ngora until [REDACTED]. Until alternative accommodation could be sought.</p>	
29.3.74	<p>Visited [REDACTED] SR 18. She is finding [REDACTED] HIA 62 very defiant and a bad example towards the younger children in the group. [REDACTED] HIA 62 has a boy friend of 23 yrs - [REDACTED] he was brought up in Ngora Lodge and is an undesirable influence. When [REDACTED] HIA 62 was questioned about the boy by the Sister she said she liked a well experienced boy. [REDACTED] HIA 62 stayed out late on Tues. evening having gone to the Star Light without permission. She stayed out coming home with a couple by car. [REDACTED] HIA 62 has on other occasions stayed out late, and has made excuses of going to her grand mother (who may be [REDACTED] mentioned on the rept). Several days ago a work-man came up from the Brigal Pub, saying he had seen [REDACTED] HIA 62 with an older</p>	