

Table of Applicants – Module 4 – SON Belfast					
	Nazareth House Belfast	Nazareth Lodge Belfast	Both NHB & NLB	Crossovers NLB & Rubane	Total
Number of Applicants	51	54	3	28	102

Table of Complaints – Module 4 - SON Belfast			
Nature of Complaint	Applicants	Non Applicants	Total
Civil Claims	53	61	114
Police Complaints	42	62	104

Name: Sr Brenda McCall

Date: 20th November 2014

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of Sister Brenda McCall

I, Sister Brenda, will say as follows: -

1. This statement is provided to the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry to provide information on the historical context on the Congregation of Sisters of Nazareth.

HIAI co-operation

2. Over the recent years, a number of former residents have made contact with the Sisters regarding complaints and recollections of their time within the care of the Sisters. Many tell a time of unhappiness within the home and this is a matter of deep regret; many tell a time of contentment under the care of the Sisters and this is not to be overlooked. Where abuse occurred, whether by a member of the Congregation, a lay staff member, someone trusted by the Sisters to look after the children or another child we apologise once again unreservedly.
3. Where former residents have made complaints directly to the Congregation, the Sisters have arranged to meet with them to discuss their time in care. Some former residents have instituted civil proceedings against the Sisters. We respect and acknowledge that all applicants to the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry are given the opportunity to relate their experiences in residential care. The Congregation has pledged to assist the Inquiry in every way possible and will continue to provide pastoral support to all former residents who seek it.

Sisters of Nazareth Congregation

4. The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth is an International Congregation founded by a French woman, Victoire Larmenier, who came to London as a novice with the Little Sisters of the Poor. The course of her life changed when she decided not to return to France and, at the invitation of Cardinal Wiseman, she felt called to do something about the great material and spiritual poverty for young and old in London: those in great poverty whose only option was the dreaded workhouses or being left to die on the streets. Victoire Larmenier opened her first Nazareth House in Hammersmith. Before her death in 1878, Victoire had set up eight foundations in UK, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The Congregation has since grown and expanded throughout the world, always seeking to care for the poor and needy of all ages.
5. The Congregation worldwide is governed by the Superior General and her General Council, who are elected by the General Chapter when lawfully in session every six years. The 25th Chapter took place in August 2012. Sister Mary Monaghan was re-elected for a second term in office as Superior General. I am one of four General Councillors and I am the Congregation's dedicated Safeguarding Sister .
6. The role of the Superior General and General Councillors is to oversee the work of the Congregation and we are accountable to the Chapter for our stewardship of the Congregation's mission and assets. We work as a team, and promote collaboration, co-operation and communication across the Congregation within the five regions and 36 Houses. It is in my capacity as a General Councillor that I speak on behalf of the Congregation.
7. All the Homes comply with national laws and regulations and are registered, as appropriate, as either nursing homes or residential homes with the local authorities – The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) in the Republic and the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) in Northern Ireland.

Work of the Sisters of Nazareth

8. The Sister's principal work in the communities, both here in Ireland and overseas, is centred around Nazareth Houses. They provide residential and nursing care for the

elderly irrespective of their religious beliefs. These services are, however, grounded in Catholic principles and the Congregation's core values of love, compassion, respect, justice, hospitality and patience.

9. From the late 1850s, our ministries as Sisters of Nazareth have been carried on throughout the world, always reflecting our Mission Statement and Gospel Values. We presently have Nazareth Houses in five Regions ;USA (4 houses), Australia (6 houses), Southern Africa (7 houses), UK (13 houses) and Ireland (5 houses excluding Bishop Street which is empty and in the process of being sold) and our work includes:

Care for the elderly in nursing and residential Homes – our main focus in all our Regions - and in care villages, providing flexible support for assisted living;

Care for children and young people of all ages. In Southern Africa we have care from babies upwards, one nursery school in England and in USA a Grammar School that we own and are the Trustees of. There are no Sisters teaching in the school. The schools in Belfast and Derry are also owned by the Congregation and our Sisters are the Trustees. There are no Sisters teaching in the schools. Residential child care is only provided to children in South Africa;

Other Ministries according to the needs of the local area; and

Clinics and food programmes in South Africa

10. For most of their 160 years, the Sisters themselves managed all the Nazareth Houses. However in recent years, with the declining number of Sisters, lay managers were brought in where necessary. After the General Chapter 2006, it was decided to introduce lay management for the Houses and so Nazareth Care was established as the operating arm of the Congregation throughout the various Regions. Many houses have closed; today only one home of the original five remains in Northern Ireland as Nazareth Care Village, Ravenhill Road

Personal Background

11. I entered the congregation in 1968 and was professed as a Sister of Nazareth in 1971.

I grew up in Glasgow where I saw the work of the Congregation and often helped the Sisters voluntarily as a teenager. Through this, I worked with children and young people who were in the care of the Sisters in Glasgow, before taking the decision to enter the Religious life with the Sisters of Nazareth.

12. I did not live or work in any of the houses which are being investigated but I have known many of the Sisters who did. At the General Chapter in 2012, I was elected as General Councillor and I now reside in Nazareth House, Hammersmith. As the Congregation's Safeguarding Sister, one of my responsibilities is to investigate these sad and disturbing complaints and to search for and collate evidence to assist the Inquiry. I also maintain contact with the Sister in each region responsible for safeguarding. In Ireland that responsibility lies with Sister Victoire Mulligan who is in close contact with the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI). As a member of the Congregational Leadership group, I have been asked to be the spokesperson for the Congregation and I am committed to cooperating fully with the Inquiry on behalf of the Sisters.

Nazareth House, Ormeau Road, Belfast

13. In 1876 the Sisters of Nazareth were invited by Bishop Dorrian to establish an old people's home and to care for the children in Belfast, initially in the Bishop's own house on the Ormeau Road. This was renamed Nazareth House, Belfast and opened in May 1876 for the care of the elderly. Adjoining land was soon purchased and building work commenced 1883. The new extension was opened on 14 June 1884. This was the only Foundation House in Ireland made by our Foundress Victoire Larmenier. With the extra space the Sisters met the need of the day in the locale and the care of the children commenced in Belfast. The total number of children cared for was 2,909. Nazareth House ceased providing child care in 1984 and finally closed in 2000.

14. A Primary School existed on the grounds of Nazareth House, Ormeau Road, mainly attended by girls in residential care. The school closed in 1974 when it amalgamated with Nazareth Lodge.

Nazareth Lodge, Ravenhill Road, Belfast

15. In 1897, further accommodation was required, particularly for boys. This led to the purchase of Fox Lodge on the Ravenhill Road. On 18 June 1890, this was opened as a home for boys. At this time a separate school was opened at the Lodge for the boys while the girls continued to be educated at Nazareth House School. Expansion continued and on 15 October 1905, a completely new residence, in the grounds of Fox Lodge, was opened for boys ages 6-14. This became Nazareth Lodge, Belfast. Fox Lodge continued as a home for boys aged 2-5 until 1957 when it closed down and the children transferred to Nazareth Lodge.
16. Over the years, the internal working of the home gradually changed. The home no longer functioned as one large complex. The children were divided into groups with approximately 20 children in each group with a Sister in Charge who was responsible to the Sister in overall charge. This change took place in early 1960's.
17. By this time the Nursery School, which had been on the ground floor of Nazareth Lodge, was well established and was moved into a completely new building, called Bethlehem in December 1961. At the same time a new boy's- primary school was built and opened as Nazareth Lodge Primary School on 25 April 1960. In 1968, the decision was taken to expand the boy's school so that it could also accommodate the girls from Nazareth House Primary School. Building work commenced in 1970 and on 07 September 1974 the new amalgamated school was opened and renamed St Michael's.
18. In 1996, taking into account the changes in residential care for children, the decision was made to close Nazareth Lodge which subsequently closed to admission of children in 1998. The following year the Home was closed and demolished. During the same period, plans were drawn up to build a completely new home for the elderly on the site of the Lodge in Ravenhill Road. Thus, in December 2000, Nazareth House,

Ormeau Road was sold and a new Care Village was opened for the elderly. The total number of children who were resident in Nazareth Lodge totalled 3,708.

Finance

19. There are no records to show that the State provided any financial help in the early years. Our research has shown that, for a period, Nazareth Lodge was certified as a training school and this is supported by some of the entries in our registers which refer to boys being sent by the courts for various reasons. The Sisters received payments from the State for those boys sent through the justice system. The Founding Sisters bore the majority of the stress and anxiety of the financial responsibilities of the entire operation. Many Sisters went collecting donations of money, food or clothing from door to door to care for those children who were in our care. The Sisters were all well received and this became the main source of income. The people of Northern Ireland were exceptionally generous, particularly during the straightened times and hardship caused by the ongoing civil unrest and social disruption. For this the Sisters of Nazareth were and remain grateful to those who gave so generously; these donations provided children in our care with food, clothing and the opportunity of education. Our gratitude to those people remains today and we thank all who helped. Likewise our gratitude to those who left bequests in their wills or who made generous donations. In the Council Book for Nazareth Lodge in the entry for 15th January 1977 there is a record of a former resident being awarded a sum from the Department of Education and making a gift to us of £500.00. It is also noted in the council book for Nazareth Lodge on the 10th June 1986 that [REDACTED] a former resident, ran the Belfast Marathon and raised £1000 for the children in our care. Efforts such as these deserve mention and thanks from the Sisters.
20. Records reveal an Appeal Fund in 1950 through which the Sisters of Nazareth received donations to Nazareth Lodge Boys' Home. These records include donors' addresses and the contributions they made.
21. The records held by the Congregation demonstrate that some parents or family members promised to pay a small monthly sum to support their child/children. Some

fulfilled this promise and others did not. Such contributions were voluntary in essence and the Sisters were unable to enforce them unlike the government's ability to do so in respect of the Nazareth Lodge boys under the training school regime.

22. A significant change in policy in respect of the non-training school children is evident when the Social Services and local Trust bodies took control. The biggest change was that the Social Services and the Trust were now contributing to the children's welfare. They became involved in working with the children and made some contributions to the children's welfare. This was demonstrated in a record found in the Sisters of Nazareth Archive, Belfast which shows the Eastern Health and Social Services Board contributed a weekly sum of £15 for each boy or girl who was under this Area Board. In 1975, this rate increased to £18 weekly. The Child Welfare Council noted in 1966 that the weekly rate paid to the voluntary homes to the welfare authorities was lower than the costs of maintaining a child.
23. Another significant policy change was the emphasis changed to placing young children in foster care where possible. Emergency admission was a possibility for a short term placement. With the Department calling for Qualified Staff, the whole question of Finance was renegotiated with the Trust. The aspiration of the Sisters of Nazareth was to secure the same funding as the Trust provided for other children in residential care. It was also important to secure a salary rating for the staff in Nazareth House so as to ensure they were not disadvantaged or treated differently from staff in other homes.
24. The Sisters are also aware that there were substantial capital grants provided for the repair and redevelopment of the houses over the years. These grants covered a percentage of the costs of the works with the balance being met by the Sisters with the assistance of charitable donations and gifts from groups in the diocese.
25. The issue of finance is a complicated one. The Sisters were not in "the business" of providing child care and there was no desire to make a profit out of this element of their ministry. The Sisters did not take a salary as such which kept the running costs down. It was noted in Module 1 that the Welfare authorities and State Agencies were paying at a lower level to the two houses run by the Sisters. The Child Welfare Council in 1966 noted that the payments in voluntary homes were less than the cost of maintenance meaning "it had the effect of using voluntary funds to meet the states'

responsibility at a time when the average cost of accommodating children in welfare authorities' homes was much higher." The Sisters have only really become aware of the debates in the State agencies and Welfare Boards as a result of this Inquiry and were always grateful for funds received. They would, obviously, have appreciated greater funds but always tried to provide the best care they could with the resources available.

26. The houses also helped each other out. The inquiry has been provided with documentation which shows quarterly payments made by Nazareth House to Nazareth Lodge. The houses, while semi-autonomous, would have tried to help each other. The Inquiry will also be aware of loans from the Mother House to the local houses. These loans were expected to be repaid.

Visitations

27. One of the major roles of the Superior General is to visit officially, either personally or through a delegate, each house in the Congregation once every three years. The same applies to the Regional Superior during her term of office. The main functions of the Visitation are to strengthen, support and encourage Sisters in their vocation and to remedy any unfairness or injustice in administration.
28. Every three years the Superior General examines and visits all areas connected with the particular house, for example schools, nurseries etc. When on Visitation, the General or Regional Superior would be available to be approached by any person in that house, for example resident, child, and staff member. On behalf of the Sisters of Nazareth, a Sister was delegated by the Superior General to visit the home and report her findings.
29. The Home Office had a deputy visit the Home each year to carry out their inspection, produce a report and make recommendations. They would record their assessment of matters such as the welfare of the children, the living conditions in the home, the quality of food, the health of the children, administration of punishment and recreational time available for the children. The following extracts reflect these inspections:

‘Welfare of children’ as taken from Inspector’s and Visitors Reports – Memorandum of Inspection. Dated 21st December 1933:

“The boys presented a neat and tidy appearance. They were bright, cheerful, looked well nourished and warmly clad. Due attention is being given to their literary education, and at the same time adequate recreation and amusement is provided. The boys are taught to make their own beds and other domestic duties.”

‘Living conditions’ as taken from the Report on Inspection. Dated 17th December 1950 – 1952

“The dormitories were in good order, clean and tidy, comfortably warm, yet airy. Attention was drawn last year to the unsatisfactory ablutionary and sanitary provision of the main building. Nothing has been achieved in remedying the defects, but we were informed that plans have been drawn up to provide a sanitary annex on the ground floor with W.C’s, stall urinals, footbaths and showers.”

‘Food’ as taken from Inspector’s and Visitors Reports – Memorandum of Inspection. Dated 17th December 1947.

“The children were seen having their mid-day meal in the dining hall. The meal consisted of lentil soup, fish and potatoes followed by semolina or bread pudding. The service of food was good and the boys appeared to be enjoying it to the full. It has not been possible to obtain ample supplies of delftware and tin plates were still being used. The quality of food was well up to standard and an attempt was made to give a reasonable variety. The kitchen department continued to be well organised.”

‘Health as taken from Inspector’s and Visitors Reports. Dated 20th November 1941.

“The health of the boys has been satisfactory throughout the year. One child developed Pneumonia following whooping cough and was transferred to the Union hospital for treatment. He has since recovered. One case of chilblains was observed affecting the foot of a medium sized boy. It was recommended that the attention of the visiting Medical Officer to be drawn to this case for special treatment. Several cases of Scabies have occurred but the outbreak is now under control. The Medical Officer visits the school regularly. Since [the] last Inspection, 41 visits have been made.”

‘Administration of Punishment records and registers’ as taken from Memorandum of Inspection. Dated 17th December 1947.

"The punishment book contained a number of items but these dealt with minor misdemeanours and were dealt with by deprivation of privileges. There were no cases of absence from the school without leave."

'Recreation' as taken from Report on Inspection. Dated 17th December 1950-1952.

"The boys look healthy and cheerful. Most of the boys were playing energetically, sliding on the frozen surface of the concrete yard. The 2-5 age groups were indoors in their separate quarters in Fox Lodge...This was in good order and the new small dining and scullery annex is proving helpful. These toddlers looked happy and well cared for, but their playroom gives the impression of being overcrowded with children and as a result the atmosphere is stuffy."

30. In order to maintain good order in each of the children's care homes a voluntary health visitor would inspect and report on the following; Admissions and Discharges (of children), staff changes, changes in practice, record keeping and on any other matters deemed material by the inspector.
31. In addition the Sisters are aware of comments in the Hughes report (at paragraphs 9.22-9.24, that there was evidence given of monthly inspections as required by the statutory regulations. I refer to these in my discussion of record keeping. We can find no record of the reports in the archives.

Staff

32. Staff in Nazareth House and Nazareth Lodge were employed in the utmost good faith and in particular on their suitability and competence in childcare. Many staff were also former residents and already knew the standard of care expected and demanded. It is accepted that the suitability checks made in these earlier years would not meet the much more detailed requirements of today. Appointment of staff was the sole responsibility of the House Superior who would interview and accept people for the position of child care staff. In the mid 1970's a panel would have been responsible for this section process of staffing appointments. This panel would have comprised of the House Superior, the Sister in the group that had the staff vacancy and also the social worker who could have been either a Sister or a lay person. The limited understanding of the time and probably the trusting nature of the Sisters did result in

some unsuitable persons being appointed to the home. It is deeply regretted that any member of staff could have abused any child in our care.

33. In the course of Module 1 the Congregation gave a lot of consideration to the levels of staffing and the standard of training of their staff. We accepted then, as we do now, that the staffing levels in early years were not adequate for the numbers of children, or the needs of those children (even if those needs now recognised were not recognised earlier).
34. The Hughes Inquiry, at 9.20 -9.21, refers to the number of trained staff and the steps being taken to increase the number of trained staff and the level of training they receive. Reliance on older children to monitor younger children, whilst well intentioned, was not appropriate.

Activities

35. The Congregation sought to provide the best possible facilities and activities for the children. Evidence of day trips and holidays have been recorded in the Nazareth Lodge diary which has been provided to the Inquiry. Many of those who are bringing evidence of unhappy experiences do also speak of trips, parties in and out of the houses. Special treats were also available for the children provided by the Sisters and benefactors. Holidays in Glenariffe, Ballyhornan and Killough can be established when reading through the Nazareth Lodge diary. Daytrips to the Aerodrome at Nutts Corner and to Dublin also took place. The Inquiry has heard previously, and again in this module, that many benefactors held parties for the children at Christmas. These parties were clearly a matter of great excitement and enjoyment for the majority of the children.
36. As was seen in the first module music, dance and drama seem to have been prevalent in the houses. Outdoor games, dancing and music would have filled a lot of their time. Children enjoyed opportunities to go to scouts and guides, youth clubs, the cinema, and swimming as illustrated by the following extracts:

“Fifty of the boys were invited to the Majestic Cinema and had very enjoyable entertainment. Two films were shown in the classroom; ‘The Bohemian Girl’ and the

'Missionaries: Life in the wilds of New Guinea'. Nazareth Lodge Diary - November 1959.

"Swimming was introduced – the bigger boys now go to the baths every Saturday and are being taught to swim." Nazareth Lodge Diary - November 1957.

"We got special permission to have a Halloween Bonfire. The Rotary Club came and gave the children a lovely party. They also brought a magician and some entertainers". Nazareth Lodge Diary – September/October 1969.

"April brought the beautiful feast of Easter. The children attended the first Holy Week ceremonies and rendered Music. As a reward for their excellent singing, Rev Mother took the choir boys and altar servers for a picnic during the holidays." Nazareth Lodge Diary – April 1958.

Bedwetting

35. There are many complaints by HIA applicants regarding the treatment of children who bed wet. The Sisters cared for a large number of children from different backgrounds and it was simply not possible for them to consider the individual needs of each and every child. This inability to attend to each child individually is an example of where the Sisters' care fell below what they would have wished to provide and is accepted as a failing on their part. The causes of bedwetting were not understood by all Sisters and it is accepted that bedwetting was mismanaged in some instances. Sisters were not aware of the Home Office Memorandum guidance and that is a failing on our part. The system for disseminating relevant information such as the Home Office memo was inadequate. The requirement that a child carry their wet sheets and pyjamas to a laundry collection point was clearly a source of embarrassment and humiliation and ought not to have occurred. I reiterate our submissions on bedwetting in Module 1 and I repeat those admissions in respect of this module.
36. Over time and with the increase in qualified Sisters and staff, there was a radical change in how bedwetting was managed. Before the Sister in charge of the group

retired to bed she would have ensured the child was called and taken to the toilet. Also the child would not be allowed a late night drink before bed time. Occasionally during the night the Sister would also have wakened children to go to the toilet. Medical advice was sought and this led to the introduction of 'buzzer alarms'. This approach was not always successful. Gradually, through training and experience, bedwetting was dealt with according to the standards of the day.

Food

37. Over the years, the sisters endeavoured to provide the best quality and nutritious food available to the children. Meals were shared equally amongst the children and the same food was provided to the Sisters who ate after the children. It is noted in the General Chapter of 1916, the Sister's efforts to provide essential food to the children; *"As little or no bread is got from the food begging in Belfast, it was decided to convert the kitchen at Fox Lodge and adjoining apartments into a bakery and have the bread baked to supply the two institutions."* The Inquiry will be aware of a similar arrangement in the two houses in Derry.
38. The Sisters accept that not all of the children would have liked the food provided to them; however the Sisters cannot accept that the children were force fed when they did not eat. Nor do the Sisters accept that children would have been forced to eat an unfinished meal from a previous occasion as a few applicants have alleged. They also deny that mouldy food or food contaminated by rodents or other insects or larvae was retained or fed to the children. We would also maintain the position previously stated that the Sisters ate the same food as the children.
39. In reference to the issue of food we recently saw an online debate concerning the book written by **HIA 161** In this blog a commentator called **HIA 14** whom we believe to be **HIA 14** objects to elements of the book but in particular the reference to children eating grass. I attach the comment here;

HIA 161 As you havent responded to my request asking for my name to be removed from your

book I hope you read this. Had I known what the contents of your book were going to be you know what I would have told you. You say your book is a true story, You say you taught yourself to read and write. You were in the same class as me and I passed the 11+. You say xmas was purely a religious event. You know about the parties we went to. You know about the tuck shop. films we watched etc. You even spoke to me about these things. Why did you have to write things that you know are not true. You make things bad for those who are genuinely affected by their childhood. In your book you were out to get at one nun in particular. The bit about girls on their period, blood dripping down their legs that is disgusting. No one was so hungry they had to eat grass. Your book has offended quite a lot of people. No one person was singled out. Good luck to anyone who writes but why not write the truth. This book would have been better as fiction.

Clothing

40. The Sisters are aware of suggestions that children wore poor quality clothing or that they were dressed differently from other children. At all times, the Sisters tried to provide the best quality clothing they could, within the scope of the budget restrictions placed on them. Clothing from outside sources and 'hand me downs' were prevalent within the Nazareth Houses and would also have been common within the community and familial homes as well. The quality of cheap clothing available now just did not exist then.
41. The children were provided with a school uniform and they had the best clothing available at the time. At no point do the Sisters accept that the children were dressed differently or any worse than other children. In later years the older children would have been consulted and allowed to buy their own clothes within a budget.

Numbering

42. Similarly to the previous module of Derry, it must be stipulated that the children were not known by numbers but by their own names. The Sisters understand and accept that items belonging to a child would have been numbered; this was merely to manage the volume of items within the home and ensure possessions, such as clothing, would have been returned to the correct child.

43. The Congregation does not accept that the use of a numbering system to identify a child's items of clothing was intended to make a child feel less loved, valued or cared for within the home. At no point do the Congregation believe this was a policy within either home in Belfast; nor is it established as a common practice by all applicants within the Inquiry. The use of numbers rather than names would have been demeaning had it been used.
44. There is also a suggestion by a limited number of applicants that they were called by their surnames. While this may have occurred on a few occasions it was not a policy or practice within the homes. Children were known by their first names.

Corporal Punishment

45. It has been brought to the attention of the Congregation, through intermediaries, directly, and in light of the Inquiry, that the standard of care provided to the children did not reach an acceptable level at times. There are instances in which a Sister may not have acted in an appropriate way and children may not have been protected and cared for as well as the Sisters would have wished. As a religious body, the Sisters endeavoured to provide a loving, caring and safe home for all children under their care and are deeply upset that a policy of 'no physical punishment' was not always adhered to. The Sisters apologise for every incident where a child was physically abused by a Sister, a lay staff member, visitor, foster parent or anyone else. The Congregation does not condone any physical abuse of a child.
46. The use of physical chastisement is incomprehensible in today's society and is not accepted by the Congregation as a tolerable approach in dealing with children either today or in the past. Yet corporal punishment was lawful in the past and was widely used within family homes, schools and institutions in Northern Ireland.

Separation of siblings

47. By reason of inadequate resources, the Sisters of Nazareth had no choice but to separate siblings according to gender. The Congregation endeavoured to maintain sibling relationships and it was a common occurrence for siblings to visit each other.

The boys in Nazareth Lodge would all have played in the play area and field behind Nazareth Lodge. This meant older and younger siblings, if boys, would all have been playing in the same place. Many of the families came in together and so would have known each other from before they arrived and so would have mixed. There is also reference to the girls from Nazareth House coming to visit Nazareth Lodge when they would have met their brothers. Over the years, the Sisters were able to accommodate families of different genders and, ultimately, all children were admitted to Nazareth Lodge.

48. Although siblings were separated into different groups within the homes, there was the opportunity for sibling contact during recreational times in the home. Some siblings may not have played together as their preference was to mix with their own age groups. This would not have been due to the influence or instruction of the sisters.

Record keeping

49. The paucity of detailed records available is a matter of regret to the Sisters. We know some official documents did exist but they are not found in our records or archives. In particular the reference at paragraph 29 of this statement to inspection of the punishment book in 1947 would suggest such a book was maintained but it cannot be located now. There are many reasons for the limited records and we have discussed these in regard to the houses in Derry. Over the years the five houses operated by the Sisters of Nazareth in Northern Ireland have now all gone. Termonbacca was passed to another Congregation, Bishop Street ceased to act as a child care facility with part taken over by the school and the rest remaining with the care of the elderly, Portadown was only open for a short period and both of the Belfast houses were demolished with Nazareth Care Village now open on part of the site of Nazareth Lodge. As a result of this the available storage space for old records diminished and many documents must have been destroyed as the purpose for them to be retained had disappeared. We cannot find any records of destruction and so this is speculation to some degree. It is supported by the stories from Module 1 of documents being burned by a member of staff.

50. We have located some of the punishment books and incident books which have been provided to the Inquiry. We also have a very limited number of the records for

children who were resident in the houses. Other records for the children may, as with **SND 136** have been given to them when they left, some will have been transferred to any new home a child moved to and some may have been returned to the Social Services, again as was the case in the Derry module. The rest must have been destroyed. On behalf of the Sisters I wish to make clear that the destruction of documents was not in any way a part of an attempt to cover up any wrong doing.

51. We have located a limited number of personnel files for lay staff and these have now been forwarded to the Inquiry.
52. I believe we have now conducted a full review of the Archive in Dublin, Belfast and Hammersmith and that all historic books (eg council books, registers, punishment books etc) in our possession have been disclosed. We also wrote to all Sisters still alive with a connection to Belfast asking if they had any records. While I believe all documents which can be found have been found and disclosed we will continue to ask the Sisters to look. If any other material, be it diaries, notes, letters or other material comes available it will be forwarded immediately to the Inquiry.
53. The Hughes Report referred to monthly inspections taking place and being reported back to the Mother General. Upon reading this a further review of records was made with a focus on looking for documents of this nature. We found no records of this sort relating to Belfast or, in fact, any of our Houses. We have no record as to where such documents went. We do know, as referred to above, that other records were retained for inspection and these documents are also missing. We accept that the "signing in" requirements (also discussed in Hughes Report) were not complied with and that would explain why those records cannot be found.
54. It is deeply regretted that we cannot locate more documents to cast greater light on the day to day lives of those living and working in the houses.

Fr Brendan Smyth

55. Since my earlier statement relating to Module 1 was provided I have been advised of evidence that a resident complained about Brendan Smyth to one of our Sisters who

herself expressed unease about his presence in the home. I have been advised that the aforesaid Sister will provide the Inquiry with her own statement on this issue. However, on behalf of the Congregation, I wish to express our deep regret and unqualified apology for any failure on our part to safeguard all children in our care, and in particular, for any failure to proactively respond to the said complaint by referring it to both the church and state authorities. In those days, we would have accepted the bona fides of a member of the clergy in a way we would no longer do. The actions of Brendan Smyth in abusing his position of trust and influence to facilitate the abuse of children is deplorable. The Sisters were not warned in any way of the previous actions of this man

56. Brendan Smyth provided a religious retreat for the Sisters over a week long period in January 1976. He was provided with accommodation in Nazareth Lodge in a room near the parlour. This was not in the children's area and he would not have been permitted into the main children's area unattended as would have been the practice with any guest. However the fact the he used a religious retreat to gain access to the children is sickening. We accept that Brendan Smyth did abuse children while they were in our care and continued to abuse some after they left our care. We also accept that he visited both Nazareth House and Lodge. He did also visit on other occasions; we believe over about a 2 year period 1976-1978, and said Mass for the Sisters. We apologise unreservedly to anyone abused by Brendan Smyth in our care or groomed by him in our care and abused later.

57. We are much wiser now. Locally in Ireland Sr Victoire is in contact with the NBCSCCCI and discusses issues of child and vulnerable persons safeguarding with them. Sisters and staff are trained to meet the requirements of the statutory authorities and issues of safeguarding both for the elderly and the visiting children are very much to the fore. The issues raised in this Inquiry have also been taken on board and will continue to educate our current and future practice. As the Sister responsible for safeguarding generally I can bring learning from different regions together to educate other regions. The use of modern media allows information to be spread much more efficiently to the benefit of the children/babies and elderly in our care around the world.

Apology

58. As indicated above we have met many former residents over the years who have come with memories, good and bad, to meet with the Sisters. Some have met with Sisters who were with them in their home. Unfortunately the passage of time has meant many cannot do so due to the death or infirmity of the Sisters involved. We have issued a number of public apologies through many channels and I repeat those apologies again now. For every child who suffered abuse while in our care we are most sincerely and heartfelt sorry. Some have asked for personal apologies and we offer to them the opportunity to meet with a representative of the Congregation to discuss their hurt and to offer an apology to them.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed Sr Brenda McCall.

Dated 20 November 2014

IT/3/2

MOTHER GERTRUDE
BY MR KENNEDY

8

A Cross-examined by MR KENNEDY

Q Mother Gertrude, my name is Kennedy and I have to ask you some questions on behalf of the Committee. I appreciate that you are here, not only in a personal capacity but in a representative capacity, and you are answering for the Order generally, with particular reference to the management of the home, so that any questions I may ask of you aren't necessarily asked of you in your personal capacity - you can understand that?

A Yes.

Q You have told us that there are seven homes in Ireland. Are some of those children's homes and some of them old people's homes?

A That is correct, yes.

C Q How many children's homes have you in Ireland?

A We have four.

Q Four: one in the north of Ireland and three in the Republic? Is that right?

A We have one in Derry, one in Fahan in County Donegal, and one in Sligo.

D Q Two in the north?

A Yes, two in the north at the moment. We did have five.

Q. I see; thank you. In the Republic of Ireland I take it there are all sorts of rules and regulations with regard to the running of voluntary homes?

A Yes.

E Q As in Northern Ireland?

A Yes.

Q Are you familiar with the regulations that came into force in 1975 - at the end of 1975 - in relation to Northern Ireland?

A Yes, the Children and Young Persons Act.

Q When did you first read those?

F A In the mid-70s, I would say.

Q Yes, they were made in October and they came into operation in December of that year.

A Yes.

Q At that time you weren't Mother Regional?

A No, I wasn't.

G Q Where were you then, may I ask?

A I was in Ormeau Road and we did have children in that home then.

Q In Ormeau Road?

A Yes, at that time.

Q Are copies of these regulations kept?

H A In each house, yes.

Q In each house. And do the Sisters have access to them?

A They do, yes.

BA/4/3

13

MOTHER GERTRUDE
BY MR KENNEDY

A "function is to monitor the well-being of the Order's eight houses in Ireland and her inspectorial role in this regard has been carried out by visiting Nazareth Lodge on a regular basis, approximately 15 to 20 times per year. She would be the person who would assume responsibility for complying with Article 4(2) of the 1975 Regulations."

B Now, if I may say so, with respect, Mother Gertrude, you are putting that rather shyly, suggesting that she might be regarded as the person who fulfils that duty rather than that she does fulfil it in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Regulation - would that be correct?

A Yes.

Q How often does the Mother Regional visit?

A Once a month or oftener, in 1984 I visited 13 times.

Q 1984 - and 1983?

C A I hadn't a record of 1983, I had a record of 1984 in a desk diary that I have.

Q You do accept that you are required by law to have the home inspected once a month, isn't that right?

A Yes.

D Q And the reason I ask you about this is that the SWAG examination - and I refer to page 9 of their report, which is at page 20 of the Committee's brief - reports as follows:

E "There is no management committee for the home and full responsibility for the staff and children is vested in SR 143 the Mother Superior. She is also responsible for all aspects of the running of the home and for the Sisters of Nazareth who live there. In addition to the Sisters who work in Nazareth Lodge there are some others who work in the local schools and a few retired nuns. SR 143 is accountable to the Mother Regional who is based in Dublin. The latter visits the home three or four times a year?"

A Yes, I saw that, but that is not correct.

Q Did you see this report after it had been prepared?

A After it had been written I saw it, yes.

F Q Well, how did they get the impression that Mother Regional only visited three or four times rather than as you have said, 15 to 20?

A I don't know how they got that impression, because nobody is surprised to see me in Nazareth Lodge at any time.

G

H

Q Of course, if there.....

11. 12. 13.

1,

NAZARETH HOUSE, BELFAST. HOME FOR GIRLS.

STAFF;

in my days with the children we had very few staff. Through lack of finance and other resources the employment of staff was very limited. We had no income from any public authorities and depended almost entirely on the kindness and generosity of the Belfast people. Four Sisters, three of whom were school teachers, had charge of four groups of girls, with 25 - 30 in each group, and no staff. A Sister, with a few young helpers, had charge of the nursery children, numbering 25-30. A Catering Sister was responsible for the meals and she had three or four staff, paid by the Sisters. One of the four group Sisters took care of the children's clothing and mending and for that she had two helpers. There was no money to pay other staff. No support was given from any source towards food, clothing, overhead expenses or any maintenance. Very small contributions might have been made from a parent or guardian on rare occasions. The children participated in little duties, such as making their own beds, cleaning and tidying the rooms and preparing the classrooms for school. This was a preparation for taking their place in later life.

SOCIAL WORKERS;

There were no social workers in those days, and little provision was made for training in that line. Some Sisters attended HOUSE-MOTHERS' COURSES in England. The Northern Ireland HOME OFFICE appointed a visitor to come occasionally to inspect the children's department. She would talk with the Sisters, see the children en masse, walk around the premises and see the books and records. At this time we had no Social Services, and no other help.

A nurse came to the school from the HEALTH DEPT. to examine the hair. She always remarked on the healthy condition and the cleanliness of their hair, and never had fault to find. The House Doctor made a weekly examination of ten children (taken in rota) regarding their health, weight, height etc. He was always willing to come in when called.

We had our own system of SOCIAL VISITS from an appointed committee, consisting of the School Manager, the Local Superior, two teachers from the school and the Sister in charge of the children. These met monthly and an appointee made a visit to the children's department, saw the children and reported back to the committee. Recommendations and suggestions were always attended to, and improvements implemented. This was apart from and Home Office or Social Services requirement; it was solely a Congregational policy.

SCHOOLING;

A fully recognised Primary School was in operation for children between the ages of 5 and 14 or older. The teachers were paid by the Education Authority, and the Government gave a grant of 65% on all school furniture and equipment. Later free books for every child were given. The standard of education was high, taking into account that the children were all deprived in some way. They lacked a broad outlook on life, they had little or no experience of normal home life, their environment was narrow as they had few contacts with adults, male or female. When St. Monica's Intermediate School opened (I think this was about 1958) the children aged 11 or older went there. This helped broaden their horizon somewhat. They mixed with different types of children, and formed friendships, some of which lasted many years. Promising pupils were sent to Orange's Academy for shorthand, typing and business methods, and they have followed business careers. Others went to Miss Dunn's Commercial School, or to learn hair-dressing, dress-making, nursery-nursing, catering schools in Portrush and Eire.

Nazareth Lodge,
516 Ravenhill Road,
Belfast.

17th August, 1984

Dear Mr. Donaghy,

I refer to the letter received from Mr. Quinn, Secretary to the Inquiry, and I will set out the information requested below. I was surprised, and I think I should say slightly annoyed, that Nazareth Lodge should have been involved in the Inquiry, particularly as I had no prior notice. Mother General in Hammersmith has directed me, and I myself wish to co-operate as fully as possible with the Inquiry and I hope that the following information is what is needed. If any amplification is required in any respect, do not hesitate to let me know.

(a) Management Structure

(i) Description of Home

The Home is owned and run by the Poor Sisters of Nazareth who are a charitable and religious Order of nuns whose Mother House has been established since 1864 in Hammersmith, London. The Sisters provide a home for deprived children where they are given, in so far as is possible, the care and attention which one would expect in an ordinary family situation. The Sisters also provide a similar service for old people in homes throughout Ireland and, indeed, throughout the world.

The Home for children in Belfast is known as Nazareth Lodge and is located at 516 Ravenhill Road. The Sisters began their work there in 1900 in modest accommodation which has been substantially improved and added to over the years. Nazareth Lodge presently provides a pleasant home for approximately 40 children and the cost of running the Home is approximately £300,000 per year.

(ii) Staffing

The ultimate responsibility for the Home rests with a Mother Superior (Sister-in-Charge) who is appointed for a period of six years by the Mother General who is based in Hammersmith, London. The Mother Superior is specifically selected having regard to her previous experience in the care of children and she is also required to have expertise in management matters.

Immediately under the Mother Superior are 3 Sisters known as House Parents: each of the Sisters has extensive experience in the care of children. The House Parent assumes direct personal responsibility for approximately one third of the children in the Home (i.e. there are between 10 and 14 children in each group) and would be virtually in daily contact with each child in the group. House Parents are assisted in looking after the children by 5 Assistant House Parents some of whom would have formal training in child care and all of whom would be chosen because of their aptitude and concern for the welfare of children.

The appointment of House Parents and Assistant House Parents requires the vetting and approval of the Department of Health and Social Services.

In addition to the 18 caring staff referred to above, there is a further 16 supportive staff in the Home handling such matters as catering, cleaning, laundry, etc.

/(iii) Line

██████████ invited the Sister-in-Charge (Sr. ██████████ and a member of staff together with the whole group of children to their home on 26th December, 1975 and they were impressed with the home and with ██████████

On the day after the events of Rabane became known Mr. ██████████ came to Nazareth Lodge early in the morning to talk to DL 56. He was unable to do so because DL 56 was at school and later in the day he was not allowed to see DL 56. SR 29 who was in charge of DL 56 group then contacted DL 519 Social Worker and they both had an interview with DL 56. He at first refused to divulge any information and later when he was alone with DL 519 he recounted the events which have now become known. DL 519 immediately contacted the Police who then came to Nazareth Lodge where DL 56 made a statement. DL 56 was given a great deal of support in those difficult days and he was reassured that he was not to blame. His teacher was told about the incidents and asked to support him. Unfortunately it was not possible to contact his parents.

(d) Procedures for Vetting Visitors

(SR 143)

These procedures are laid down by the Health and Social Services Board and they are quite explicit. No child can receive a visitor nor can a visitor accompany a child away from the Home without the prior approval of the Board's social worker responsible for the child.

These procedures are rigourously followed in Nazareth Lodge.

Question 6

The witnesses in respect of Nazareth Lodge will be :-

Mother Gertrude

SR 143

Mother Regional (Ireland)

Currently Sister-in-Charge
Nazareth Lodge

Currently a voluntary visitor
in Nazareth Lodge and
associated with the Home
since the introduction of the
Monitoring Team in October
1984.

Question 7

The Mother Regional (Ireland) does not submit written reports on her visits to Nazareth Lodge but as necessary, makes verbal reports to her superiors in

(iii) Line Management Structure

An outline of the Management Structure is attached together with a small booklet about the Order so that if the members of the Tribunal wish they can obtain more detailed information about the background of the Order. As the Structure shows, while the Mother Superior (Sister-in-Charge) is directly responsible to the Mother General in Hammersmith, the Order has a Sister designated Mother Regional (Ireland) who is based in Dublin. Her function is to monitor the well-being of the Order's 8 Houses in Ireland and her inspectorial role in this regard has been carried out by visiting Nazareth Lodge on a regular basis, approximately 15/20 times per year. She would be the person who would assume responsibility for complying with Article 4(2) of the 1975 and Young Persons (Voluntary Homes) Regulations.

Mother Regional's visits to Nazareth Lodge are sometimes unannounced and on some of these visits she stays overnight or for a few days at her own discretion.

The Sisters, as a result of recent events in child care, and before they knew they were involved in the Inquiry, saw as an emerging problem the possible difficulty of a child being able to confide in those with direct daily contact. With this in mind the Sisters considered that additional monitoring was necessary and have asked 3 persons to act in a monitoring capacity within the Home and to visit the Home regularly. The persons have been chosen because of their social standing; their interest in the welfare of children, and in addition their professional background will help them to undertake the task. The monitoring team includes the General Practitioner to the Unit [REDACTED] NL 123, a retired Social Worker in the Department of Health and Social Services [REDACTED] and the Headmaster of the local school [REDACTED].

(iv) Placement Arrangements

Children are placed in the Home by the Health and Social Services Boards who at the time of placement allocate a named Social Worker to each child. The Board will have provided the Inquiry with full information relating to the duties of their Social Workers but there are two important functions which they carry out in respect of Nazareth Lodge.

The first of these is that they visit each child frequently and at least once per month. In this context review meetings are also held on a six monthly basis at which the House Parent/Assistant House Parent is in attendance to make available information required by the Social Worker.

The second important function relates to the ongoing supervision of the child in care and there is a requirement imposed on Nazareth Lodge that no child in care may be visited or released into the custody of visitors for outings, without the express prior approval of the Board's Social Worker. It is understood that when such a request is made to the Social Worker extensive enquiries are undertaken by the Social Worker into the background and suitability of the named individuals.

(b) Monthly Visits

Please see (iii) above.

(c) Social Worker Visits

As already mentioned, Social Workers appointed by the respective Health and Social Services Boards visit the children at least once per month and in practice more often, when issues arise. On these occasions Social Workers

/consult

8. The Order intends to evaluate the use of an effective external committee to be established in Nazareth Lodge. The committee will comprise three persons who will not have a management role but will be encouraged to visit the Home; be made aware of the complaints received and make such enquiries and investigations as they believe appropriate. The arrangement will be established for the period of a year in the first instance and within this period a decision will be taken as to whether the practice should be extended to other Homes or is worthy of being continued.

9. How Children and Parents should be made aware of Procedure

Children coming into care will be seen by the Head of the Home and will be told how to make a complaint if this should be necessary. Parents will similarly be interviewed as soon as possible after the child's admission and will also be told of the Complaints Procedure.

Children will be encouraged to discuss matters with the Head of their section, the Head of the Home or the Social Workers visiting the Home. At this time it is not proposed to use cards as a means of communication to the Director of Social Services.

MT/P-13

16

MOTHER GERTRUDE
BY MR KENNEDY

A

Q But she is at the top of the tree in the home and she has to make a decision which she can hardly decide purely by overhearing a discussion amongst those who are inferior to her in rank. I am talking about people above who can say "This is our direction. This is our advice. This is the way you should handle it." - in other words, take away from her the burden of decision to a certain extent. Do you think a Management Committee would be of some assistance to her?

B

A We think these three people that we have engaged now will be a help in things like that.

Q They have no specific statutory remit, or no particular function in the Order. They are purely something that has been created; they do not have a clear statutory duty in the running of the home, for example. They could just say "Well, that's a problem for yourself. Decide it whatever way you think fit". Does it not leave her very much alone and without support from above, in a temporal phrase?

C

A She always gets support from her higher superiors.

Q Has the Sister-in-Charge any duty to report to Mother General periodically? I mean, is she bound to keep in contact with her weekly or monthly, or does it just depend on her reading of the situation?

A She is supposed to keep in contact with me every week.

D

Q Is that by telephone or letter?

A Letter usually.

Q Is that a rule of the Order?

A It is a rule of the Order, that every superior has to keep in contact with ...

E

Q That again, I take it, would contain matters with regard to the Order, an Order of nuns. I mean, you would still require that perhaps even if you had no children's home to run?

A That is right.

Q Could you see a useful function in dividing the report into two parts, a part which could be inspected and a part which is entirely to do with the running of the Order?

A I think that is necessary now.

F

Q You see that there would be a necessary duty to impose upon the Sister-in-Charge that she should report once a month to you in Dublin?

A Yes.

Q Or once a week even?

A Once a week even.

G

Q You referred a moment ago to the monitoring team which has been set up. This is again in paragraph (iii) on the second page of your original submission, where you said:

"With this in mind the Sisters considered that additional monitoring was necessary and have asked 3 persons to act in a monitoring capacity within the Home and to visit the Home regularly".

H

And you give the names of the three persons. When was that instituted?

A Last October.

IS

17

MOTHER GERTRUDE
BY MR KENNEDY

6/1

A

Q Could you tell us briefly how it was decided and who made the decision to have this assistance?

A On account of this inquiry we decided that it might be necessary to have somebody outside the home to come, that the children might be able to talk to them about any problem they might have that they would not be able to speak about with people who had direct contact with them. That was the reason we started this group.

B

Q That seems to suggest that the provision or the attendance of these three people would be in case any of the residents wanted to discuss something with somebody from outside?

A Yes.

C

Q But you said that the Sisters considered that additional monitoring was necessary, and these people were to act in a monitoring capacity. Who were they going to monitor?

A The children, I suppose and staff.

Q Lay and religious?

A When they visit the unit they see the house parent and the assistant house parents and they see the children, and they can form their own opinion.

D

Q Sorry, Mother Gertrude, would you repeat that?

A I said that when they visit the unit they meet the house parent and the assistant house parent and the children, and then they can form their own opinion.

Q First of all, who selected these three people?

A We selected them ourselves, SR 143 and myself, on account of their professional background and their caring for children.

E

Q May I take it that they were suggested by SR 143 and then you endorsed the selection? You would not necessarily have known them, or would you?

A Yes. I knew the teacher, yes, and I knew the doctor.

Q According to this they visit the home regularly?

A That is right.

F

Q How often is regularly?

A Twice a month at least, and the doctor visits once a week.

Q He is visiting under his duty as a medical officer; is that right?

A Yes, both. He talks to the children, too. There are three units, and each of these people have a unit each.

G

Q The submission seems to stress the essential monitoring duty that they perform. Are they monitoring the whole of the child services being given? Are they monitoring the lay and religious staff?

A Yes, each one in whatever group they are assigned.

Q How do they do that?

A I suppose by talking to the people whom they meet.

H

Q Do they feel free to talk to anybody that they feel like talking to?

A Yes.

Complaint No. 1/85

Name: [REDACTED] (15 years)

Address: Nazareth Lodge,
516, Rathenhill Rd.,
Belfast BT6 0BX.

Nature of Complaint: Dates received: 28.1.85

[REDACTED] had a burst balloon and I took it from her. SR 46 shouted at me and told me to give it back to [REDACTED]. I said - no, Sister kept telling me to give it back and I kept on saying - No. Then she put her hand in my pocket and took out my cigarettes. I told her I was running away and she said - go. I was out for about an hour and a half and then I came back to explain what happened. Sister started on me again. I like SR 46 but we often have arguments and I have spoken to my social worker about this. She says I could move to SR 148 group but I would not really like to leave SR 46. My social worker tells me that I cannot be sent to Middletown for giving cheek but SR 46 sometimes threatens me with this.

Signature of Complainant: [REDACTED]

Signature of Staff receiving Complaint: SR 143

Action Taken:

On the afternoon of the 29th January I interviewed SR 46. She explained

that [redacted] had been bursting bubble balloons and because of the danger it would prove to be if the younger children present were to do likewise she asked

[redacted] to give her the balloon. [redacted] refused on a number of occasions and when Sister attempted to take the balloon from [redacted] pocket, her cigarettes came out as well.

Sister pointed out that [redacted] is continually abusive to staff and generally disruptive in the unit and it is on this account that training school has been mentioned as an alternative unless her behaviour improves.

I also interviewed [redacted] on two occasions since and advised her to talk to her primary worker in an effort to sort out her problems. She agreed.

Signatures:

Sister-in-charge:

Voluntary Visitor:

Mother Regional:

SR 143

Mother Gertrude

Complaint 2. 1986.

Names: NL 136 D.O.B. 5.3.'70.

NL 137 D.O.B. 28.12.'68.

Wednesday 16th April:

NL 136 complained to Staff Member (NL 158) that NL 137 had twisted his arm. In response, NL 158 was prepared to admonish NL 137 but NL 136 asked her not to.

Thursday 17th April:

While NL 159 (Staff Member) was talking with NL 136 in his bedroom, he mentioned to NL 159 that he thought NL 137 was acting strangely. In pursuing this conversation NL 136 said that

(a) NL 137 had asked him (NL 136) to help him close the window in the boys' toilets. NL 136 felt at the time that NL 137 was making a sexual suggestion to him and so he refused to comply.

(b) Some time back NL 137 had engaged him in what he termed "duty talk" while both were in a study period and that he - NL 136 had felt disgusted by it. NL 136 was recommended by NL 159 to tell SR 148 or his Primary Worker, so he had difficulty sharing more with her. He agreed to tell SR 148 only, on her return from Dublin.

Action Taken: Although respecting NL 136 wishes for secrecy, NL 136 has been informed SR 45 who was on 'sleep-ins', so that stricter supervision could be kept on NL 137.

Monday 28th April:

NL 136 came to SR 148 and formally complained that NL 137 had been harassing him over a period of time lasting from Nov. '84 - April 16th '86. The context of the

and she mentioned that [REDACTED] had held her arm. [REDACTED] had no recollection of having been slapped on the head. I invited [REDACTED] into the room and we talked through the incident together. [REDACTED] expressed a lot of anger relating to the incident and he encouraged [REDACTED] to remember being slapped on the head. [REDACTED] did say at this point that [REDACTED] did touch her on the head, but it did not feel to her like a slap or a hit.

[REDACTED] was asked to write out his complaint. I asked him what he hoped the outcome of this complaint should be. [REDACTED] said he wanted someone to tell [REDACTED] not to touch his sisters.

I interviewed [REDACTED]. Her details were in accord with those of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said she could not be sure if she had/had not touched [REDACTED] on the head in moving her out of the room, although she felt it had been on [REDACTED] back that she had placed her hand. [REDACTED] agreed to write her statement also. I recommended to [REDACTED] that it is advisable in almost all situations to refrain from 'handling' the children in disciplinary situations:-

- a) as a safeguard for oneself
- b) as 'handling' can sometimes escalate a problem.

Signed: **SR 148**

Complaint 7.

Name of Complainant - NOT GIVEN
Date of Complaint - Dated [REDACTED]

Written Complaint - Not signed - alleging 'behaviour' by a member of staff (named). No specific statements made but suggestion of 'familiarisation' and 'familiarisation'.

Letter has been seen by Rachel Regional Sr. Supervisor, Cheshire & How Selly. Our joint view is that there is nothing of substance in the letter which can be investigated and we have no reason to make further enquiries.

21/11/88

SR 9

21/11/88

SR 2

21/11/88

Complaint 8

Date of Complaint: 17.11.87? 17.11.88

[REDACTED] aged 5 years alleged that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] entered his bedroom and requested [REDACTED] to pull down his pyjama trousers which he did. They touched his penis. This allegation was forwarded to the boys' social workers who visited the boys. The [REDACTED] brothers denied the allegations. [REDACTED] social worker to seek an appointment with Dr. Swan for [REDACTED]

Staff receiving the Complaint:

[REDACTED]

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

3.—(1) In these Regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say :—

“the Act” means the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland), 1950 ;

“administering authority” means the person or persons carrying on the voluntary home ;

“child” means a person under the age of eighteen ;

“Fire Service” means in the area of the County Borough of Belfast the Belfast Fire Brigade and elsewhere in Northern Ireland the Northern Ireland Fire Authority ;

“home” means a voluntary home as defined by Section 98 of the Act ;

“primary school” has the same meaning as in the Education Act (Northern Ireland), 1947 ;

“the Ministry” means the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland ;

“training school” has the same meaning as in the Act.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889, shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

4.—(1) The administering authority shall ensure that each home in its charge is conducted in such a manner and on such principles as will further the well-being of the children in the home.

(2) The administering authority shall make arrangements for the home to be visited at least once in every month by a person who shall satisfy himself whether the home is conducted in the interests of the well-being of the children, and shall report to the administering authority upon his visit and shall enter in the record book referred to in the Schedule hereto his name and the date of his visit.

5.—(1) The administering authority shall appoint a person to be in charge of the home :—

Provided that any person in charge of the home immediately before these Regulations come into force shall be deemed to have been appointed to be in charge of the home under this paragraph.

(2) The person in charge of the home shall compile the records referred to in the Schedule to these Regulations and shall keep them at all times available for inspection by any inspector appointed by the Ministry.

(3) The person in charge of the home shall be responsible for the custody of the medical records of each child and shall keep them at all times available to the medical officer or to any inspector appointed by the Ministry.

General provisions governing the conduct of voluntary homes

4.—(1) The administering authority shall ensure that each home in its charge is conducted in such a manner and on such principles as will further the well-being of the children in the home.

(2) The administering authority shall make arrangements for the home to be visited at least once in every month by a person who shall satisfy himself whether the home is conducted in the interests of the well-being of the children, and shall report to the administering authority upon his visit and shall enter in the record book referred to in Schedule 2 his name and the date of his visit.

Appointment of person in charge

5.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) the administering authority shall appoint a person to be in charge of the home.

(2) Any person in charge of a home immediately before these regulations come into operation shall be deemed to have been appointed to be in charge of the home under paragraph (1).

(3) The person in charge of the home shall compile the records referred to in Schedule 2 and shall keep them at all times available for inspection by any inspector appointed by the Department.

(4) The person in charge of the home shall be responsible for the custody of the medical records of each child and shall keep them at all times available to the medical officer or officers appointed by the administering authority under regulation 7 or to any inspector appointed by the Department.

Change of person in charge

6. The administering authority shall forthwith give notice to the Department when a person in charge of a home ceases to be in charge of that home, and of any new appointment to the position.

Medical care and hygiene

7.—(1) The administering authority shall appoint a medical officer for each home in its charge.

(2) The duties of the medical officer shall include—

- (a) the general supervision of the health of the children (excluding dental health);
- (b) the general supervision of the hygienic condition of the premises;
- (c) attendance at the home at regular intervals with sufficient frequency to ensure that he is closely acquainted with the health of the children;
- (d) the medical inspection of the children at regular intervals;
- (e) the provision of such medical attention as may be necessary;
- (f) the giving of advice to the person in charge of the home on matters affecting the health of any of the children or the hygienic condition of the premises; and
- (g) the supervision of the compilation of a medical record for each child in the home containing particulars of the medical history of the child before admission, so far as it is known, of his physical and mental condition on admission, of his medical history while accommodated in the home and of his condition on discharge from the home.

Notes on Questions Raised In
Committee of Inquiry's Letter dated
26th February, 1985

Questions - Paragraph 4

(a) Management and Monitoring of Home

Mother Reg.

(i) Responsibilities of Mother Regional (Ireland)

These are described in broad terms in paragraph (iii) of the letter dated 17th August, 1984 which has been submitted to the Committee of Inquiry.

It must be said that Mother Regional's role provides effective monitoring of Nazareth Lodge even though, in all respects - such as making entries in record books; she may not fulfill the requirements of Article 4(2) of the 1975 Children and Young Persons Regulations.

For example, in addition to making visits to Nazareth Lodge, Mother Regional is often in communication with the Home about the progress of issues and ~~at two monthly intervals she meets with the Sister in Charge of all homes in Ireland.~~

During her visits, she often remains overnight and takes the opportunity to meet the children and staff and to familiarise herself with events in the Home.

Mother Regional does not routinely submit written reports to her superiors in Hammersmith but she will frequently make verbal reports.

(ii) Responsibilities of Sister in Charge

(Mother Reg.)

SR 143

Mother Superior's role is that of an officer in charge of a children's home and her broad management responsibilities are referred to in (a) (ii) of the letter dated 17/8/84 sent to the Committee.

In two important respects her duties differ from those of an Officer-in-Charge of a Board children's home. Firstly she is resident and is available and on duty for most of the time. Secondly, the work is vocational and she has a total and dedicated commitment to the children and to the running of the Home. These statements are not intended to detract from the commitment which Officers-in-Charge of other homes give but the religious and vocational aspects have to be emphasised and indeed have often been praised in official reports.

(iii) Relationships with Other Staff

(372)

Both Mother Regional and the Sister in Charge often meet the other

staff in the home. The formal and informal relationships are good and efforts are being made to involve staff in the running of the home and more particularly to involve staff in the planning and development of the children. The 'Primary Worker' concept referred to in the Social Work Advisory Group's report (1984) has already been introduced and improvements in training arrangements and pay have also improved morale.

(iv) Other Monitoring Arrangements

(SR 143

- (a) In the Home's earlier letter reference was made to the establishment of a monitoring team of three persons - NL 123, a school teacher and a retired social worker.

This team has been working since October 1984. Each member of the team has agreed to take a special interest in one group and on average visit 2/3 times a month. Meetings are held with the Sister-in-Charge - usually every six weeks to review progress of the monitoring arrangements and the Monitoring Team are free to talk to any child or member of staff.

The appropriate member of the Team is shown any complaints or records of untoward events which may arise and signs the record to show that their attention has been drawn to the event. Equally the member is free to conduct such enquiries as they wish and to report to the Sister-in-Charge and the Mother Regional as they think fit.

At six monthly intervals the Monitoring Team is asked to produce a report of their work and their observations, and this report will be made available to the Sister-in-Charge; Mother Regional and a copy kept to be seen by the Department's inspection team.

(b) Recruitment and Training of Staff

(NL 123

The Social Work Advisory Group commented favourably on the training of Assistant Houseparents (para 6.5). Two elements of training were encouraged - the secondment of staff for professional training; and the opportunity for staff to attend short training courses in residential child care practice.

Both elements have in the past six months received attention. The Department of Health and Social Services has been asked for financial assistance and to help with the placement of two staff on an appropriate professional training course. With the assistance of the Department arrangements have also been made with the Rupert Stanley College to have in-service training given to all caring staff in a course which will be given one day per week, extending over 12 weeks. The training will commence in March 1985.

In respect of recruitment, posts are advertised publicly and applications are considered, usually by the Sister-in-Charge and one other senior member of staff. Three referees have to be given and references are sought on behalf of persons who are shortlisted.

DONATIONS.

Nov '73 to March 1984

LEGACIES RECEIVED FROM 1925

as the Ministry may, with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, determine.

(4) The conditions on which any sums are paid or loans are made under this section towards the expenditure incurred or to be incurred in connection with the provision of a site for, or with the purchase, erection, extension, alteration or equipment of, a training school, may include conditions for securing the repayment in whole or in part of the sums paid in the event of the school ceasing to be a training school, and, notwithstanding anything in the constitution of the school or of the managers thereof, or in the trusts, if any, to which the property of the school or of the managers is subject, the managers and any persons who are trustees of any of the said property may accept those sums on those conditions, and execute any instrument required for carrying those conditions into effect, and shall be bound by those conditions and by any instrument so executed and have power to fulfil the conditions and the obligations created by the instrument.

117.—(1) The Ministry with the consent of the Ministry of Finance may defray or contribute towards any fees or expenses incurred by persons undergoing training approved by the Ministry with a view to, or in the course of, their employment for the purposes of this Act, or of the Adoption of Children Act (Northern Ireland), 1950, or their employment by a voluntary organisation for similar purposes, and may with the like consent defray or contribute towards the cost of maintenance of persons undergoing such training.

Grants for
training
in child
care.

(2) The Ministry may pay grants of such amounts, and subject to such conditions, as it may with the consent of the Ministry of Finance determine towards expenses incurred by any body of persons in providing courses suitable for persons undergoing training as aforesaid.

118.—(1) The Ministry may pay grants of such amounts and subject to such conditions as it may with the consent of the Ministry of Finance determine towards expenses incurred or to be incurred by any voluntary organisation, in circumstances such that it appears to the Ministry requisite that the grants should be made,

Grants to
voluntary
organisa-
tions.

for improving premises in which voluntary homes are being carried on or the equipment of voluntary homes, or for securing that voluntary homes will be better provided with qualified staff.

(2) A welfare authority may, with the consent of the Ministry, make contributions to any voluntary organisation the object or primary object of which is to promote the welfare of children.

(3) The conditions on which any grants are paid under this section towards expenses incurred or to be incurred by any voluntary organisation may include conditions for securing the repayment in whole or in part of the sums paid in the event of the premises ceasing to be a voluntary home, and, notwithstanding anything in the constitution of the voluntary home or the voluntary organisation, or in the trusts, if any, to which the property of the home or of the organisation is subject, the trustees, or other persons having for the time being control or management of the said property, may accept such sums on those conditions and execute any instrument required for carrying those conditions into effect, and shall be bound by those conditions and by any instrument so executed, and have power to fulfil the conditions and the obligations created by the instrument.

Grants to
welfare
authorities.

119.—(1) The Ministry shall pay to a welfare authority in respect of each financial period grants towards the expenditure incurred by them during that period for the purpose of the discharge of their functions under this Act or the Adoption of Children Act (Northern Ireland), 1950, the amount of such grants to be determined by the Ministry with the consent of the Ministry of Finance but not to exceed in the aggregate the amount by which one-half of the expenditure so incurred is greater than the arrears, if any, of payments due in respect of that period by the welfare authority to the Ministry under the next succeeding sub-section.

(2) A welfare authority shall pay to the Ministry in respect of each financial period an amount equal to such proportion, not exceeding one-half, as the Ministry may with the consent of the Ministry of Finance determine, of so much of the expenditure incurred during that period by the Ministry under sections one hundred and

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Extract from Minutes of Proceedings of Tyrone County Welfare Committee
Children's Sub-Committee

at a meeting held on 1st November, 1954

Minutes adopted 15th November, 1954

File No. T.106

6.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY HOMES

A communication was submitted from the Ministry of Home Affairs outlining the financial provision being made by the Ministry for grants under Sections 117 and 118 of the Children and Young Persons Act (N.I.) 1950. The grants proposed were as follows:-

Manor House Children's Home, Lisburn.	£5,200
Nazareth Lodge Children's Home, Belfast.	£5,000
Glendhu Children's Home, Belfast.	£200
Rubane Children's Home, Kircubbin, Co. Down.	£5,000
Miscellaneous items to meet the cost of courses of training in child care.	£1,500

The Secretary indicated that in accordance with Section 119 of the Children and Young Persons Act, 50% of the expenditure involved, totalling £16,900, would be recoupable by Welfare Committees and that on a population basis the approximate share payable by County Tyrone would be £800.

The members expressed disapproval of the proposal, particularly in view of the fact that Tyrone, although being called upon to contribute, was not likely to receive any substantial benefit from the development which would take place at these Homes. It was stated that there was nothing that the Committee could do in regard to the matter as the subject had been discussed on numerous occasions between deputations from the Welfare Authorities Association and the Ministry, and that on each occasion the Ministry had been most adamant in their view that all Welfare Committees should contribute to projects for the development of Voluntary Homes. After prolonged discussion, it was proposed by Mr. Beattie, seconded by Mr. Colhoun and resolved that the attention of the County Welfare Committee be drawn to the position, with the suggestion that they should arrange to have the issue brought before Parliament

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Extract from Minutes of Proceedings of Tyrone County Welfare Committee
~~Children's Sub-Committee~~

at a meeting held on 15th November, 1954

Consideration was given to a recommendation from the Children's Committee in regard to the proposed payment of grants to Voluntary Homes as outlined in the Ministry of Home Affairs letter T.106 dated 27th October 1954. It was stated that the total grants envisaged during 1955/56 amounted to £16,900 and that of this sum approximately £800 would have to be recouped by the Tyrone County Welfare Committee. It was proposed by Mr. McConnell, seconded by Mr. Beattie and resolved that the Committee follow the suggestion of the Children's Committee and arrange to put forward a protest in Parliament. It was suggested that the matter be taken up by Mr. T. Lyons, M.P. and Mr. J. Stewart, M.P.

NI.DL.1397.

	<u>Maintenance</u> (including pocket-money)	<u>Clothing Allowances</u>	<u>Initial</u> <u>Outfit</u> <u>Allowances</u>
<u>Age</u>			SNB-15535
0 - 6 years	£55 per annum.	£18 per annum	£11
Over 6 - 10 "	£58 " "	£21 " "	£16
" 10 - 14 "	£67 " "	£25 " "	£25
" 14 - 18 "	£69 " "	£25 " "	£25

Approval was also given to the following:-

1. The provision of school uniform in respect of [REDACTED] (14) who had commenced a commercial course at Holywood Technical School, which would cost £6.
2. The provision of school uniform for [REDACTED] (13) who was now attending St. Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick, amounting to £6. 9. 6d.
3. Expenditure of £2. 5. 0d for a Boy Scout's uniform for [REDACTED] (14).
4. Expenditure of £1. 5. 0d for a Cub's uniform for [REDACTED] (8).

With regard to the question of paying additional clothing allowances for children boarded-out, to cover the cost of providing school uniforms, where necessary, in such cases there must be a saving in the wear of normal clothing and therefore the Ministry could not agree that the full cost of school uniforms be paid in addition to the normal boarding-out allowances. However, they had decided to give a general approval to the Committee to allow up to a maximum of 75% of the cost of necessary school uniform in addition to normal boarding-out allowances.

Approval was also conveyed to the purchase of essential uniform for children in care who were members of youth organisations, e.g., Boy Scouts, Cubs, Girl Guides, etc.

After consideration, your Committee felt that the clothing allowances as approved by the Ministry were inadequate, and directed the officials to work out details of the cost of clothing for the various age groups for submission to the Ministry with a view to the Committee's proposals being accepted.

(11) - In Voluntary Homes

4. Nazareth House, Ormeau Road, Belfast. The Secretary referred to Minutes of 18/12/56, Item 34. Ministry of Home Affairs wrote 29/12/56, ref. T.160, approving the terms under which children in the care of the Committee were maintained in Nazareth House, i.e., £3 per week with effect from 9th July, 1956.

.....

5. NL 28 (7). The Secretary referred to Minutes of 18/12/56, Item 33. The Supervisor, Nazareth Lodge, wrote 4/1/57 stating that they noted the Committee were willing to pay for this boy at the customary rate for other children. They drew attention to the fact that this afflicted child required very special care, which they were happy to give, even under what the Committee must realise were very difficult circumstances. They would, therefore, hope to receive at least £6 per week.

1909. Lady of Good Counsel the election took place at the Mother House. Rev Mother Clare of the Cross who was then Mother Vicarress was elected by a majority of votes. Rev Mother General

Mrs Graham held his annual examination for Industrial School pupils the last day of May and expressed himself well pleased with boys. Mr Fagan paid a surprise visit in July and was pleased with the healthy appearance and affable manner of the boys.

The annual Retreat was given by the Rev. J. Sebastian C.P. for the feast of the Assumption followed by a three days Retreat for boys.

Boys had the happiness of making their first Communion at its close.

The first death among the members of the Community occurred on October 7th when Sr. M. Paula (O'Brien) was called to her reward after a severe illness of thirteen weeks patiently borne; her death was most edifying early on Sunday morning the 10th her remains were laid to rest in our little cemetery. The little boys whom she loved so well and worked so hard for followed the Sisters (some of whom were from Nazareth House) to the grave side. Rev J. Lennon performed the last sad rites.

The last week in October dear Mother General accompanied by Mother Basil came to Belfast. They remained at Nazareth House for a week during which they visited the Lodge. Needless to say how pleased the Sisters were to see dear Mother, for some it was the first time. November 2nd dear Mother and M. Basil came to

1909. the Lodge, during their visit arrangements were made for making Avenue, which was done the following Spring at the cost of Three hundred and fifty Pounds £350. Dear Mother General lent one hundred Pounds £100. Towards same free of interest. A most enjoyable tea-party was given by dear Mother and a very pleasant evening was spent by all. Saturday November 7th much to the regret of all the Sisters dear Mother and M. Basil left for Nazareth House Derry.

Towards the end of November the Members of the Concert Committee met again in order to make the necessary arrangements for a third Concert. J. J. McDonnell Esq. was as in former years elected Chairman and under his leadership every thing was affably & successfully arranged. J. May Esq. Secretary & P. Curran Esq. Treasurer. It would be difficult to name those who took most interest in the work. Each member vied with the other as to who could do most to further the financial success of same - mention must be made of the following Messrs James & Joe Elliott, John Graystone, J. McQuilley & J. Pierson, the latter has always taken special interest in the boys musical part of the programme.

On December 4th the Religious examination was held by the Rev. J. Murphy Ecclesiastical Inspector whose report was

The answering throughout was excellent. The children have been very carefully trained in the Sacred Music prescribed

1954/55

Grants to Voluntary OrganisationsPayments made since 1.4.54 to 14/9/54.

Name of Home	Grant towards	Amount	Payment ordered
<u>T.162</u> Glendhu Children's Hostel.	Cost of the employment of qualified staff during the quarter ended 31.5.54.	£ 50	28.4.54.
<u>T.162</u> Glendhu Children's Hostel.	Cost of the employment of qualified staff during the quarter ended 30.6.54.	50	22.7.54.
<u>T.330</u> Nazareth Lodge Children's Home.	Cost of the employment of additional qualified staff, 1953/54.	1,000	1.8.54.
	TOTAL	1,100	

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J. M. J. +

We received a Legacy £370. from Joseph Allen. Solicitor 23 Bow St. Dublin.
Request of Bridget White, deceased. Oct 4th.

Oct 29th We received a Legacy £50. from R. J. Boyle. Solicitor. Ballymurray.
Request of Catherine Sullivan. Dromoy. deceased.

On Dec 21st Mr P. J. Mc Donnell. Chairman of the Welfare Committee,
presented us with a cheque for £1069. result of Bazaar.

The National Greyhound Association also presented us with £250.
Midnight Mass was celebrated by our Chaplain Rev Kevin Donnelly.
followed by two more Masses on Christmas Day.

We spent a very happy time during the festive season & our kind
Benefactors were most generous as usual in providing plenty of
good things to make it so. They boys were also invited out to Parties,
Pantomimes & several other places of amusements, so on the whole they
had a most enjoyable time. Our Christmas appeal too was well
responded to & a great success - May God bless our kind Benefactors!

The Old Boys' Reunion was held on the Feast of Holy Innocents,
Dec 28th & was well attended, about 84 boys were present. Our
Chaplain, Rev Fr Donnelly arranged they should sing the Mass
themselves & a great number received Holy Communion. Father
also got a Priest from Clonard to give them a short lecture. Rev Fr
Mc Donnell. C.S.C.R. said a few beautiful & impressive to them and
reminded them of their duty as Catholics. He told them always to be
proud of the glorious name of Catholic & what it meant to them.
After a good breakfast they spent their time chatting & talking &
playing games & enjoying themselves. They had a light lunch as
supper was arranged for 5.15. A sumptuous meal was prepared
for them & Fr Donnelly dined with them. Bro Paschal, C. O. one of our old
boys was also present. Several of the boys' wives & children were there too,
so they looked a very happy crowd. Afterwards they went to the classroom
again while concert on their own. At the conclusion the Chaplain said a few
words of encouragement & on their behalf thanked Rev Mother & the Sisters for the
nice time they had given them. They finished with the hymn 'Gather of our Fathers'.

1959.

J. M. J. +

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On Jan 8th Most Rev Dr Wageran paid a visit to Nazareth Lodge &
presented us with the grand donation of £500. He said the kind benefactor who
gave the money did not wish his name to be known. His Lordship was
most gracious & seemed to take a great interest in Nazareth Lodge & in the
new Babies' Home.

Jan 27th Dr Warrack, Chief Medical Officer again paid a surprise visit to
the Babies' Home. He seemed pleased with all he saw & said the Babies
looked well and healthy.

Jan 22nd We received a Legacy £1208. from Shields & Burnham,
Solicitors. Omagh. Co Tyrone. Request of Patrick Mc Kenna, Glengormley,
Belfast. A final payment of £4.10 was received later.

March 18th We received a Legacy from Frank Kerr & Co. Solicitors. Belfast.
Request of Gertrude Norman. Deceased. £235. 13. 4.

March 21st We received a Legacy £10. from Frank Kerr & Co. Solicitors.
Belfast. Request of Thomas Parker. Belfast. P.S.O.

April 9th We received another Legacy from Messrs Shields & Burnham,
Solicitors. Omagh. Co Tyrone. £351. 8. 9. Request of Patrick Mc Kenna,
Glengormley. Belfast. Deceased.

May 4th Miss Forest & Dr Jackson from the Ministry of Home
Affairs paid us a visit in connection with the Babies' Home. They
confirmed that the Ministry recognise the great need of additional
trained staff in the children's nursing, so that the Babies receive
the best care possible in the present circumstances. They remarked
that the present staff quite inadequate to cope with the situation & said we
must get at least five fully trained persons who would be capable of
providing a high standard of child care & for this purpose the Ministry
is prepared to make a grant towards their salaries.

May 11th We received a Legacy from Messrs J. & J. Fitzpatrick. Solicitors,
College Sq. N. Belfast. Request of J. J. Wagoner. £759. 17. 9. 9.50

May 31st 150 Classroom boys went to Glenariffe (Glen of Antim)
on a school term camp for a fortnight. The house was very kindly
lent by Rev Bros Stephen for a while month. The boys were

1954

J. M. J. +

Doctor Warrack & Doctor Sargent from the Health Dept. visited the Babies' Home July 17th to see ^{things} were getting on as regards the working of it, and also to see the Babies. Both were pleased with everything and were delighted to see the babies looking so healthy and well cared for.

The Public Health Officials paid a visit to the Babies' Home on March 8th and were very pleased with all they saw, and the little ones looking so well. Doctor O'Hare and Staff from Purdyburn Hospital also called to see how things were worked in the new Home, and to get some useful hints for themselves. Health Tutor and Students from the Royal College of Nursing, Belfast called to visit too. They ^{visited} to see how things were carried out in the new Babies' Home and to get some ideas for their own benefit. They were charmed with their visit. March 12th Twelve little boys received their First Holy Communion, and on March 29th sixty-seven were confirmed at Holy Rosary Church by Most Rev. Dr. Magee. Each child had a sponsor, mostly selected from the business men of the city. These sponsors take a great interest in the boys and feel a responsibility is put on them to befriend and look after them if necessary. They take them out to their own homes occasionally and also to outings of different kinds, which is a great boon for the boys, especially those who have no relations or no one to visit them.

The Holy Hours Adoration took place at the usual time 17-19 March. The full Church Ritual was carried out with great devotion each day. The Altar though simple, was tastefully decorated. At the close with solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, seven Priests were present on the Altar, which made a very impressive ending to our three days of prayer.

May 11th. 76 Classroom Boys went to Glencariff (Glens of Antrim) on a school term camp for 12 days, accompanied by the Sisters in charge of them and also the Teachers. The Ministry of Education arranged as usual that all necessities for providing dinner each day were supplied by local tradesmen. The Ministry also provided for the milk. The senior baby boys from the Nursery went there for a fortnight when the others returned. The weather was just lovely nearly all the time and they were down at the sea almost every day which was a great treat for them. They also enjoyed the country side of their

1954

J. M. J. +

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holiday and have so much to say about what they saw. They were very interested in the sheep and the little lambs, so they really spent a delightful holiday in the beautiful Glens of Antrim and all look well and fit for their stay there.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Rev. Bro. Stephen for his kindness in letting us have the use of this beautiful summer holiday home for our boys.

On Ascension Thursday over 100 boys and several of the Sisters went to Honeyglass on a Pilgrimage to the visit the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. They were accompanied by our Chaplain, Rev. Father Storky & Rev. Father Magee. They were very cordially welcomed by Rev. Father M. Mullon, P.P. & Father Black. The Procession started from the road outside, Rev. Father Black took twelve choir boys and proceeded to the organ loft within the church from whence he directed the procession with hymns and the Rosary through loud speakers erected at various points in the grounds. The Chaplains, Sisters and children, led by Father M. Mullon, went first to the church to pay their respects to Almighty God in the Tabernacle as Father M. Mullon had ordered. After this the procession proceeded from the church, up the steps and round the walk over the Grotto and down the other side to the front of the shrine, where it halted while a decade of the Rosary was being said. It then wound its way back to the singing of hymns and the saying of the Rosary into the church where Father M. Mullon addressed the children and reminded them of what they had come. He told the boys that this day should be a memorable day during their lives, and when they grew up to be young men they would look back with joy to this happy event, their visit to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Honeyglass station.

Afterwards solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament was given by Father M. Mullon, assisted by Father Storky and Father Magee. The Sisters were entertained to tea at the Parochial House, and the boys were treated to ice cream. They also had tea in the School & enjoyed a most pleasant afternoon which they are not likely to forget.

Sincere and grateful thanks are due to Rev. Father M. Mullon, P.P. for his extreme kindness and hospitality, and for all he did to make our Pilgrimage a very happy event to remember.

11 April, 1937.

My dear Mother-General MacNissi,

This is the Golden Jubilee of our

Diocesan Orphan Society, and it was suggested at the General Conf-

erence of the Clergy of the whole diocese held during Easter week

that something should be done to celebrate the occasion. The pro-

posal to provide further accommodation for the Babies met with

universal acceptance. Everyone that knows the present building

at Nazareth Lodge holds that it could not be reconstructed to meet

the requirements. Accordingly, the erection of a new building

seems demanded, and I am confident that the scheme would meet with

a fairly general measure of support throughout the diocese.

SR 207

in the management

of the present BABIES HOME at Nazareth Lodge, as in other matters,

has achieved a success that far exceeds our expectations, But, I

understand, she is due to retire this year. This letter is to ask

you if you would agree to, and if you could ~~xxxxxx~~ arrange for her

continuance in Office for another term. I do not like to be

thought as interfering in matters of domestic concern, even by way

of suggestion, but the needs of one of our greatest diocesan

14th January, 1953.

BR 39

St. Patrick's Training School,
Milltown, Falls Road,
BELFAST.

My dear BR 39,

SR 104

Nazareth Lodge has a problem in the matter of accommodation about which she spoke to me some time ago and which has now become more acute.

The Lodge has to provide for a constant intake in the lowest age groups from the Nursery. If the Brothers could take some of the Senior Boys in Rubane it would relieve the pressure on accommodation and would make room for the Infants.

I should be grateful if you would look into the matter and let me know whether anything can be done with regard to it.

With all kind wishes,
Yours very sincerely,

Nazareth Lodge Welfare Committee

Material	Dated	Signed
Proposed Constitution of Nazareth Lodge Welfare Committee	20 th August 1950	-
Letter to Rev D Mageean	31 st January 1958	Felix Hendron
Letter to Rev D Mageean	2 nd February 1958	Eleanor Kinder
Letter to Rev D Mageean	4 th February 1959	John Connolly
Invitation to Opening of New Club Premises	9 th March 1958	-
Letter to My Lord Bishop	6 th February 1956	Charlie O'Neill

26. From the time the Home opened in 1950 until 1970, groups of approximately twelve orphan boys were admitted from Nazareth Lodge, Belfast each year. During that twenty year period the total the number of boys admitted came close to two hundred. Generally, the only information that came with them was their names and dates of birth though later entrants may also have been accompanied by some Social Services reports. On occasions the background information was sparse in the extreme; without names of parents/siblings, where they came from, their medical history, their education attainments or special needs. The records were minimal. The government agencies had taken no responsibility for these boys. They were practically stateless, abandoned by both parents and the state. The sole responsibility for their care and education was left to others. Some families made a contribution but generally the only financial assistance came from the St. Vincent De Paul organisation which contributed 30/- per week for each boy. The Diocesan Orphan Society also contributed £1.00 and the remainder came from a small profit from the farm which was attached to the Home. It was totally inadequate to pay for staff, food, heating, lighting, clothes and leisure activities. The effort to pay back the debts to the Diocese and the Bank had a detrimental effect on the care of the boys. To this day I don't believe that many of the truly voluntary boys realise that the Nazareth nuns and De La Salle Brothers received no specific allowance or assistance for their care or in other words that they were maintained, not by Welfare Authority, but by the fund raising efforts of the religious congregations.

27. The majority of the boys from Nazareth Lodge remained in the Home for four years and in a very real sense saw the Home as their home and looked upon the Brothers as their guardians. They had few relationships outside of the home and lacked the social network supports that normal families had. Most of them found it difficult to leave the Home. When their turn came to be discharged and in an effort to make the transition as easy as possible the Brothers would have liaised with the Nazareth Lodge Welfare Committee and thereafter the Down & Connor Aftercare Committee with a view to getting the boys set up in employment and accommodation. In the early days a [REDACTED] worked with the boys to assist them getting and maintaining employment. His records for the 1962/1963 era

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of Sr. Cataldus Courtney

I, Sr. Cataldus Courtney will say as follows -

Section A

A brief history of the Sisters of Nazareth

- ★ Background of the Sisters of Nazareth
- ★ The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth in the present day

The history of the Sisters of Nazareth's Residential Children's Home in Northern Ireland

- ★ The beginnings of Nazareth House, Belfast
- ★ the beginnings of Nazareth Lodge, Belfast
- ★ The beginnings of Nazareth House, Derry
- ★ The beginnings of St Joseph's Termonbacca

Finance

- ★ Early days
- ★ Changes in society

Section B

Admission and discharge of children being placed into care of the Sisters of Nazareth

- ★ Admission
- ★ Age of children being admitted
- ★ Reasons for children being put into care
- ★ Aftercare
- ★ Aftercare in the early years
- ★ Aftercare : the responsibility of the Social Services

What was life like as a child with the Sisters of Nazareth in Belfast or Derry?

- ★ Daily routine
- ★ Vacations/Day trips
- ★ Cinema and film nights
- ★ Activities
- ★ Music

SECTION C

Policies , Procedures and inspections

The procedures which the congregation operated for the inspection of each home. The following issues are discussed in this section

- ★ Visitations
- ★ General and Immediate Chapters
- ★ Inspectors and Visitors reports from the Home Office.

- ★ Inspections on school facilities and educational progress

Policies which the Congregation operated for the maintenance of good order in each home

- ★ The maintenance of good order in the Home
- ★ Recruiting good staff
- ★ Making the necessary checks on staff
- ★ Training of staff and Support for Staff in follow up to aggressive situations
- ★ Voluntary Visitor reports
- ★ Supervision of residents by staff and Social Workers
- ★ Punishment Procedures
- ★ Complaints/Untoward Incidents and Incidents of Concern

List of Annex (To support the findings)

1. Plan of Nazareth Lodge
2. Site Plan of Nazareth House, Belfast
3. Site Plan of Nazareth House, Derry
4. Photograph of Nazareth House, Belfast
5. Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 1985- Nazareth House, Derry. (Available in PRONI)
6. Model Schemes for Boarding out Allowances Payable from the 1st of April 1985(Available in PRONI)
7. Nazareth Lodge Industrial School : Memorandum of Inspection -21st December 1933(Available in PRONI)
8. Nazareth Lodge Industrial School : Memorandum of Inspection -31st December 1936 (Available in PRONI)
9. Nazareth Lodge Industrial School : Memorandum of Inspection -20 November 1941 (plus holograph copy) (Available in PRONI)
10. Example of a Visitation Stamp

11. Example of Nazareth Lodge Children's Home: Voluntary Visitor's Reports
12. Example of Nazareth Lodge Children's Home: Voluntary Visitor's Reports
13. Example of Nazareth Lodge Children's Home: Voluntary Visitor's Reports
14. Extracts taken from the punishment book for Nazareth Lodge
15. Nazareth Lodge : Principals of Good Practice
16. Policy Statement on Good Practice
17. Policy on dealing with allegations against residential staff, Auxiliary Staff and Befrienders

Section A

A brief history of the Sisters of Nazareth

Background of the Sisters of Nazareth- Ireland

The history of the Sisters of Nazareth begins in 1851, when Sr Victoire Larmenier, a young nun in Rennes, France was sent to London. Six years later, she opened the first Nazareth House in Hammersmith, London. Since then the Congregation has grown and expanded throughout the world, always seeking to care for the poor and needy of all ages.

The Congregation worldwide is governed by the Superior General and her General Council, who are elected by the General Chapter when lawfully in session every six years. The 25th Chapter took place in August 2012. Sister Mary Monaghan was re-elected for a second term in office as Superior General. There are four General Councilors. The role of the Superior General and General Councilors is to oversee the work of the Congregation and they are accountable to the Chapter for their stewardship of the Congregation's mission and assets. They work as a team, and promote collaboration, co-operation and communication across the Congregation within the five regions and 37 Houses.

The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth in the Present day.

The Sister's principal work in the communities that they serve, both here in Ireland and overseas is focused around Nazareth Houses. They provide residential and nursing care for older people irrespective of their religious beliefs. These are, however, based around Catholic principals and the Congregation's core values of – love, compassion, respect, justice, hospitality and patience.

For most of their 160 years, the Sisters themselves managed all the Nazareth Houses. However in recent years, with the declining number of Sisters, lay managers were brought in where necessary. Many houses have now since closed. Today there are two Homes in Northern Ireland, one in Derry and the other in Belfast. All the Homes comply with local laws and regulations and are registered, as appropriate, as either nursing homes or residential homes with the local authorities – The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) in the Republic and the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) in Northern Ireland.

A

are looking at their evidence they are thinking of the name of a person. This is something that unfortunately I had not mentioned when we were discussing the matters.

B

MR KENNEDY; Mr Cahill, perhaps I should say that the Inquiry has not been confined to episodes or allegations of sexual abuse, because, as you would be aware, the Terms of Reference require the Committee to inquire into the running of children's home generally. The Committee will welcome the evidence that can be given by the administration and those concerned in administration in Nazareth Lodge, not confined merely to the investigation of or the prevention of episodes of sexual or other abuse, but so that the evidence will be useful in demonstrating generally the way, especially, a voluntary home has been run and is being run and the way in which the home has responded to the recommendations that were made in the SWAG Report.

C

With regard to your particular concern, it is a matter entirely for you as to how the evidence should be presented, but in the past where, for example, a submission has been presented it has been the practice on one or two occasions for the principal witness, for example, the Director of the Northern Board and the Director of the Western Board, to read the principal submission and to perhaps skip over the parts which are detailed and do not require expansion.

D

With regard to the anonymity of previous residents, we are all concerned that this should be preserved and the Mothers from Nazareth Lodge should be made aware I think that in the past when it has happened from time to time - I think it has not been confined to witnesses but counsel have referred to the names of past residents - the Chairman has ensured with the cooperation of the press that there has been no publicity in relation to any previous residents. I think you can assure your clients that they need not be any more nervous of the rest of us than they have been of you.

E

Examined by MR CAHILL

Q Will you tell the Tribunal your full name?

A My name is Mother Gertrude Morgan.

F

Q You are referred to in your submission as Mother Regional. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Where are your headquarters?

A Dublin.

Q For how long have you been Mother Regional?

A Since October 1979.

G

Q As far as a Mother Regional is concerned, can you tell the Chairman and the Members of the Tribunal just how long is a person kept in the position of Mother Regional?

A A period of six years.

Q Then what happens?

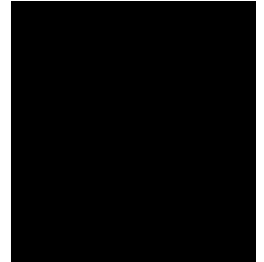
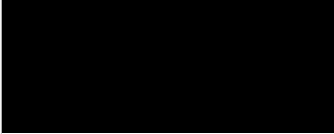
H

A Go down the ranks again and to any other job.

JONES & COMPANY
Solicitors

Our Ref: FJC/KC/PLIT/5368
11th September 2013

Mr. Patrick Butler,
HIAI



Dear Sir,

www.joneslawni.com

Re: Historical Institutional Abuse – Diocese of Down and Connor

We refer to the above matter and to the documents disclosed to date by our client.

As indicated in an exchange earlier, we have an original Deed of Assignment which will be retained for inspection by the Inquiry should they wish to see it.

The Deed is dated March 1876 and is between Bishop Patrick Dorrian and Victoire Larmemier who was the Superior of the Sisters of Nazareth living in Nazareth House Hammersmith, and relates to a piece of land on the Ballynafeigh and Newtownbreda Roads amounting to three roods and twenty five perches. There is no map or lease map drawn onto the Indenture but the original will be retained for inspection should it be required.

Yours faithfully,


FINTAN J. CANAVAN
JONES & COMPANY

Partners:
Fintan Canavan, Advocate
Richard McLaughlin

1891.

visit outside the Convent during their short stay was to our dear departed Mother de Chantals grave.

His Lordship the Bishop called twice to see our Mother General and promised to let her have the exact measurement of ground required for Church & Schools before the Chapter.

During this visit instructions were given to Mr. Segan for some new out-buildings, also to enclose a new drying ground with a wall, & to remove large gates from front to back road, the present entrance being no protection from passers by.

This welcome visit was all too short and early in August our dear Mother General with her companions returned to the Mother House.

Before the feast of the Assumption M. Visitation was called to the Mother House to attend to her duties as General Superior in preparation for the coming Chapter. On the 28th of August Sister Stephen & Sister Juliana left Belfast to attend the General Chapter the latter being the representative chosen by the Belfast sisters, and returned to her duties there immediately on the termination of the Chapter.

On September 16th M. Visitation having handed over her responsibilities to the newly elected Superior General, was again appointed by the General Council to take charge of our House in Belfast.

At this Chapter our dear Mother General Mary of the Assumption was re-elected to her office by the unanimous vote of the Chapter, our Mother Augustine Assistant Mother & Mother M. Cecilia, Superior General.

Chapter

On November our Mother Mary of the Assumption visited our joy & consolation of

Having paid it I received a visit the enlargement of the some place & site for proceeded to Lond with Bishop O'Doherty the Congregation in that Belfast on the same I well pleased with this foundation to be used

This visit-let too soon, after the Superior had to return the Mother House.

December. This celebrated by the our brought the funeral of old and young, but.

In Jan been a delicate health weeks illness, and our Nazareth House by our duties as such on Mar

On Thursday March made his visitation & satisfied as to the & signed the Account

†.

during their short stay
Mother de Chantals grave.
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out of ground required
the Chapter,
instructions were given
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Assumption Visitation
was to attend to her
preparation for the coming
injust Sister Stephen &
attend the general Chapter
is chosen by the Belfast
duties there immediately
after.

Visitation having
lives to the newly elected
appointed by the
age of our House -

our Mother General Mary
to her office by the
our Mother Augustine
Cecilia, Superior General.

† M †.

Chapter XII.

On November 17th, 1891, our dear Mother General
our Mother Mary of the Nativity accompanied by our Mother
Augustine visited our house in Belfast to the great
joy & consolation of all her children here.

Having paid their respects to our own Bishop
I received a visit from His Lordship when
the enlargement of the building was spoken of and
some plan & site for a new Chapel discussed, they
proceeded to Londonderry to make final arrangements
with Bishop O'Doherty for opening a new house of
the Congregation in that historical city & returned to
Belfast on the same day, much fatigued, but otherwise
well pleased with their visit, all being settled for the
foundation to be made early in 1892.

This visit like the previous one terminated all
too soon, after the short stay of two weeks our dear
Superior had to return to their numerous duties at
the Mother House.

December. This year midnight-Mass was
celebrated by the Rev A. Stuart and Christmas time
brought the usual festivities to our large family of
old and young, but no visitors were invited.

In January 1892, Rev A. Stuart who had
been in delicate health for some time, died after a few
weeks illness, and was succeeded as Chaplain to
Nazareth House by Rev C. Malone who entered upon his
duties as such on March 10th.

On Thursday March 4th His Lordship Bishop M. White
made his visitation and expressed himself as being
satisfied as to the observance of Rules &c he also
signed the Account books.

Bishop gives his house to Nazareth

Traditional nuns in the great works of love hold a unique place in the history of our Parish. In the first issue of the magazine, we recorded the arrival of the Good Shepherd nuns. The story continues with the evocative story of Nazareth House: in addition to its historical charm, the record shows that the old, pre-Vatican II church was far from being a mere power structure through which the laity were dominated by rules and regulations: indeed the basis of the loving family which so characterises this parish was laid by the legendary Bishop Dorrian from his own home on the Ormeau Road

Nazareth House

ON THE 9th May, 1876, the Bishop of the Diocese, Dr. Dorrian, brought the Sisters of Nazareth to Belfast, and rented to them his own residence in Ballynafeigh. The Bishop had been living in a house which now forms the front part of the Convent building. This house, which was evidently two semi-detached villas made into one, included the rooms which are now the two front reception rooms, the nuns' community room, the kitchens, and the first floor rooms above these. The ground attached to the property included the site of the present Holy Rosary Church and Parochial House on the Ormeau Road, and of the Parochial Hall on the Ravenhill Road.

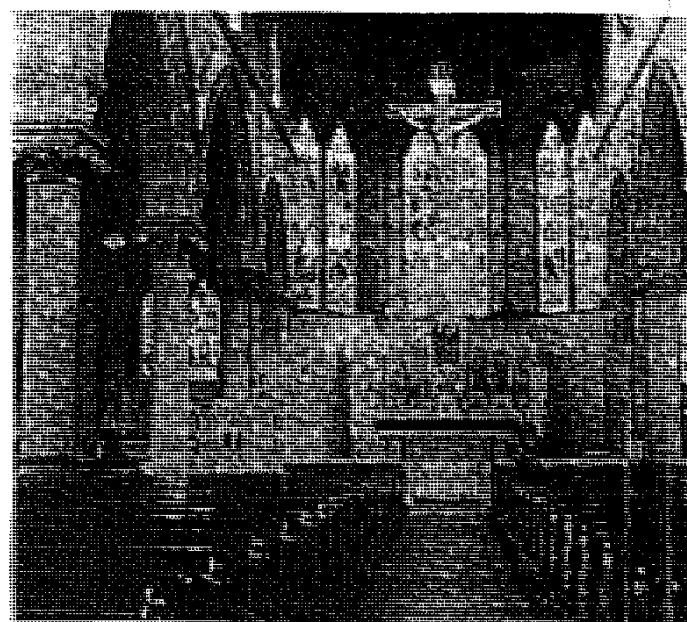
None of these buildings had then been built, but other houses which have since disappeared, stood at this time in the grounds of Nazareth House.

"Rose Cottages" and "Holly Place"

A row of small ivy-covered thatched cottages faced the Ormeau Road on the front part of the site now occupied by the Holy Rosary Church. In 1877 there were five of these houses, known as "Rose Cottages", and numbered 92 to 100 on the New Ballynafeigh Road, as this part of the Ormeau Road was then called. These houses were still standing in 1880, but a few years later only three remained, Nos. 92, 94 and 96; and these were known by the name of "Holly Place". Behind these cottages, under where the Church now stands, was a deep spring well from which the cottagers and the other neighbouring householders drew their water supply.

Ravenhill Road Houses

In 1878 there stood a row of nine small whitewashed thatched houses at the top of the Ravenhill Road, within the grounds of Nazareth House. They were numbered 199 to 213 of the Old Ballynafeigh Road, and were the only houses beyond Ormeau Park on this side of the road. These houses provided accommodation for some of the first inmates of Nazareth House: and at a later date they were used as stores for the furniture which a number of the old people brought with them when entering the home. One of the first inmates is said to have been a Presbyterian, who applied for admission in response to an advertisement in the Press in 1876, which stated that the new Home was open to aged and infirm, "irrespective of creed". She lived and died in her own faith, and was regularly visited by her own minister, who showed great interest in the work the nuns had undertaken. The houses on the Ravenhill Road were later pulled down when the Convent buildings were extended.



Reproduction of old photograph of Holy Rosary Interior

"Lys Marie"

Within the angle formed by the junction of the Ormeau and Ravenhill Roads, there once stood a small whitewashed cottage named "Lys Marie". It was within the Nazareth House grounds, the boundary of which extended further south than at present, forming an acute angle which since then has been rounded off to facilitate the needs of traffic.

"Lys Marie" was not a gate lodge, although beside it there was a narrow entrance to Nazareth House. The main entrance from the Ormeau Road was always where it is now, but was wide enough in 1876 to admit the Bishop's coach and pair. In 1877 the cottage was occupied by a Father Patrick McAllister. He was no doubt the chaplain to one or both of the Convents, and his successors as chaplains continued to occupy this house. Father McAllister was not the same priest who later became Bishop of Down and Connor, for the latter was at this time Parish Priest of Ballycastle.

On 28th November, 1878, Father McAllister was succeeded by a Father David Mulcahy, M.R.I.A., a native of Co. Waterford, who remained in Ballynafeigh until his appointment as P.P. of Ballintoy on 26th May, 1882.

It is not clear who succeeded Father Mulcahy, but in 1884 "Lys Marie" was occupied by a Father Eugene Brady, who had come from Glenavy, where he had been appointed C.C. in August, 1883.

In 1887 the house was the home of two priests who are still [1950] remembered by some of the parishioners—Father Kavanagh and Father Sheehan. Father John Kavanagh was an old priest who had been appointed as the first Parish Priest of Ballyclare in 1869 and had retired. Father Maurice Sheehan, with whom he shared "Lys Marie", was a younger man, but in delicate health. Between them they carried out the duties of Chaplains to the Good Shepherd Convent and Nazareth House, and both said Mass in each of the Convents on alternate days.

Their Masses at 7 o'clock on Sunday mornings were attended by a small number of lay people, who thus avoided the long walk to St. Malachy's Church. At this time the horse-tram service began on Sundays at 10.30 a.m. On the Ormeau Road the service did not then extend to the City Boundary, but only as far as Ormeau Park. On the Ravenhill Road, the trams came as far as South Parade, beyond which the road was merely a narrow lane.

Mass was served by the nuns, as no altar-boys were to be had. The former Bishop's oratory in Nazareth House was small, and so was the Good Shepherd Chapel—it was a room which is

now part of the Sacred Heart Home. The nuns used to bring in extra chairs and kneeling cushions to accommodate the lay people who were present at Mass. Most of these were domestic servants; but the Masses in both Convents were also sometimes attended by members of the older Catholic families in Ballynafeigh, some of whom have been established on the Ormeau Road for a hundred years.

Father Sheehan was alone in "Lys Marie" until 1892, and was its last occupant. At this time a new house was built for the chaplains by the Nazareth Sisters in their Convent grounds, the present Parochial House. Father Sheehan was its first occupier. "Lys Marie" was left empty, and soon became a roofless ruin, but its walls remained standing for a number of years.

In July, 1893, Father Sheehan was joined by Father Charles McAuley, who lived in Ballynafeigh until his appointment as C.C. of Bright in May, 1895. Father McAuley, who was a cousin of the late Dean Laverty, died on 5th August 1918.

He was succeeded in Holy Rosary by Father Cornelius O'Boyle, a native of Donegal. Father O'Boyle was a young man, who had been Vice-Rector of the Irish College in Salamanca for five years, and had resigned on account of ill-health. He remained in the Chaplains' House at Ballynafeigh until after the Parish of Holy Rosary was established.

It was in 1891 that the Nazareth Sisters began to build the new house for their chaplains, but the establishment of a new Parish with the name "Holy Rosary" was already in view at this time. When the house was complete the Convent now sold two pieces of land to the Parish of St. Malachy's. One was the site of the future School-Chapel on the Ravenhill Road, and the other, the ground on which the Holy Rosary Church was later to be erected, and on which the house occupied by the Convent Chaplains, already stood.

The price paid for the ground—£413—included the value of the house, which was now taken over by St. Malachy's Parish. In January, 1892, the house is already described in the account books of St. Malachy's Parish as the "Rosary Presbytery". At this date, Father McCashin, the Parish Priest of St. Malachy's, paid rates and insurance on the house, began to furnish it, and had the ground surveyed and measured. He also built the brick wall which surrounds the whole of the ground he had acquired on the Ormeau Road. This work was completed in November, 1892, at a cost of £83. In January, 1893, he had a brass door-plate with the name "Holy Rosary Presbytery" fitted to the front door of the house. The presbytery, however, was still used by the Convent Chaplains for the next three years, and none of the priests of St. Malachy's parish ever lived in it.

The Building of the School Chapel

In the meantime Father McCashin proceeded with the building of the School-Chapel on the Ravenhill Road. The number of Catholic householders in the district was small (it has been estimated at forty), but there was also a floating population of domestic servants in the larger residences. Father McCashin was aware of the need for a Church and School in the area, for he was a most active and zealous priest. Older residents still recall how he used to travel from morning to night on his bicycle around every quarter of his large parish.

A builder named John Fegan, of Keady, was commissioned to build a school-chapel from designs by the architect, Mr. McAllister. The progress of the building work may be judged from a payment on account to Mr. Fegan of £250, made on 5th November, 1892, and other payments in March, 1893, of £352 "for building", and of £74 "for fitting, etc., of chapel".

Mass in the Chapel

There is no record of the exact date on which Mass was first said, or on which the School opened. The payment for an Altar (£2 8s) in September, and a reference to the Collection receipts in October, 1893, show that Mass was then being said. The upper storey of the building was used for this purpose, and the Altar was at the end of the room nearer Fitzwilliam Avenue. There was no sacristy, and the priest vested for Mass behind a folding screen. The same screen served as a confessional while confessions were heard before Mass. A place at the back of the room, now occupied by the committee room, was reserved for the choir, although not enclosed in any way.

At first there was nowhere to store the sacred vestments or other requisites for Mass. On the day before the first Mass was said in the Chapel, the Missal and other articles were brought to Ballynafeigh from St. Malachy's by Mr. Peter Lynch, Father McCashin's faithful sexton, and deposited for safe keeping with the Keenan family at 553 Ormeau Road. For some time the Keenans continued to take charge of the vestments and altar furnishings, but later it was found more convenient to keep the articles in Nazareth House.

There never was more than one Mass in the Chapel on Sunday. The attendance at Mass was small, although the hour fixed, 8 o'clock, was more convenient than that of the Convent Masses. It is hard to estimate the numbers who attended during the years from 1893 to 1896, as the Mass coppers collected in the Chapel were not kept separate from the collections in St. Malachy's. Father McCashin himself was the first priest to celebrate a public Mass in Ballynafeigh; and until 1896 the priests

of St. Malachy's took turns in saying Mass in the School-Chapel. Amongst the first altar-servers were [redacted] and [redacted] all well known to the parishioner today. [1950]

Up to 1896 the children of the district used to make their first Communion in St. Malachy's Church. They were entertained to breakfast afterwards in the Parochial House by Father David McCashin.

From January, 1894, a separate Register of the Marriage which took place in the School-Chapel was kept by Father McCashin, and eleven marriages are recorded for the year 1894. None of the parties married belonged to the Ballynafeigh district.

Can you guess when this photograph was taken? (Answers to The Editor at address on back page)

It is another very good example of local history recorded forever, on the occasion of the widening of the Ormeau Bridge. As our specific history of the Parish draws to a close, we will continue with the history of the Ormeau, Ballynafeigh, Rosetta, Mount Merrion, Newtownbreda areas, and an absolute must for this continuing series is old photographs AND more recent photographs in a time of considerable change.

If you have any, or are interested in this kind of local or contemporary history, please contact the Editor forthwith.



1899.

J. M. J. +

In the month of June we received the last of the money left to the house by the late Rev. Bernard McAuley. £53. 14. -

In July an old woman named Doyle died and left a few pounds for our poor.

In this month we had our annual Retreat. it commenced on the 4th and terminated on the 17th. It was conducted by an Oblate from Inchicore (The Rev. J. M. O'Reilly)

In the following September an old man named Marley died and willed £23. 8. to the house for the poor and about this time we also received thro' the Rev. Fr. J. Ardle P.P. Crossgar a small legacy of £56. 4. 10. Also £5. from a Swiss Lady

During the month of October of the above year, we heard that the land on which we had our Cows grazing was for sale as well as a large block of buildings on the ground which had formerly been used as an Industrial for Protestant boys. We had been shown through the building by a man who was a sort of caretaker or tenant, and finding the place so well built and so suited to make a comfortable home for our boys we lost no time in trying to find out all particulars about the place, which we did very soon thro' our great friend, The Very Rev. D. W. Cashion Administrator of St. Malachys Church, Belfast. Our next move was to explain all about it to our Mother General and get her permission to negotiate for the place. Mother General wired to Father J. O. Cashion to try and get it for a certain

J. M.

1899

sum And to us to a Lordship. The true offer could be in upon his Lord he was not only that we should to pray that we the Rev. Fr. Mc Cash in his daily that if it was God and the place might be in the 6th of Oct completed of the and ten acres of in very good for gas and water - sewerage made the sum of £3.95 hundred and no headrent to be bought out in 2 to be borrowed for it at 4%.

1900. In the Jan two of our old paint the inside they did beaut. material and a house. paint of the inmates the paint what and with the who altho not a

~ MAP SHOWING THE PROPERTY ~

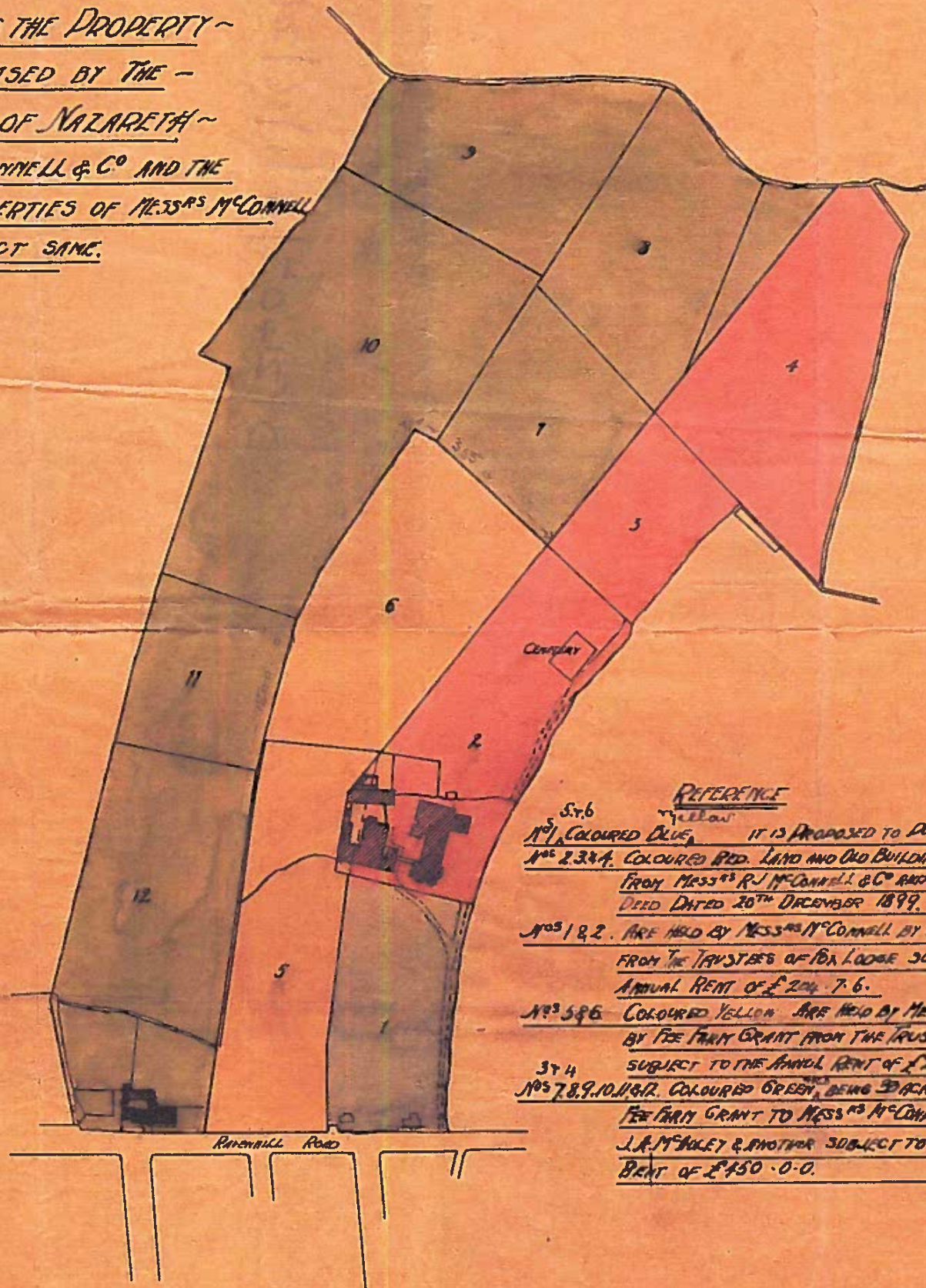
~ PURCHASED BY THE ~

~ SISTERS OF NAZARETH ~

~ FROM R.J. MCCONNELL & CO AND THE

~ ADJOINING PROPERTIES OF MESSRS MCCONNELL

THAT AFFECT SAME.



REFERENCE

Sy 6
No 1 COLOURED BLUE. IT IS PROPOSED TO PURCHASE
No 2, 3 & 4. COLOURED RED. LAND AND OLD BUILDINGS PURCHASED
FROM MESSRS R.J. MCCONNELL & CO AND CONVEYED BY
DEED DATED 26TH DECEMBER 1899.

NO 1 & 2. ARE HELD BY MESSRS MCCONNELL BY FEE FARM GRANT
FROM THE TRUSTEES OF FOX LODGE SUBJECT TO THE
ANNUAL RENT OF £204.7.6.

NO 5 & 6. COLOURED YELLOW. ARE HELD BY MESSRS MCCONNELL
BY FEE FARM GRANT FROM THE TRUSTEES OF FOX LODGE
SUBJECT TO THE ANNUAL RENT OF £258.7.6.

Sy 4
NO 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12. COLOURED GREEN, BEING 30 ACRES ARE HELD BY
FEE FARM GRANT TO MESSRS MCCONNELL FROM
J.A. MCQUEEN & ANOTHER SUBJECT TO THE ANNUAL
RENT OF £450.0.0.

J. Th. J. +

1902.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society on Sept. 14th gave a nice day's outing to Whitehead for the children - girls and boys - paying all expenses and providing refreshments and all kinds of games. The children enjoyed themselves immensely, and no expense was spared to make the day a most pleasant one.

A legacy of £100. was left by the Very Rev. Eugene M. Cartier P.P. V. I. Larne, who died on the 16th October. He was always very kind to our Sisters, and took a great interest in our work.

In November, Mr. M. Chaine, formerly Inspector of Schools, accompanied by his daughter and niece, visited the house. He expressed much pleasure at all that was done for the Poor and little Daphnes, and gave as a donation a very nice brougham for the use of the Sick Poor.

On Nov. 20th notice was received from the Bishop that Nazareth Lodge was certified for the reception of Industrial boys; His Lordship having received the following letter:—

Dublin Castle

18th Nov. 1902.

X^y My Lord Bishop,

I am directed by the Chief Secretary to transmit to you herewith a certificate under the Act 31st Vic. Chap. 25. for the Nazareth Lodge Industrial School for Roman Catholic boys, Belfast.

I have the honour to be,

J. Th.

1902.

My Lord
Your obed

(Date of Certificate — 1

A notice as a local Paper:—

"Nazareth Lodge

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School, Belfast, 1

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Hon. Gerald Cael

(Private Secretary)

by His Lordship

Rev. St. Conway, I

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 games. The children
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£100.. was left by
 M^cCartan P.P. V. I.
 the 16th October.
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notice was received
 of Nazareth Lodge
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Dublin Castle

18th Nov. 1902.

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 the Act 31st Vic. Chap. 25.
 age Industrial School
 oys, Belfast.
 e honour to be,

J. M. J. +

1902.

My Lord Bishop
 Your obedient servant
 J. B. Donaghy
 (Date of Certificate - 11th Nov. 1902.)

A notice as under appeared in a
 local Paper: -

"Nazareth Lodge Industrial School.
 In the application of Nazareth House
 or the Manager of Nazareth Lodge Industrial
 School, Belfast, for Catholic boys under
 10 years of age. An enquiry was held
 by Mr. John Togan, F.R.C.S.I. Inspector
 of Industrial Schools in Ireland, in
 connection with the above-named School,
 and Mr. Wynndham, Chief Secretary for
 Ireland, has certified in the "Dublin
 Gazette" that the said Nazareth Lodge
 Industrial School, Belfast, is fit for
 the reception of R.C. children."

To this as well as to the National
 School Rev. Mother General and her Council
 were much opposed, as it brought so
 much extra work to the Sisters, but
 knowing that the Bishop had the good of
 Community at heart she would not go
 against his wishes.

On November 29th Countess Dudley,
 accompanied by Lady Evelyn Ward, the
 Hon. Gerald Cadogan and Lord Plunkett,
 (Private Secretary) visited. They were received
 by His Lordships the Most Rev. Dr. Steury,
 Rev. Dr. Conway, J. J. M^cDonnell, Esq. J.P. and
 the members of the Community.

On arriving, the distinguished party
 proceeded to the School-room, where Mr

admirably trained in this Institution.
Reading in particular was remarkably good.

J. Kelly, Inspector.

In April the Chapel, dormitories and passages were painted. Dear Rev. Mother General gave a present of £5. at this time.

On May 16th Sister M. Boniface was removed and Sister St. James took her place. Mother Lucy paid a short visit to the Lodge in this month.

No Retreat was given at the Lodge this year, the Sisters attending the one at Nazareth House, which was conducted by the Rev. Fr. Talvey, O.P.

Sixty-eight boys were enrolled in the Brown Scapular on the 16th July, by the Rev. R. Cricbard.

The Most Rev. Dr. M. C. Cherry, Bishop of
of paid a visit.

The usual procession in honour of Our Blessed Lady took place on 15th August.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society gave the boys a trip to Whitehead on 1st Sept: a most enjoyable day being spent.

As His Lordship did not succeed in getting the Workhouse Children, he applied for a Junior Industrial School. Mr. Jagan, Inspector, met His Lordship at the Lodge on the 22nd October, and inspected the house and premises. He said he was perfectly satisfied, and on 11th November gave a certificate for 50 chargeable cases, pending a new wing.

As usual His Lordship was present at the children's Christmas party, and spoke very feelingly to the little ones. He said he noticed a great improvement in the boys, which he hoped would continue. At the end of the year there were 9 Ind. School boys.

1903.

In 1903 the Diocesan Inspector pronounced Nazareth Lodge a separate school from Nazareth House. The Religious Examination took place on 16th January. Report:-

"Great attention has evidently been bestowed on the Religious Training of these boys during the year, the Exam. being in every respect satisfactory."

J. Walsh.

Mr. Jagan, Ind. School Inspector, paid a visit on 11th March, and wrote the following in the Diary:-
"I visited Nazareth Lodge this day, and was pleased to find that everything pointed to a successful career for the School."

J. Jagan
D.M. Inspector of Industrial Schools."

The National School Examination took place on the 24th March. Mr. Ross, Head Inspector, gave a good Report, and wrote the following in the Observation Book:-
"General Condition of School highly creditable. Children admirably trained and well taught."

J. Ross.

I. Th. 17

1903.

The new Stations of the Cross, given by different benefactors in memory of their deceased relatives, were erected by the Very Rev. St. Crickard on July 12th, a large congregation being present, all joining in the procession with great fervour and devotion.

The Retreat this year was given to the Sisters at the Lodge by the Rev. St. Hilary, C.P., some of the Sisters from Nazareth House attending many of the conferences.

The Very Rev. St. Macleish, C.P. conducted the Retreat here in August, and received the Perpetual Vows of six Sisters.

The Most Rev. Dr. Gallagher, of Goulburn, Australia, accompanied by our own Bishop, the Most Rev. Dr. Henry, paid us a visit. On going over the house he expressed his great pleasure and surprise at seeing so large an Institution supported by voluntary contributions, and said he wished it every blessing and success.

On the 15th August the usual procession of Our Blessed Lady took place.

In September a legacy of £25.. was left by Miss Ball, Armean Rd.

Mrs. M. Donnell, Architect, gave a donation of £25.. towards the new building at the Lodge.

Mr. Bernard Hannigan, Derry, visited about this time, and also gave a donation of £5.. towards it.

The last payment of the loan

9.

1903

for the purchase of the Deeds were in the National Deeds of Nazareth of this Bank had been of £10,000.. of Lodge. Mr. White

deposit them, to the Deeds deposit us. They were

house to be kept. On November 26th His Lordship made his loan of £44 in May and November, December 1st 1893.

The usual Christmas carols old people and children enjoyed by all without and gentlemen gave a. Minutes, which was over

1904.

His Lordship made his 6th He was as usual most In February, the Annual helping to pay the debt by a Committee. The same addition, a Charity Bazaar the Ulster Hall Belfast Mr. S. B. Leary as Treasurer in praise of the Manager's efforts in trying to raise some of our food Bazaar round, amongst other bequeathed us £100. The second half yearly,

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Lodge by the Rev.
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S. M. S. +

1903

for the purchase of Nazareth Lodge being made,
the Deeds were transferred and deposited
in the National Bank, together with the
Deeds of Nazareth House, as the Directors
of this Bank had consented to give a
loan of £10,000. for the building at Nazareth
Lodge. Mr. White, Esq., sent his clerk to
deposit them, taking a schedule of all
the Deeds deposited and handing it to
us. They were sent to our Mother
House to be kept until required.

On November 26th His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Henry,
gave a loan of £445.0.0. at 3%-payable half-yearly
in May and November, until repaid. Payments began on
December 1st 03.

The usual Christmas entertainments were given to the
old people and children in both Houses, and were
enjoyed by all without exception. A few young ladies
and gentlemen gave a Musical Entertainment to the
Inmates, which was much appreciated.

1904.

His Lordship made his Annual Visitation on Jan 25th
He was as usual most kind and fatherly.

In February, the Annual Concert for the purpose of
helping to pay the debt at Hazelth Lodge, was organised
by a Committee. The sum realised was £89.0.0. In
addition, a Charity Ball was held on March 17th in
the Ulster Hall Belfast. Mr. Brannan acted as Secretary,
Mr. S. B. Leary as Treasurer. Too much cannot be said
in praise of the Members of both Committees for their
efforts in trying to render them a success.

Some of our good Benefactors were called to their
reward, amongst others was Mrs O. Hill, Adela St., who
bequeathed us £100.

The second half-yearly payment on Loan was paid

1905.

During the Visitation in July, 1905, I visited Nazareth Lodge. It is a very substantial building, but much too elaborate for a Boys' Industrial School. It is one storey too high and the materials used in its construction were too expensive - on the whole, everything connected with the building seems on too grand and extravagant a scale. The Church seemed quite out of proportion and out of place in the centre of the building - a more appropriate position for it would have been over the present Children's Refectory.

Knowing that the pressure upon the Sisters was already too great and that it would be impossible for them to cope with the growing demands of the Educational Department, neither the Members of the General Council, nor myself, voted for, approved of, or sanctioned the taking, establishment or building of the Boys' Industrial School. The Bishop asked the Sisters to undertake the work, and we did not like to oppose him. It would have been much more agreeable to us to have retained Fox Lodge (the old building) for the old men, for whom there was not sufficient accommodation in Nazareth House - or to have added to it a less pretentious building more in keeping with the style of the old house.

A debt of £10,000, has been incurred by the erection of Nazareth Lodge.

Mary Magdalen Room
Sept 1905

1912

And in good order, the boys he next visited, and was pleased to see such a fine lot of boys, healthy and well cared for. About this time we received a Legacy of £600. by the Will of the late Mr. John Camill R.I.P. also £250. by the Will of Mr. Magennis. These two sums, have been paid into National Bank, towards reducing our debt.

Mr. Magennis sent us a donation of £50. this amount with the proceeds of Concert enabled us to reduce our debt by another £200.

During the Month of March Mr. Keith made the annual inspection for the National School, and was pleased with the appearance & work of the boys, he recommended dual desks for the Kindergarten work in the Infant School.

In the end of April we were granted an extension of the Industrial School Certificate, through the influence of the Chief Inspector Dr. Edgar Flinn.

Early in the Month of May Mr. Graham held his examination for the Industrial pupils, who as in previous years did remarkably well.

Dr. Flinn paid a surprise visit on the following day saw the

1912

boys in the School room, and remarked how healthy and well they all looked.

The Childrens Retreat this year was given by the Rev. Fr. MacGowan Holy Rosary, forty five of the boys made their first Holy Communion and were enrolled in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady on the Feast of the Ascension, the closing day of the Retreat.

On the 8th of October to the great consolation of her Children Our dear Mother General came to the Lodge, and assisted by Mother Conleth made her visitation, needless to say all were delighted to have dear Mother also Mother Angela in our midst even for a short time, dear Mother made some changes for the good of the House, also pointed out many improvements which would be beneficial to all, and suggested what might be done with regard to the farm in order to make it more profitable. Dear Mother in her usual Kindness of heart gave the boys & old men a lovely tea party, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Much to the regret of the Sisters dear Mother General left for the Mother House Hammersmith on the 16th of October a very happy time was enjoyed by all during her stay at the Lodge.

BA/9/2

35

MOTHER GERTRUDE
BY MR KERR

A Q In general terms first of all, would you agree that events have rather overtaken the proposals in this document, you would be aware that, for instance, there has been a fair amount of correspondence from the Department to the voluntary homes subsequent to that?

A That is right, yes.

B Q There are three, I suppose, important letters which I will have circulated, and I don't want to go into them in any depth, but you would confirm, perhaps, that you received a letter from Mr Buchanan of the Department dated 8th January 1985, then another on 22nd March 1985, and finally from Mrs Brown on 29th March 1985?

A Yes.

C Q Now, without going into those in any detail, am I right in saying that the Department has made it clear that it expects the voluntary bodies - and indeed the Boards - to make arrangements to introduce, among other things, explanatory booklets for children and their parents?

A Yes.

Q And is it also correct that the Department has made it clear that it expects those booklets to contain lists of various circumstances in which complaints might arise and the procedures that should be taken?

A Yes.

D Q May I ask, does the Order intend to comply with the advice of the Department in relation to this?

A Yes.

Q And do you hope that the deadline set down in the latest letter of 29th March 1985 for the introduction of the explanatory booklets and so on, do you hope that that will be met?

A We hope so, yes.

E Thank you very much indeed.

MR CAHILL: I have no questions in re-examination.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mother, very much indeed. We are very grateful for your assistance.

F MR CAHILL: **SR 143**, please.

SR 143 (called and sworn)

Examined by MR CAHILL

Q Now, **SR 143** can you just tell the members of the Tribunal when you were appointed in charge of Nazareth Lodge?

A I came to Nazareth on 7th October 1982.

G Q And when you were appointed there in 1982, how long would you be in charge there if everything goes according to the usual plans in relation to the length of an appointment?

A I expect that I would complete the term of six years.

Q Yes; now, before you went to Nazareth Lodge, what experience had you as far as the looking after of children was concerned?

H

WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE MEETING OF THE
WELFARE COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY, 23rd JUNE, 1959.

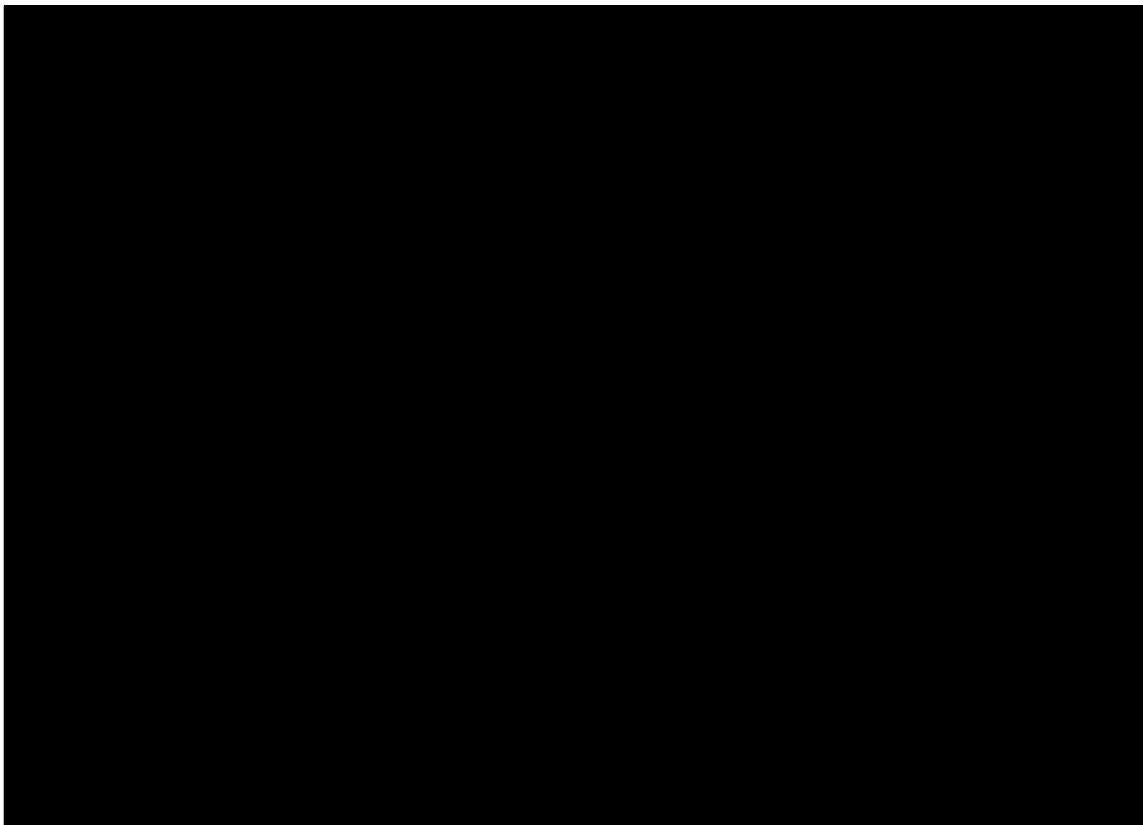
C H I L D R E N.

1. REPORTS.

- I To submit Children's Officer's Report on her visit to the various Homes. (copy herewith)
- II To submit Statistical Report for the two weeks ended 13th June, 1959. (copy herewith)
- III To submit reports on:-
 - (i) Children admitted to and discharged from the care of the Committee.
 - (ii) Transfer of children between Homes.
 - (iii) Minor occurrences in respect of boarded-out children as follows:-

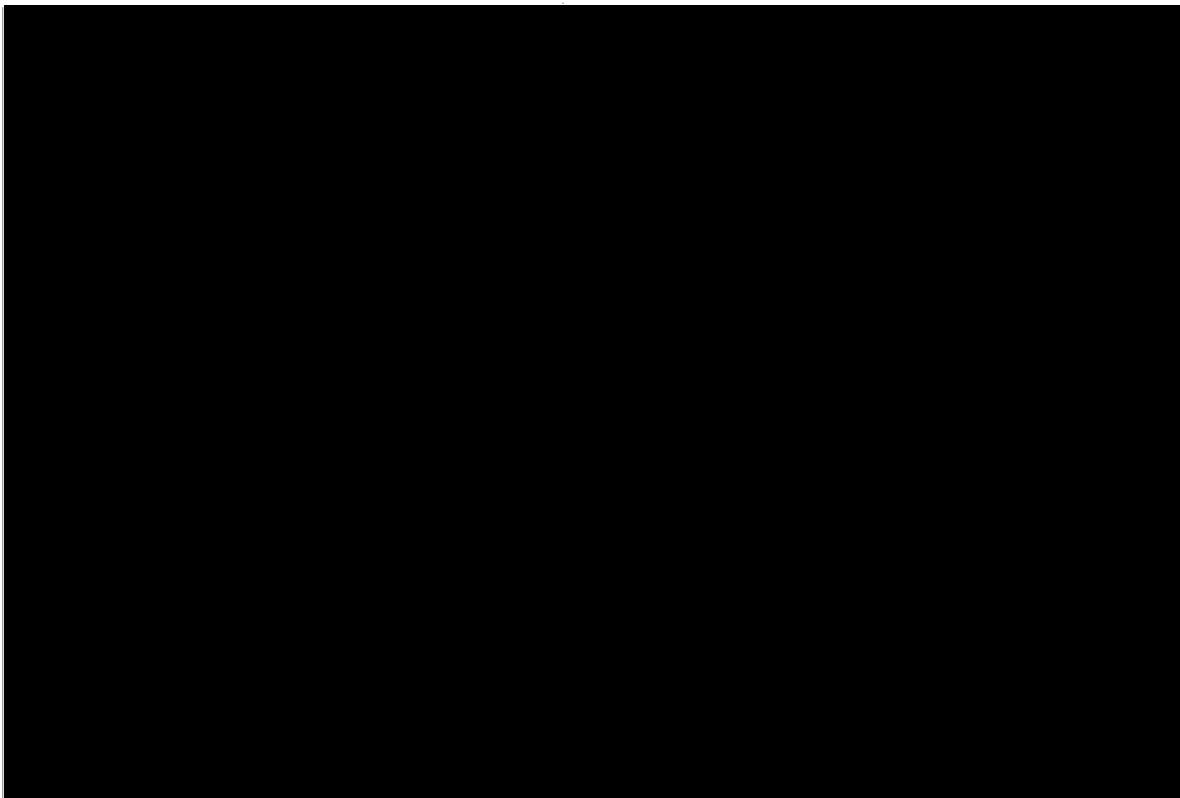


- 2 -



IV. Minor occurrences in respect of other children as follows:-

(a) To report that [REDACTED] NL 160 [REDACTED] commenced work on 11th June as a Nursery Assistant (resident) in Nazareth Lodge. She will now be self-supporting but at present is receiving only pocket money.



STAFF:-

Mostly Old Girls, who had been out in service & could not settle, or who had not the ability to survive outside.

SOCIAL WORKERS:-

One or two had social workers.

SCHOOLING:-

Children went to the local school, one or two won scholarships to Notre Dame School

VISITS FROM FAMILY:-

Very few, Mothers would turn up when child reached working age.

HOLIDAYS/IN HOUSE OR AWAY :-

Days to the seaside, Parks, Circuses & Fairground when they came round. About 1958 the children started having holidays at the seaside, they took over a boarding house & also had a Chalet at the seafront.

NAZARETH HOUSE, BELFAST. HOME FOR GIRLS.

STAFF;

in my days with the children we had very few staff. Through lack of finance and other resources the employment of staff was very limited. We had no income from any public authorities and depended almost entirely on the kindness and generosity of the Belfast people. Four Sisters, three of whom were school teachers, had charge of four groups of girls, with 25 - 30 in each group, and no staff. A Sister, with a few young helpers, had charge of the nursery children, numbering 25-30. A Catering Sister was responsible for the meals and she had three or four staff, paid by the Sisters. One of the four group Sisters took care of the children's clothing and mending and for that she had two helpers. There was no money to pay other staff. No support was given from any source towards food, clothing, overhead expenses or any maintenance. Very small contributions might have been made from a parent or guardian on rare occasions.

The children participated in little duties, such as making their own beds, cleaning and tidying the rooms and preparing the classrooms for school. This was a preparation for taking their place in later life.

SOCIAL WORKERS;

There were no social workers in those days, and little provision was made for training in that line. Some Sisters attended HOUSE-MOTHERS' COURSES in England. The Northern Ireland HOME OFFICE appointed a visitor to come occasionally to inspect the children's department. She would talk with the Sisters, see the children en masse, walk around the premises and see the books and records. At this time we had no Social Services, and no other help.

A nurse came to the school from the HEALTH DEPT. to examine the hair. She always remarked on the healthy condition and the cleanliness of their hair, and never had fault to find. The House Doctor made a weekly examination of ten children (taken in rota) regarding their health, weight, height etc. He was always willing to come in when called.

We had our own system of SOCIAL VISITS from an appointed committee, consisting of the School Manager, the Local Superior, two teachers from the school and the Sister in charge of the children. These met monthly and an appointee made a visit to the children's department, saw the children and reported back to the committee. Recommendations and suggestions were always attended to, and improvements implemented. This was apart from and Home Office or Social Services requirement; it was solely a Congregational policy.

SCHOOLING;

A fully recognised Primary School was in operation for children between the ages of 5 and 14 or older. The teachers were paid by the Education Authority, and the Government gave a grant of 65% on all school furniture and equipment. Later free books for every child were given. The standard of education was high, taking into account that the children were all deprived in some way. They lacked a broad outlook on life, they had little or no experience of normal home life, their environment was narrow as they had few contacts with adults, male or female. When St. Monica's Intermediate School opened (I think this was about 1958) the children aged 11 or older went there. This helped broaden their horizon somewhat. They mixed with different types of children, and formed friendships, some of which lasted many years. Promising pupils were sent to Orange's Academy for shorthand, typing and business methods, and they have followed business careers. Others went to Miss Dunn's Commercial School, or to learn hair-dressing, dress-making, nursery-nursing, catering schools in Portrush and Eire.

nac

1981

Nazareth Lodge

1	SR 63	Superior
2	SR 29	1 st C. Children
3		2 nd C. Head Nursery Teacher
4		Retired
5		" R. I. P.
6		"
7		Parlours
8		St. Joseph's
9	SR 62	Group of Children
10	SR 121	St. Joseph's - Matron
11	SR 208	St. Joseph's
12		Teacher
13	SR 46	Children
14		Caterer - Bureau
15	SR 148	Children - Social Worker

CONFIDENTIAL

A2272/92 HIA1(39)C

NAZARETH LODGE CHILDREN'S HOME

The Home was inspected by Mr Chambers and Mr McElfatrick on 10-12 October 1983. All Child Care staff who were available were interviewed. A sample of case files was examined and all statutory records were examined. Those parts of the building used by the children were inspected. **SR 143** (Mother Superior) has responsibility for all aspects of the home and for the Sisters of Nazareth who live there. In addition to the sisters who work in Nazareth Lodge there are some others who work in the local schools and a few retired nuns.

SR 143 is accountable to Mother Regional who is based in Dublin. The latter visits the home approximately 3 times a year. The Headquarters of the Order of Nazareth is in Hammersmith and Mother General visits the Home every 3 years. There is no committee of management and full responsibility for the staff and children is vested in **SR 143**. Mother Regional appoints 2 "councillors" who meet with her monthly to discuss the affairs of the home. These are 2 sisters one employed in the Home **SR 46** and another who works in the nursery school **SR 29**. Their meeting is referred to as the Council for the Community but its function appears to be more advisory and consultative than executive.

The Home is divided into 3 functionally autonomous living units with approximately 12-14 children in each. Responsibility for day to day affairs is delegated by **SR 143** to the 3 Sisters who run the groups. It is possible for the Sisters to be self determining in a wide range of issues and we found that the regime in the 3 groups differed markedly. Only one of the Sisters is social work trained and this was evident in her approach to the residential task. It is fair to say that **SR 2** had only recently been appointed to the home and, while she is not social work trained she has considerable experience in working with adolescents in Birmingham and she may in time contribute to raising professional standards.

The management style in the home is rigidly hierarchical. The Sisters do not consult the staff on matters of policy and practice and an atmosphere of **their** authoritarianism prevails. In only one of the groups has staff had access to children's records though in another the Sister has recently told the staff that they may have access to the children's files. In only one group do staff attend case reviews; they have all limited, if any, contact with social workers. Just as the Sisters do not consult with the staff nor involve them in decision-making, so the lay staff do not acknowledge the Sisters as being members of the caring staff. They perceive them as authoritarian background figures who absent themselves from the group, particularly during periods when their help is needed. The

9. Thorndale:- Well run by adequate trained staff.
 Salvation Army mother-and-baby Home. Takes some unaccompanied children and teen-age girls. Could do with more play equipment for toddlers. Otherwise standards of care and training excellent. Get grants from W.A.S. for mother-and-baby work and payment for them and other children and girls, who are, as a rule, placed there by W.A.S.
10. Hopedene:- } Mother-and-baby Homes. Only registered
 11. Kennedy House:- } in case they should ever have to keep
 an unaccompanied child temporarily.
12. Good Shepherd Convent:- } Only a few teen-age girls, the rest are
 Derry. } older women.
13. Good Sheperd Convent:- } Material conditions and equipment very
 Newry. } good. Girls and women work in laundry, have all amusements laid on inside Home. Quite happy atmosphere in both places.
14. Sacred Heart Home:- } Good material conditions. Could perhaps
 Good Shepherd Convent, Belfast. } do with more play equipment, but would, I think, buy anything suggested to them. Have singing, elocution, dancing classes and girls go out to ordinary schools and to do shopping for Home. Not short of money, I think.
15. Rubane House:- } Good care and training by trained staff
 of Brothers - plus one woman cook. Is still in process of development, but on well organized lines. ? 2 women and ?
16. Our Mother of Mercy Convent:- } Children go to outside school. This is
 Newry. } also a Home for old ladies. The children look quite well-cared, and the babies very well-cared, but I feel there are insufficient staff, and the bigger children's activities could be improved.
17. Convent of Mercy:- } Mainly a cheap boarding-school, on spartan
 Bessbrook. } lines, but affectionate care is given. Take a few voluntary children only. Said to have none when Dr. Simpson visited recently. Adequate care and training. Short of play equipment.
18. Nazareth Lodge:- } Poverty-stricken. Short of staff and play
 Belfast. } equipment. Very institutional for older children, and babies in desperate plight. Rev. Mother very anxious to improve and hopes to have Nursery School started. Getting equipment already. Trying to make holiday arrangements at BR 39
19. Nazareth House:- } Very institutional, but material conditions
 Belfast. } better than Nazareth Lodge. Short of play equipment. Short of staff. Home made holiday arrangements at BR 39
- /20. St. Joseph's Home

Reference _____

20. St. Joseph's Home:- Very institutional, but boys do get out
 Termonbacca, to school, younger ones to Nazareth
 Derry. House, older ones to Christian Brothers.
 (Nazareth Home) Short of staff; short of play equipment.
21. Nazareth House:- Best play equipment of any of the 4
 Derry. Nazareth Homes, at any rate for toddlers.
 Still very institutional.
22. Portadown Babies Home ^{especially}

The children in these 4 Homes have nothing like a normal upbringing. They must feel unloved as it is just not possible for the number of staff to show affection to such large numbers of children. They can know little or nothing of the world outside, (as with one exception school is on the premises), and must be completely unprepared for it, either in character or knowledge. I find these Homes utterly depressing and it appals me to think that these hundreds of children are being reared in bleak lovelessness. This is not meant entirely as criticism of the staff, but their task is impossible. Some of them have, however, little idea of what a child's life should be. They have got used to their own institutional set-up. For example, when asked about the children going out, one replied "Oh yes, they go to the Circus at Christmas". If this is their sole contact with the world they must have a distorted idea of it! Even their "god-parent" scheme is unreal, as instead of getting ordinary folk somewhere near the children's own level to be "uncles and aunts" they have looked for business men who will give the boys jobs on leaving - regardless of whether the business is likely to suit the boy!

In short, I think we must press for complete overhaul of the whole set-up of these Homes, and assist them in every way possible

Kathleen B. Forrest
 (K.B. FORREST)

28th April, 1953.

Reference

T. 398.

P.C.Nazareth Lodge

Here are some notes on the general conditions seen at the Home yesterday when we visited - as distinct from notes on the discussion with Rev. Mother.

There is no doubt one can feel much happier about the babies in the new Home. They were well-cared, well-clothed and fed. With 16 babies under six months they now hand-feed those under 4 months, while watching the others carefully at their feeds. Sister says it is possible to play with, handle, and talk to the others at other times. Two nuns were with these babies at the time of our visit. The biggest babies were making good progress in feeding themselves, holding their own beakers and so on. The whole premises - except the parts immediately above the laundry and boiler-house - were dreadfully cold. The central-heating system has still not been made to work satisfactorily, but in addition the boiler-man had let the hopper become empty so that such heat as there might have been was lost. The babies' hands were blue with cold and felt icy to touch, but they were however all warmly clad and had pull-ups on. The tiny babies were all right as they had an additional fire but the next in age were the worst. We suggested an electric fire as a booster till the system is put right.

see P.S.

The toddlers, 2 to 5, are also much improved. Nursery school was over for the day and they were temporarily in the care of one young girl.* This was not sufficient, as at this age they are constantly needing to go to the W.C. and require to be supervised while doing so. However the children themselves were in good form and have become much more independent. Their speech seems better already.

The school-children are now the worst off and Rev. Mother agrees that they are not getting any sort of chance in life and cannot make proper development, especially those who have known nothing but this institutional care from babyhood. She aims to reduce the numbers to 100 and would like to have four good motherly women to help the nuns in charge of this group. A much larger staff than at present is absolutely essential. We saw little 5- and 6-year-olds sitting in a row with bare legs and feet waiting to get washed before supper. A slightly larger child stood facing them, hissing at them to "stay quiet". Some of this quietness and stillness was probably for the benefit of the visitors, but what an unnatural state of affairs! About half-a-dozen of these "little shrimps" were making up beds with the help of the one nun in charge. Two unfortunates who had soiled their pants were standing, dressed in little underpants only, on the tiled floor of the bathroom, waiting to be cleaned up and looking very miserable.

What is needed here is really fundamental re-organisation so that these little creatures can have some individual loving care instead of being dragooned. Rev. Mother recognises this and even went so far as to say that children playing in the gutters of the slums were better off, if they had father and mother to care for them, however poorly.

I am afraid the position here is that while the big boys have benefited from moving to Rubane the little ones have suffered from their going to some extent.

Reference T 330Ministry of Home Affairs,
Stormont, Belfast.A.S.G.Grants to Voluntary Homes

We have £15,000 in this year's vote so unless we are prepared to go for a Supplementary later in the year, which I think is undesirable if it can be avoided, our aggregate grants must be kept within this figure.

We have already arranged a grant of £1,000 for extra staff for Nazareth Lodge, Belfast, leaving us £14,000.

The visible demands on the vote this year are:-

- (1) Nazareth Lodge, Belfast, for essential works of renewal and improvement.
- (2) Nazareth House, Londonderry, for a proposed assembly hall, shelter, etc.
- (3) Manor House, Lisburn, for improvements.
- (4) Rubane, Kirkcubbin, for development of the pavilion system of "family group" organisation.

However much they plead poverty, I think 1, 2 and 4 ought to pay one-third of whatever expenditure is incurred - Nazareth House, Londonderry, were talking of 10% over a period of 3 years - and I think the same should apply to 3, although Jackson tells me we may be pressed to pay nearly all in this case.

(1) Nazareth Lodge, Belfast.

A pretty extensive scheme is desirable, including re-organisation on the family-group system. As you know, however, this is a policy matter in which the Lodge is very largely in the hands of the Head House at Hammersmith which is, it seems, not at all in favour of these new-fangled methods such as family-group organisation.

It will, therefore, be necessary to frame the scheme in such a way that it can be done in stages while avoiding nugatory expenditure in the earlier stages.

They have already spent rather more than £3,000 on essential repairs and redecoration and this item we must, I think, accept as ranking for grant.

Gibbs, with such data as he has been able to secure from the Mother Superior and with the help of Anderson in regard to the catering aspects, has prepared a rough estimate showing roughly £5,000 in Stage I and approximately £3,500 in a subsequent stage which may (or, in my own opinion, may not) cover the reorganisation.

His Stage I covers the renovation of the kitchen (£1,550), the improvement of the Boys' dining-room (£760), almost £1,000 of fencing, improvement and reconditioning of contents of Boys' dormitories (£1,210), and a lot of play equipment (about £400) divided between the Babies' Home and the main Home.

His Stage II includes resurfacing the outer walls of Fox Lodge and improvements to the windows (about £750) as well as two new floors (I'm not sure where) and a lot of floor tiling, in addition to £1,300 or so for partitioning dormitories, etc.

I think his allocation requires amendment. The £1,553 for
/the

1937.

REFORMATORYANDINDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.Committal to Certified Schools.

The schools certified by the Minister of Home Affairs under the Children Act, 1908, for the reception of children and young persons are divided into two categories - Reformatory Schools and Industrial Schools:-

- (a) **Reformatory Schools:** A youthful offender between the ages of twelve and sixteen, who is convicted of an offence punishable in the case of an adult with penal servitude or imprisonment, may be sent to a certified reformatory school (Children Act 1908, section 57(1)).
- (b) **Industrial Schools:** To these schools may be sent:-
 - (i) Neglected children of any age under 14, who fall within the definitions in section 58(1) of the Act of 1908;
 - (ii) youthful offenders under 12 (section 58(2));
 - (iii) youthful offenders between 12 and 14 who have not been previously convicted (section 58(3));
 - (iv) children under 14 who are beyond the control of their parents (section 58(4));
 - (v) children under 14 in a Workhouse who are refractory or whose parents have been convicted of an offence punishable with penal servitude or imprisonment (section 58(5));
 - (vi) children who persistently fail to attend school after a School Attendance Order has been made against their parents (Education Act (N.I.) 1923 sections 32 and 33);
 - (vii) children who by reason of their habits or conduct or refusal to submit to reasonable school discipline have been refused admission to public elementary schools (Education Act (N.I.) 1930, section 19).

Period of Detention.

Under section 65 of the Children Act, 1908, a child under 14 may be sent to an Industrial School for such period as the Court thinks proper, but not beyond the age of 16.

The period of committal to a Reformatory School must be less than three nor more than five years, and must not in any case extend beyond the time when the youthful offender will reach the age of 19 years. In practice the courts usually order the detention of youthful offenders for the minimum period of three years.

Control of Schools.

Five of the seven certified schools in Northern Ireland are under the voluntary management of religious or philanthropic

NAZARETH LODGE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, BELFAST.

This School is licensed for the reception of 70 young boys, where they ^{can} remain until they attain the age of 10 years after which they are transferred to senior schools.

On the occasion of the annual inspection on 17th May, 1927, only 9 boys were under detention - three of whom were under six and therefore not chargeable to the Government Grant, and one boy was absent for treatment in Hospital. There were, however, 198 voluntary pupils in the School. The accommodation limit of the school is 206.

The general health of the Institution appeared to be good, the children generally looked healthy and cheerful; their clothing was neat, but many of the boys ran barefooted during the summer. The children were seen at dinner which consisted of a nutritious stew, with bread. The Institution as a whole was in excellent order, and the general condition of the dormitories was good, but an upper dormitory (an attic) was rather overcrowded and it was recommended that the number of beds should be reduced. The condition of the beds, however was not always satisfactory and a change of sheets was

Reference P.I. 4610

Ministry of Home Affairs, N.I.P.H.O.

....

Please see annexed report by Dr. McCloy on his visit to and inspection of Nazareth Lodge Industrial School on the 20th instant.

This annual inspection is made in pursuance of Section 46(3) of the Children Act, 1908.

It is proposed to follow the usual practice and send a copy of the report to the Manager of the School.

There are only 9 "committed" children in this School. It is only licensed to receive boys under 10 years of age and a child is not chargeable to the Government Grant until he reaches 6. On attaining 10 a boy is transferred to a senior boys' school - in this case St. Patrick's, Milltown.

There are, however, in Nazareth Lodge 179 voluntary inmates and 14 babies. Neither the Government nor the local authority contributes to the support of such children.

25th November, 1935.

COPY/

Naazareth Lodge Industrial School.

Memorandum of Inspection: 19th September, 1944.

An inspection of this school was carried out on 19th September, 1944. There were in residence on that day eleven industrial boys and 174 voluntary boys. Since last inspection on 28th June, 1943, two industrial boys were admitted and one industrial boy was transferred to Milltown Industrial School on his reaching ten years of age. There were no discharges or deaths amongst the industrial children nor were there any absent on licence.

The general health of the boys was well maintained during the year. There were no outbreaks of infectious disease or serious illness. All the children are immunised against diphtheria.

The boys were seen in the different class rooms where they were receiving instruction in educational subjects. They appeared bright, alert and content and very fit. They were clean and neatly clad in blouses and shorts. Practically all the pupils were seen wearing footwear chiefly in the form of sandals. For the good health of the boys it is desirable to provide some form of footwear whilst indoor and more so at sedentary work. There was a satisfactory absence of skin disorders. Milk is provided for each pupil under the Milk for School children Scheme.

Weighing of the boys is now done at regular intervals and a steady gain in weight is seen in most of the boys. The medical officer to the school visits regularly. A complete medical examination of each child is not carried out as yet by the medical officer. Such should be done and repeated at regular intervals and the findings entered on a clinical record card for each boy. On the same card would be entered particulars of any illness, injuries or special treatments.

The general conduct of the boys continues to be satisfactory. There was nothing of note in the punishment book. A fair amount of freedom is permitted in the school and this privilege is not abused.

Educational instruction takes up most of the time of the boys but as well they assist in the general cleaning of the school, bed making, assist in the kitchen and laundry. No trades are taught. Suitable forms of recreation are also provided. A spacious playing field is available for outdoor games. The boys play football, cricket and hurling games. A number of the senior boys attend at the Public Bath for swimming lessons.

The class rooms were clean, bright and suitably furnished. The dormitories were airy, and very neatly kept. The beds and bedding were in good condition. The older mattresses are gradually being replaced by new ones. The bed linen was very clean. The ablution rooms were in a satisfactory state. The hand basins are still without hot water. A hot water supply is available but the present shortage of material has prevented the supply being laid on to the hand basins. Cold water is provided. The school baths have hot and cold water supplies. The sanitary annexes were reasonably clean but the lavatory pans in use were very old fashioned and a series of pans are flushed by a common cistern which has to be turned on when required. This arrangement is not satisfactory and separate flushing pans should be installed when materials are available.

A new boiler has been installed to supply hot water throughout the school.

The laundry department is quite well equipped and is able to cope with the requirements of the school, and the work done is of high standard. A separate small laundry unit has been erected for the sole use of the nursery since last visit.

/12

MINUTE SHEET.

Reference.....

The following "committed" children
are at present in Nazareth Lodge :-

- | | | |
|----|------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | [REDACTED] | - due for transfer 14.1.1935 |
| 2. | [REDACTED] | " " " 14.12.1937 |
| 3. | [REDACTED] | " " " 14.11.1935 |
| 4. | [REDACTED] | " " " 30.5.1938 |
| 5. | [REDACTED] | " " " 10.11.37 |
| 6. | [REDACTED] | " " " 29.6.1937 |
| 7. | [REDACTED] | " " " 18.3.1939 |

The last commitment to this
School was made on 17 Oct 1933

There are 176 Voluntary
cases in Nazareth Lodge

Alleged cruelty to **NL 161** Nazareth Lodge.

City of Belfast.

Donagall Pass.
5th May 1927.

D.I.F.

I beg to report that at 9-30am on the 3rd inst **NL 161** 13 Somme Drive, Belfast, brought to this barrack **NL 161** 11yrs. Inmate of the Nazareth Lodge, Ravenhill Road; whom he found wandering on the Rugby Road in his bare feet in a very scantily dressed condition.

I was not in barracks when he was brought in but arrived ten minutes later. On interrogating **NL 161** he informed me that he had been severely beaten in the Nazareth Lodge on the previous morning the 2nd inst by **SR 206** who he alleged beat him severely on both hands, back and front, with a stick for wetting his bed. He also alleged that on that morning the 3rd inst she beat him severely about the legs with a strap for wetting his bed.

I examined **NL 161** and found his hands and fingers bearing traces of chilblains some of which appeared to have been broken, both hands and fingers were greatly swollen and there were distinct strap marks on both wrists.

His legs from the thighs down to his feet bore distinct traces of severe strapping and appeared to be in a very bad condition as when I pressed my fingers on marked portions he complained that his legs were very sore.

I immediately telephoned for Dr Dixon, 80 Dublin Road, who arrived about 10-15am and after examining the boy gave me attached certificate.

I detained the boy in barracks and telephoned to the Nazareth Lodge for his clothes which were sent down later.

In company with Sergt Stanley of Ballynafagh barracks I visited the Nazareth Lodge at 3-30pm same date where I interviewed **SR 206** who brought in the Revd Mother and another Sister of the Home to the interview.

I informed **SR 206** of the serious allegations made against her by the child **NL 161** relative to the mornings of the 2nd and 3rd inst, she admitted slapping him on the hands on the 2nd for wetting and messing his bed but she denied interfering with him on the morning of the 3rd.

I then informed her that he had been examined by a Doctor and read the certificate and asked her if she could account for the injuries to the boy's legs, she replied that she could not unless he had been fighting with some of the other boys in the Home. She also said that the boy was not under her control on the morning of the 3rd but under that of the other Sister who was present at the interview, the latter supported this statement and said that ~~she~~ he was under her care that morning and that he disappeared from the Home about 8-30am. She said that she did not beat him or see any other person beat him that morning.

Dr Edward McSorley, Donagall Pass called with me

at 6pm on the 4th inst and informed me that he had examined the boy that morning at 10-15am and showed me a certificate that he had prepared in connection with the matter, this certificate goes to show that there were no traces of the alleged illtreatment. I asked him about the boy's hands and he admitted that they were in a bad way from chilblains, I asked him was the Sister justified in slapping him on the hands with a stick and his hands in such a condition and he replied "She was not". He also informed me that Professor Irwin of University Square examined the boy at 5pm same date 4th inst and would submit a certificate later, this certificate was produced to me this morning by Dr McSorley and bears out Dr McSorley's views i.e. that there were no traces of the alleged illtreatment.

On the evening of the 3rd inst on receiving a promise from the Revd Mother that the boy would not be punished for what had taken place and would be properly treated I had him sent back to the Home.

There are upwards of 200 children in this Home all of whom appear to be well cared for and I have not heard any complaints of illtreatment previously.

I learned from SR 206 and the Revd Mother at my interview that the boy NL 161 is a filthy boy who wets and dirties his bed clothes every night and under these circumstances I believe that he did receive the beatings complained of by him, at the same time if a prosecution for cruelty was instituted I have no doubt that the evidence of the Sisters and the Revd Mother would be believed before that of the boy, a copy of whose statement I attach.

B. Taylor

Sergt. 1254.

X

3.5.27

This is to certify that I have this
morning examined **NL 161**

There is evidence of severe strapping
to both thighs & calves; also on
both wrists. His hands are swollen,
but states they are swollen every winter.

Several septic spots on buttocks
also on ring & forefinger of left
hand. His appearance is consistent
with having been beaten with a
strap.

Edwin MB.

COPY

NL 161 Ilys, states I have been in the Nazareth Lodge, Ravenhill Road, Belfast, since I was a baby. SR 206 is in charge of the boys in the Home.

Yesterday morning the 2nd inst I wet my bed and SR 206 came to me when I was dressed before Mass, she had a stick in her hand, she called me out to the passage, caught me by each hand and beat me severely with the stick on both back and front of each hand.

She then sent me to my class and I got ready for Mass.

I wet my bed this morning and SR 206 came in to where I got my breakfast, she called me out and then sent [redacted] who was in the room with me out, she ordered me to stand up and she then beat me severely about the legs with a strap. She then ordered me to go scrubbing and I went down a field and ran away by the River Lagan. No other person in the Nazareth Lodge or elsewhere beat me.

I am afraid to go back to the Home.

Signed.

NL 161

TELEPHONE 875.

MR S. T. IRWIN, M.CH., F.R.C.S.
29, UNIVERSITY SQUARE,
BELFAST.

made by
AT HOME
FROM 2 BY APPOINTMENT.

4th May, 1927.

On 4.5.27. I was asked to see a boy named **NL 161** at the Nazareth by Dr. E. McSorley. I obtained the following history:--

That the boy ran away from the Home on Monday and was brought back on Monday night; ran away again on Tuesday; a policeman brought him back on Tuesday night; he was found by a man in University Street on Tuesday who took him to the Donegall Pass barracks. He thinks he was seen by a doctor at the barracks.

On questioning the boy as to whether he had any pain or made any complaints he said that he had pain in the right side and also in the left side; that he had some trouble there since before Easter; in fact, he admitted that the pain had been there for a very long time. He also said that he had chilblains on both hands; that he had a sore on his right knee and that he had also bruised his left knee by a fall on the ground.

On examination:--

1. There right hand is swollen. Many chilblains occur on the fingers; on the back of the wrist there is a tiny mark about $\frac{1}{2}$ " long like a crack in the superficial layers of the skin. Above this mark there are two smaller marks which resemble pustules which had healed up.

2. The left hand. There is a small pustule in the middle of a chilblain on the index finger. The little finger shows an ulcerated chilblain. The whole hand is considerably swollen.

3. Right thigh. Over the great trochanter there is an ulcer in a healing condition and several smaller healed scars in this neighbourhood.

4. Right buttock. There is an almost healed ulcer over the buttock.

5. Left thigh. Over the great trochanter there is an ulcerating patch with some purulent secretions dried up over it.

6. Genital organs. The foreskin is very long and cannot be drawn back. Both testicles are undescended.

7. Feet. Both feet are somewhat flat and there is evidence of old chilblains on several of the toes. There is no sign of either leg having been beaten.

8. Knees. The right knee shows a bruised area as if he had fallen. There are also abrasions on the left knee.

The boy is well nourished and warmly clad. I

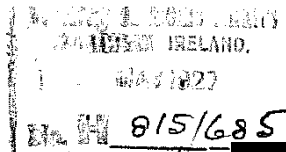
I obtained the history that he frequently wets the bed and I enquired from the boy himself and he made the remark that only once or twice has he remained dry at night.

I came to the following conclusions:--

1. There is no evidence of any unusual injuries to this boy with the possible exception of the very tiny crack on the back of the right wrist.

2. The condition of the hands are strongly suggestive of the sores that occur in cases of chilblain. This view is supported by the condition of the feet. The sores on the hips are unquestionably the result of nocturnal enuresis.

J. J. Swain:



28752

NL 161

Alleged cruelty to
NL 161 Nazareth Lodge

City of Belfast



The Commr

Before taking any further steps in this case I beg to ask for a direction in the matter.

I agree with the report of Sgt Taylor and am of the opinion that the evidence would scarcely sustain a prosecution for cruelty.

There is no doubt but that the boy got beaten rather severely but in the circumstances it was justifiable to a certain extent.

On the morning the boy left the stone it was very cold, and this, in my opinion, had the effect of showing up the marks after the beating.

Immediate

Inspector-General

Jas Lambie
 261019 for 19.7.



Submitted for your instructions
 Please. Understand the papers are

in family matters at the Ministry of
Home Affairs.

Whilst this boy undoubtedly
appears to have been severely
punished, I doubt in the circum-
stances if a prosecution for Cruelty
would be likely to succeed

URGENT.

Atkinson
to Commission

Secy,

M. H. A.



Submitted. It is
doubtful if a prosecution
would be successful
in this case

Bo Williams
S.I. for I.G.

P. W. O.
Why do I do not think
a prosecution would
succeed, like young O'Connell
formerly Secy of the Home
Affairs

Ministry of Home Affairs, Northern Ireland

Ministry of Home Affairs
NORTHERN IRELAND
27 MAY 1927
No.

MINUTE SHEET.

Assist. Sec. H.

As directed by the Minister I made a complete inspection of Nazareth Lodge Industrial School on the 17th inst., & a copy of my report thereon is attached.

As regards the boy **NL 161**, I found that he was not under detention, so that the M¹ is not directly responsible for him, this case is mainly important as indicating the treatment to which our Industrial children might be liable under similar circumstances. **NL 161** in any case ran away again, & is now in the Dufferin Hospital (for children) at the Belfast Union Workhouse.

I questioned **SR 206** who said that she had struck him on the hands with a strap (not a stick) on the morning before he first ran away, as he had not only wet but soiled his bed, & I admit that the latter does seem likely to be wilful. She denied having beaten him at all on the following morning, when he says he was struck on the legs. It would appear that he ran away three times altogether; first on the day his hands were slapped, second on the following day when the alleged beating of his legs is said to have occurred, & lastly after his return by the police, when he was not sent back. Both **SR 206** & the Manager say that the boy is a liar & generally unsatisfactory. They seemed to think, however, that punishment is the right way to deal with enuresis, & I pointed out to them with some care the acknowledged fact that

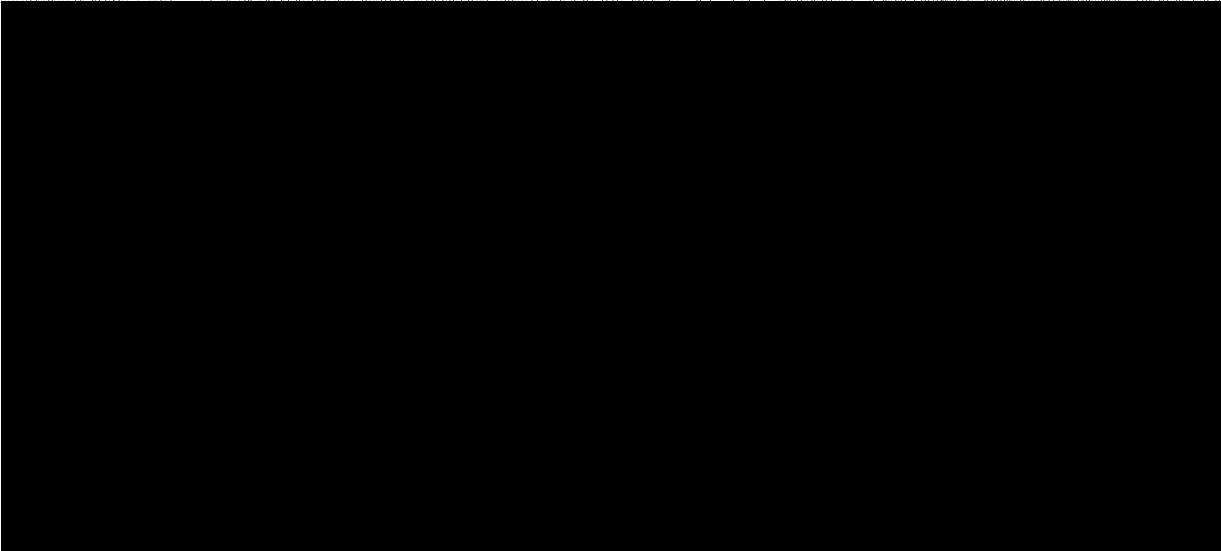
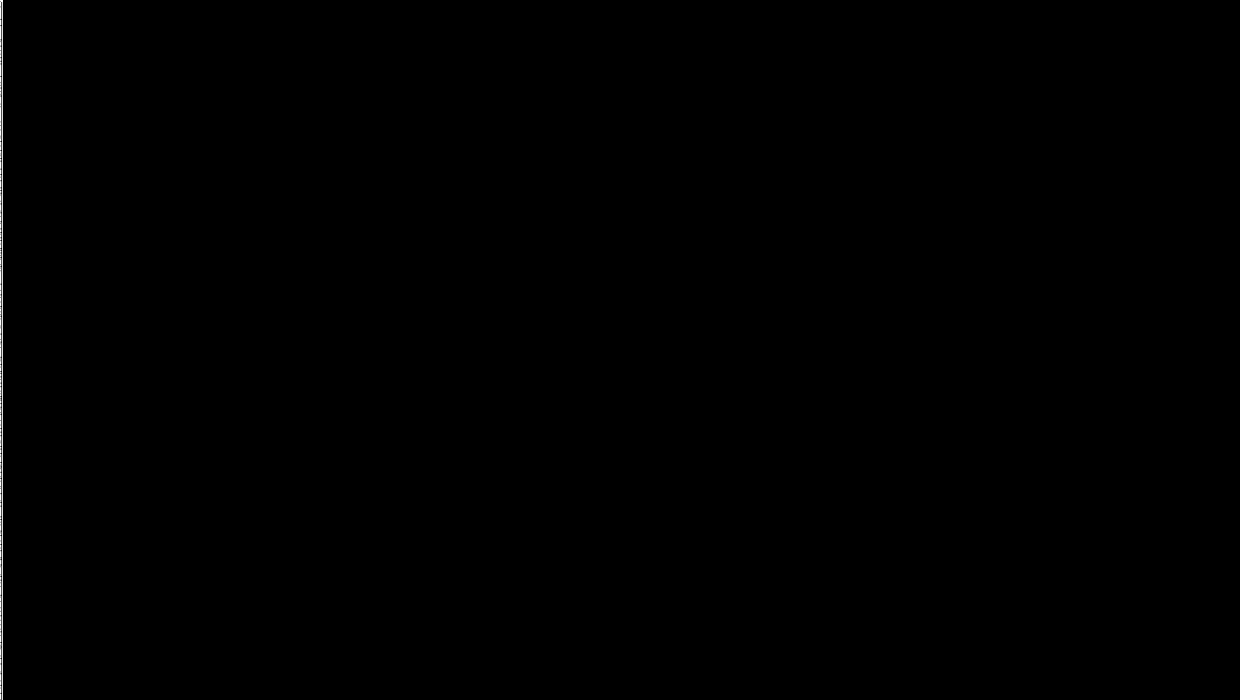
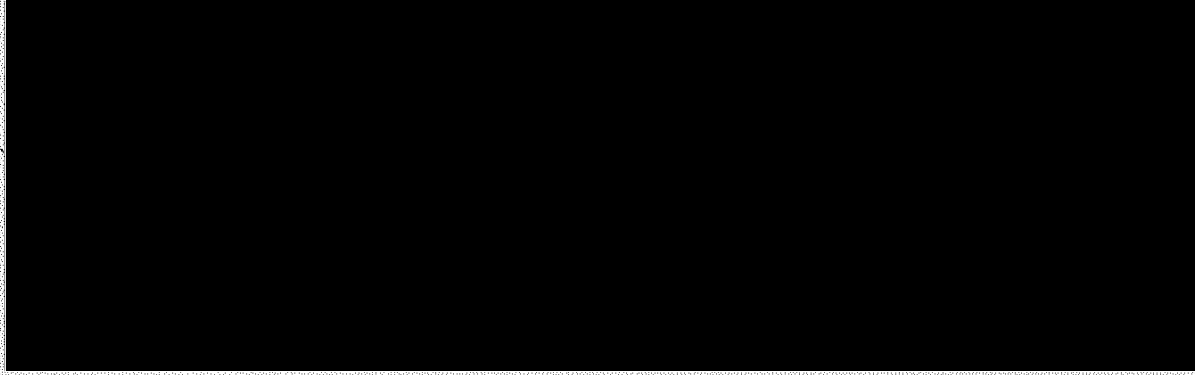
Jan. 23/5
I am
sify.
Munster,
The report
W.C.M.O. on
this School
is generally
quite satisfactory
and I do not
think any
particular
attention need
be paid to the
boy **NL 161**
allegations of
cruelty
The attention
of the **NL 161**
is to be directed
to A & B in
C.M.O. report
to them. 23/5
K.M.

MINUTES OF DIVISIONAL GROUP MEETING AT WEST DIVISION HELD ON 14.6.71

PRESENT: Messrs. Bunting, Herron, Shannon, Hunter, Todd, Mrs. Hall,
Mrs. Scott, Mrs. McMahon, Miss McKee, Miss Harlow and Mrs. Whiting

APOLOGIES: Miss Nicholl (Illness)

1. Nazareth House - Dissatisfaction with their procedures regarding children in our care placed with them. Cases had been documented and forwarded to Mr. Moore regarding this but so far, no action appears to have been taken. Suggestion that a meeting be convened with Father Lowry to try to resolve the problems and if necessary, the Bishop be approached regarding the same.



November 1984

During this month **HIA 210** was interviewed with regard to his experiences in Nazareth Lodge. This was necessary after **HIA 210** began to have nightmares and at night wake up in a disorientated state, not knowing where he was. His nightmares woke the other members of the family who heard him shout in his sleep. He discussed some of these nightmares with **SR 62** and began to describe the treatment he received whilst in Nazareth Lodge. It would appear from **HIA 210** description that he regularly received beatings from the nun in charge of his group, **SR 62**. These he claimed would be with whatever implement would be at hand i.e. a stick and on one occasion a vacuum cleaner pipe. Apparently the vacuum cleaner pipe was used on one occasion when **HIA 210** was in a hurry to finish his chores and go out and play. It would seem that he was not completing the task to **SR 62** satisfaction and she hit him with the vacuum cleaner pipe. He claimed that on one occasion **SR 62** split his brother's head open and it required stitches *. At the time of one of these incidents the Social Worker involved was informed of a beating, according to **HIA 210**. The Social Worker spoke with **SR 62**. Both boys were then brought to the Office and told that they had deserved the beatings. After the social worker left both boys were put in a bath of cold water as a punishment for informing the Social Worker. On another occasion **HIA 210** claimed that he was locked in a bathroom overnight without lights (both the lock and the light switch were on the outside of the bathroom). A darkened cupboard was also used for similar punishments. Another incident **HIA 210** found very disturbing has been described by him in two ways. At one time a child was murdered and mutilated in Ormeau Park (the killer apparently was never captured). In his description to the foster parents he was told of the incident in a threatening manner. However in his description to me he claimed that **Sr. SR 62** was warning them to be careful. **HIA 210** said that other members of staff also beat the children, one in particular was forced to leave after a fight with another member of staff in which she threatened to throw hot chipfat round the other member of staff.

HIA 210 view was that on the whole he did not deserve most of these beatings and that they were more severe than necessary. If these incidents are in fact true it would give us a further insight into **HIA 210** behaviour.

NL 180

Social Worker

Copy to: D.S.S. N.H.&S.S.B. ✓
A.D.S.S. South Belfast U.M. ✓
NL 223, North & West. ✓

The Rev. Mother,
Nazareth Lodge Children's Home,
516 Ravenhill Road,
BELFAST.

RJE/KL

13th June, 1985.

Dear SR 143

HIA 210 D.O.B. [REDACTED]

The above-named boy who is at present being cared for by foster parents and was previously in care at Nazareth Lodge has made a number of serious allegations about the treatment he received from SR 62 and NL 66

I have brought the allegations to the attention of the Department of Health and Social Services and to Mr. Smyth, Director of Social Services of the Northern Health and Social Services Board as HIA 210 alleges that another boy called NL 97 received similar treatment.

I did this in anticipation that the Department would wish to investigate the matter as the allegations referred to unacceptable child care practices which may have been in general use. However, I have now received a reply from Mr. Armstrong, Chief Social Work Adviser, suggesting that I should arrange for HIA 210 complaints to be investigated and if there is substance in the allegations he will take the matter up with you.

I have arranged for NL 223, Principal Social Worker and NL 191, Senior Social Worker, North and West Belfast Community Unit of Management, to investigate these allegations and NL 223 will be in contact with you in the near future to make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely,



Director of Social Services

EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

NORTH AND WEST BELFAST DISTRICT
COMMUNITY UNIT OF MANAGEMENT

MEMORANDUM

From ... **NL 223** PSW
Ref. HC/DPTo ... Mr. R. Bunting ADSS
Ref. CC **SR 143** Nazareth Lodge ATION

8 July 1985

Re Nazareth Lodge and the Complaint of **HIA 210**

As you requested I interviewed **NL 147** and **NL 146** the two staff members mentioned by **HIA 210** whose whereabouts are known and who are currently available. **SR 143** kindly organised these interviews as **NL 147** continues to work within Nazareth and **NL 146** (although no longer employed) lives close by.

Both state that they have no previous knowledge of the complaints **HIA 210** is making. They deny any knowledge of practices of children -

- 1) being locked in the domestic cupboard,
- 2) being allowed to sleep on the bathroom floor,
- 3) having their mouths washed out with soap and
- 4) having meals withheld from them.

They acknowledge that there was some element of physical punishment of the children but both put this very much at the minor end of the continuum using words such as 'smacked' or 'tipped'. They are unaware of the incidents that **HIA 210** cites with regard to himself and **NL 97**. They further said that they have no knowledge of implements, sticks or canes, being used to beat the children.

NL 147 worked in the Unit from 1979-81. She was the member of staff who replaced **NL 66**. **NL 146** worked in the Unit from November 1978 through to her marriage in July 1981. They both said that the atmosphere in the Unit was good at that time, the children were a happy, contented bunch. They know of no reason why **HIA 210** should be making these allegations as they say he was very much the favourite of **SR 62** and she quite frequently made excuses for him.

In conclusion, there was nothing stated at that meeting to confirm any of the allegations which **HIA 210** has made. However, as I have relayed to **SR 143**, I feel that even allowing for the fact that **HIA 210** is undoubtedly a child who has suffered quite a disturbed early experience and is of limited intelligence, I believe that there is some substance to the allegations that he has made. These, I have no doubt, may well be exaggerated or, indeed, distorted by his perception of relationships but the way in which he told his story, the fact that he was very specific about incidents and was anxious to be believed and to tell his story to anyone including staff in Nazareth, plus the fact that he was discriminating in terms of the members of staff whom he mentioned, leads me to believe that his story should not be lightly dismissed.

NL 223

PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WORKER

13 DEC 85

Northern Health and Social Services Board



Mr. P.J. Armstrong, *13/12*
 Chief Social Work Adviser,
 Department of Health and Social Services,
 Dundonald House,
 Upper Newtownards Road,
 BELFAST,
 BT4 3SF.

65 University Street Belfast BT7 1HN
 Telephone 244611
 Telegrams EHSSB, Belfast

Director of Social Services
 R. Moore

our ref: RJB/KL

your ref:

12th December, 1985

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Re: **HIA 210** - Formerly Nazareth Lodge Children's Home

You will recall that I wrote to you on 15th May, 1985 to bring to your attention allegations of physical abuse made by **HIA 210** against some of the staff in Nazareth Lodge and to seek your views on the appropriate action which should be taken.

Following your response on 29th May, 1985 I arranged for **NL 223**, Principal Social Worker, and **NL 191**, Senior Social Worker, both North and West Belfast Community Unit of Management, to investigate the allegations and wrote to **SR 143** informing her of the action we would be taking.

I enclose a copy of the reports prepared by **NL 223** following a further interview of **HIA 210** and interview of **NL 147** and **NL 146** two members of staff mentioned by **HIA 210** who were available to respond to the allegations.

NL 223 came to the conclusion that although the members of staff were only prepared to acknowledge that some physical punishment was used there was some substance in **HIA 210** allegations.

Following these reports an arrangement was made for the Northern Health and Social Services Board to interview **NL 97** whom it was thought was in the care of that Board. However, it has since transpired that this is not the case and **NL 223** will be arranging for **NL 97** to be interviewed. A report of this interview will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

In the meanwhile allegations of a somewhat similar nature have been made by **NL 145** who is now in a foster home but was in Nazareth Lodge during the period 1974 - 1981.

I have enclosed a copy of the Social Worker's report on these allegations. In view of this corroborative information, I feel that you may now wish to take the matter up with **SR 143**

There are a number of outstanding issues which I think should be followed up -

1. **SR 62** regardless of her age and the fact that she is no longer in child care, should be made aware of these complaints and asked to respond.

REPORT

Re: **NL 145** D.O.B. [REDACTED]

I have been visiting **NL 145** at least, monthly since 4th October 1983 and during this time I've discussed her years in Nazareth Lodge on several occasions and for 2 main reasons:-

- (a) On my initial visit I was concerned about **NL 145** unresponsive, negative attitude. In an effort to establish/^amore positive response I spoke to her of an eighteen year old whom I had met while I was a student at Queens. When I tentatively said that this girl had indicated that discipline had been strict **NL 145** became animated named the girl (I've forgotten the name) and said they both had been in **SR 62** unit and that she too had experienced similar forms of discipline as did some boys she named. In no sense was **NL 145** distressed, rather she seemed to be happy to be able to communicate about something.
- (b) However, I noted her comments and decided to return to the subject when I had developed a better relationship. On doing this and having made contact with **NL 145** feelings she became very distressed and cried uncontrollably. This scene is repeated every time I focus on this area of concern. On two occasions I have discussed the topic with **NL 145** while alone with either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. Both have become concerned and surprised as they knew **NL 145** during the relevant years and were not aware of anything. **NL 145** insists she did try to tell them and her Social Worker but no one seemed to take her seriously. She believed no one would listen to her as **SR 62** appeared so pleasant and interested in **NL 145** welfare when Social Worker and [REDACTED] visited. There was a sense too that this punishment was acceptable to all adults concerned.

As **NL 145** is now 18 years old, will not return to Nazareth Lodge and **SR 62** is elderly and no longer working with children. I focused on the essence rather than detail of the events **NL 145** relayed *Apparently she resides in the main convent sometimes opening the main door.

NL 145 was happy in St Joseph's till she moved to Nazareth Lodge when she was 7 years old. She went to live with foster parents when she was 14 years (see C11's for details). Her father died in 1979 when she was nearly 12 years and it would appear that life in Nazareth Lodge was unpleasant from this time. She has spoken of being made to

EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

NORTH AND WEST BELFAST COMMUNITY UNIT OF MANAGEMENT

MEMORANDUMFrom **NL 223** - P.S.W.To ...Mr. R. Bunting - A.D.S.S. EH+SSB
Mr. R. Bunting - A.D.S.S. EH+SSBRef. **■**/mg

Ref.

FOR ACTION CURRENTLY AP3219

26 November 1985

Please find enclosed copy of a report forwarded to me on behalf of a girl who was a resident in Nazareth Lodge several years ago. As you will see, **NL 145** is making a complaint about the harshness of the regime which prevailed at that time. She too is talking in terms of the physical punishment that she received but notes that for the boys, life could be much harsher.

You will remember that I carried out a limited investigation at the Department's request, the results of which I forwarded to yourself. At the time I remained unconvinced about the denials that I was receiving from ex staff in Nazareth. This complaint only heightens that lack of confidence.

NL 223**NL 223**

Principal Social Worker

Enc

Mr P J Armstrong

NAZARETH LODGE CHILDREN'S HOME

1. In March 1984 the Eastern Board referred a report to us setting out a number of complaints in relation to the running of this Home. These were:

- putting soap into children's mouths as punishment for swearing;
- using a room infested with cockroaches as a isolation room for disruptive children; and
- the use of surplus food from Marks and Spencers.

These complaints were investigated by Mr Walker and Mr Chambers and no further action was taken by the Department or the Board in relation to the child named in respect of the use of soap.

2. On 15 May 1985 Mr Moore wrote to you with reports from North and West Belfast Unit of Management which contained allegations of physical abuse by a boy, **HIA 210** who had lived in the Home from 28 September 1973 to 9 August 1981. These allegations were made when the child, who was placed with foster parents, was having nightmares and was interviewed about his experiences in the Home.

3. **HIA 210** alleges that:

- he regularly received beatings from **SR 62** who used whatever implement would be at hand;
- he was placed in a bath of cold water as punishment for informing his social worker about the beatings;
- he was locked in a bathroom overnight without lights; and
- he was placed in a locked cupboard.

4. The North and West Belfast Unit of Management staff investigated these allegations by interviewing the boy on 2 occasions, his brother on one occasion and a social worker who had responsibility for him during his time in the Home. The interviews with his brother and social worker did not corroborate his allegations and the Unit of Management report concluded "as a child he is not adverse to making allegations although we have no personal experience of him being dishonest in this nature although his interpretation of what has happened, as always the case, may be called into question".

In his letter of 15 May Mr Moore stated "as these allegations described unacceptable child care practices rather than complaints relating to one child, I would be grateful for your

Eastern Health and Social Services Board



65 University Street Belfast BT7 1HN
Telephone 244611
Telegrams EHSSB, Belfast

Director of Social Services
R. Moore

our ref: RJB/KH

your ref:

18 AUG 86

Mr. P.J. Armstrong,
Chief Social Work Adviser,
Department of Health and Social Services,
Dundonald House,
Upper Newtownards Road,
BELFAST,
BT4 3SF.

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

NAZARETH LODGE

Thank you for your letter of 23rd July, 1986 and copy of **SR 143**
report of her investigation of the complaints made by **NL 145** and **NL 97** **HIA 210**

I remain unhappy about this matter and the investigation undertaken by **SR 143** does not lead me to conclude as she does that "the allegations of brutality are not substantiated and did not take place".

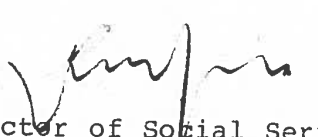
We are in fact left with the classic dilemma in residential child care of the word of the children against that of the staff. In addition, the lapse of time between the complaints being made and the alleged abuse occurring make it very difficult to obtain accurate information on what actually took place.

I feel that there is nothing to be gained by staff trying to pursue this matter further. However, some of the allegations made amount to criminal activity and as the matter remains unresolved I take the view that the Police should be informed.

I would prefer that the young people and their parents did this with the assistance of my staff and will arrange for them to be given the opportunity. However, if they do not wish to then I will ask Mr. Black, Assistant Director of Social Services, North and West Belfast to do this as we had an 'in loco parentis' responsibility for these children during the time they allege the abuse occurred.

I would appreciate your views on this matter and will delay the action I propose until I hear from you. I will, of course, let **SR 143** know before the Police are informed.

Yours sincerely,


Director of Social Services

12/3

9 [REDACTED] 10/1

Nazareth House,

Malahide Road,

Dublin 3.

7th. March 1987.

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Mr. P.J. Armstrong, *13/3*
Chief Social Work Adviser,
Dundonald House,
Upper Newtownards Road,
Belfast BT4 3SF.

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Further to your letter of the 23rd. October 1986 I am forwarding a copy of a letter received from the Director of Social Services on the 12th. February 1987. I have not been informed of developments since that date but I will certainly let you know as soon as I hear of any progress in the matter.

Thanking you for your continued help.

Yours sincerely,

J. J. J. J.
Regional Superior.



DUNDONALD HOUSE
UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD
BELFAST
BT4 3SF

21 September 1984

SR 143

Nazareth Lodge
516 Ravenhill Road
BELFAST
BT6 OBW

Dear **SR 143**

I enclose a copy of a letter that I have recently received from Mr Bunting, who is acting as Director of Social Services in the Eastern Board following Mr Gilliland's retirement. I am sure you will be pleased to note that the Board does not intend to take any further action over **NL 157** complaint.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation in the investigation of this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. J. Armstrong'.

P J ARMSTRONG
Chief Social Work Adviser

Eastern Health and Social Services Board



Mr. P.J. Armstrong,
Chief Social Work Adviser,
Dundonald House,
Upper Newtownards Road,
Belfast,
BT4 3SF

65 University Street Belfast BT7 1HN
Telephone 44611
Telegrams EHSSB, Belfast

Director of Social Services
E. S. Gilliland B.Sc. (Econ.)

our ref: RB/DMcC

your ref:

CONFIDENTIAL

13.6.84

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Thank you for your letter of 22nd May, 1984. It was understood that Mr. Chambers and Mr. Walker would discuss the complaints regarding child care practice in **SR 2** Unit with **SR 143** as it was implied that the unacceptable practices described could be taking place in regard to all the children. I have enclosed a copy of Mr. Bunting's note of the meeting with Mr. Chambers which was forwarded to Mr. Chambers.

From our point of view certain questions in regard to these practices remain unanswered by **SR 143**

1. Did **SR 2** advocate to staff the practice of putting soap into children's mouths as punishment for swearing? If not from whom did **NL 163** learn this practice?
2. It is the intention to continue using a room in which there would appear to be cockroaches, as an isolation room for disruptive children? If so, is this acceptable to the Department?
3. Is it the intention to continue to accept food from Marks and Spencers, even if it is provided free, when it would not be accepted by the general public? If so, is this acceptable to the Department? *This is an average*

I would be grateful for your view on these matters and information on what further action, if any, the Department intends to take before we pursue **NL 157** complaint further.

Yours sincerely,

Director of Social Services

Note of a meeting with Mr. N. Chambers, Social Work Adviser and [NL 181]
 or Social Worker, North & West Belfast District to discuss the processing of
 the complaints regarding Nazareth Lodge Children's Home.

.....

Mr. Chambers confirmed that the Department of Health and Social Services had recently carried out an inspection of Nazareth Lodge but had not identified any of the practices outlined in the report from North and West Belfast District. It was agreed that the following action should be taken in regard to the complaints:-

1. The Department of Health and Social Services will forward a copy of the report from North and West Belfast District regarding the complaints to [SR 143]
 Mr. Chambers and a colleague, probably Mr. Walker, will discuss the complaints with [SR 143] ascertain her reaction and decide how the care arrangements in Sister [SR 2] Unit will be investigated by the Department of Health and Social Services.
2. Mr. Chambers will indicate to [SR 143] that it is likely that Board Social Workers will have to discuss with individual children the care they are receiving and whether they have any complaints to make.
3. Mr. Chambers will notify the Southern Board as that Board has children in the Unit.
4. Mr. Bunting will clarify with Legal Department whether the forcing of soap into [NL 157] mouth causing him to be sick amounts to a criminal offence of assault.
5. Mr. Bunting will liaise with South Belfast District to ascertain which Districts in the Eastern Board have children in Nazareth Lodge as these Districts will have to be notified of the proposed action in regard to the complaints. Board staff will have to be briefed prior to interviewing the children.
6. [NL 157] will be interviewed by the appropriate Social Worker as soon as possible after [SR 143] has been notified of the complaints. It will be ascertained whether he confirms [NL 162] account of events and whether he wishes to make a formal complaint. His parents will have to be notified as soon as possible after [NL 157] has been interviewed. Regardless of whether [NL 157] wishes any action to be taken the complaint will have to be pursued.

RJBunting

R.J. Bunting,
 Assistant Director of Social Services

12th April, 1984

H1A1(62)C-TAD1 T

NOTES OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH **NL 269** (SOCIAL WORKER, GRANSHA HOSPITAL)

Date: 26 January 1993

NL 269 'phoned stating that he had heard that I was undertaking the Inspection at Nazareth Lodge and wanted to pass on a number of concerns he had regarding the Home. The following details his comments:

1. He was employed by Nazareth Lodge Children's Home and commenced work in September 1992. By November he felt he had no option but to resign.
2. He claims he raised concerns about policy and procedure with the Team Leader who made him out to be a trouble-maker. The following instances were cited:
 - i. One of the children had demonstrated overtly sexualised behaviour. He reported this to the Team Leader who passed it off and did not report the matter to the field social worker. He queried this approach with the Team Leader who said that as he was newly qualified and a new member of staff she was unsure whether or not she could trust his judgement;
 - ii. sleep-in arrangements. In the absence of Sister one residential worker is used to cover the sleep-in. He claims he expressed concerns about a male member of staff undertaking this duty on a single-handed basis feeling it exposed the individual to possible complaint. Sister rejected this view. He states he then checked with BASW who supported his view. He was, however, required to undertake these duties.
 - iii. While on sleep-in one 17 year old [REDACTED] came in high on drugs. **NL 269** claims that at the very least [REDACTED] is handling drugs and would admit to this fact. Surgical gloves have been found in his room with the fingers removed. It is felt these are used for carrying drugs. According to **NL 169** the Team Leader is aware of this situation. As a sanction for returning home high on drugs **NL 269** imposed a 2 day grounding on [REDACTED]. On the Team Leader's return she apparently censured him for:
 - imposing a sanction without permission;
 - liaising with the field social worker without permission;
 - taking action prior to her return to duty.

NL 269 claims that the field social worker had told him that she did not feel she was "told the whole story" by residential staff. **NL 269** stated it would have been general practice in his unit, not to contact field social workers without the Team Leader's consent;

Regional Superior
The Poor Sisters of Nazareth
Nazareth House
Malahide Road
Dublin 3

JAC/SSI

December 1995

Dear Mother Regional

Re: Nazareth Lodge Ravenhill Road Belfast

I am writing to you about certain allegations regarding Sister **SR 18** which were brought to my attention during the recent inspection of Nazareth Lodge. These are referred to in the attached report which was prepared by a staff member who has now left. You will see that matters referred to include the following:-

1. forcing a young person to eat food retrieved from the waste bin in front of other children
2. striking a young person in the course of a violent argument, then dropping him off in the countryside in Co Donegal at night leaving him to make his own way back to the holiday home
3. undermining of staff who had voiced concerns about the effects of such behaviour on the young people
4. refusing to speak to a young person for almost two months before the inspection
5. treating him unfairly in relation to her treatment of other children within the group
6. was reluctant to give him his clothing allowance

I ask that you investigate these matters further and that a report is sent to me in due course. I am copying this letter to the Management Committee for information, **SR 148** Operational Manager and have notified the Trusts responsible.

Yours sincerely

J.A.Chaddock
Inspector - Social Services Inspectorate

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Report for

SR 2

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

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

Following this, however, I chose to speak to NL 169 as I was concerned about what I had heard. I spoke informally to NL 169 as I simply wanted advice on what to do. I mentioned 3 incidents and following this NL 169 advised me to speak to SR 2.

The three incidents I spoke of were as follows.

On 26/07/94, after the residents had returned from Donegal NL 168 told me of a conversation she had with SR 18. I recorded the conversation at the time.

NL 168 said that during the second week of the holiday SR 18 had asked her if she drank alcohol. NL 168 said she did not. SR 18 then said that NL 168 was not a good liar and then apparently asked if NL 168 knew her limit. NL 168 replied that she did. NL 168 then told me that Sr. gave her permission to go to an over 18s disco, said that she

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could drink alcohol but could not come home
~~drink.~~ **NL 168** then added that Sr. had given her money
 to go to the disco.

I later showed **NL 168** what I had recorded and she
 asked me to rip it out of the book or change what I
 had written to make it sound 'better.' I asked her if
 what I had written was incorrect and she said no
 but that she was frightened Sr. would be angry that
 she had told me. I explained to **NL 168** that I
 would not remove or alter what I had written and
 that I was now concerned **NL 168** would abuse
 the freedom she had been given. It was after this
 incident that **NL 168** absconded for overnight from the
 unit to return to Doregal to stay with friends. I
 did not necessarily connect the incidents although I
 remained concerned about them. I had no opportunity
 to talk with **SR 18** due to the fact that both
 Sr. and I took holidays in July and August.

The second incident I mentioned to **NL 169** and
SR 2 concerned **NL 164** being locked in a
 cupboard. I said, however, that I had not spoken to
NL 164 but had only heard this from another resident.
 Following my discussion with **SR 2** I asked **NL 164**
 if this was true. He said he had not been locked in
 a cupboard but that he had been locked in the kitchen.
 He said that the incident occurred approximately two
 weeks ago. He explained that he and **SR 18** had
 been arguing and that everyone was preparing to watch
 a video. It was around 9pm. **NL 164** said that Sr.
 had locked one kitchen door after **NL 164** had snubbed
 it. He said **SR 18** had then gone around to
 the other door and locked it. **NL 164** said he remained

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locked in the kitchen while the residents watched a video. I asked him ~~was~~ he certain both doors were locked and he said they had been. Apparently after the video **SR 18** then went upstairs with the other children. According to **NL 164** this was around 11pm. **NL 164** then climbed out a kitchen window as he said he needed to go to the bathroom. However, the front door was locked so he then rang the bell both for our unit and for the independent unit. **NL 164** said that **SR 18** appeared with some other

residents and stopped the independent staff member opening the door. **NL 164** thinks it was [redacted]. He claims Sr. then told him to go back through the kitchen window. **NL 164** said that he heard the kitchen door being unlocked with the key and that he then unsnibbed the door and left the kitchen. He went on to bed. **NL 164** admitted that he had been arguing with Sr. and that he had snibbed the kitchen door. He said, however, that it had later been locked as he had tried to open the door to go out to the bathroom.

I asked **NL 167** where he had heard that **NL 164** had been locked in a cupboard. He said he thought a staff member had told him and I explained that, according to **NL 164**, this had never happened.

The final incident I mentioned concerned an event in Donegal during July. I had known that **NL 164** had trailed another resident around the room one evening following their visit to a junior disco. **NL 168** had described this to me as she was the person involved. I recorded this in **NL 164** day book. However, later that evening **NL 166** then told **NL 168** and myself that she had hit **NL 164** because of his

4.

behaviour. She said she had hit **NL 164** on the face. **NL 165** 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 Sr, **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 Sr then 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 **NL 171** explained he had told her about it I decided to speak to **NL 169**.

NL 170

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, [REDACTED]

NL 35

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 2** following my discussion with her last year. This related to two incidents with **NL 164** and one concerning **NL 168**

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

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just before I am told that the friend, **NL 164** had ~~driven~~ **NL 164** home. Both **NL 172** and I could see a reddening below **NL 164** eye. He was visibly shaken and soon after he returned he went to bed.

NL 164 account of the incident, from memory, was that he and Sr. had argued in the minibus. He said that Sr had then instructed one of the children, **NL 173**, to hold **NL 164** by the shoulders and that she had then hit **NL 164**. She pulled him out of the minibus and left him to find his own way home. This is similar to an incident which occurred the previous year when Sr had apparently put **NL 164** out of the minibus leaving him to walk home. This incident occurred during daylight hours and **NL 164** was eventually picked up by a friend of Sr's who had gone to find him. He had walked seven miles when he was collected.

I have witnessed many occasions between Sr and **NL 164** where I feel **NL 164** is unfairly treated. I am aware that prior to Judy's inspection Sr had refused to speak with **NL 164** for approximately seven weeks. Staff members were asked to convey messages to **NL 164** from **SR 18** which then placed us in positions whereby we were the recipient of **NL 164** anger towards Sr. This was a constant problem in that we were continually attempting to restrain **NL 164** anger and manage him within the unit. **NL 164** is frequently ostracised within the unit, usually at Sr's

instigation. Sanctions used against him are obviously humiliating and, I consider, extremely damaging to his own feeling of self worth.

NL 164 has frequently expressed his belief that if he chose to complain, no-one would listen to him and that Sr. would give a different version of events. I have also witnessed **NL 164** being forced by Sr to eat food from the bin. She refused to let him out of the kitchen until he had eaten the remainder of a hamburger that **NL 164** had thrown in the bin earlier that day. This occurred in front of the other children, again singling **NL 164** out in front of the group.

Both **NL 168** and **NL 164** would seem to experience a greater degree of difficulty in receiving their monthly clothing allowance. Whereas other children will be given their money when requested, **NL 164** and **NL 168** are asked to wait. I have known **NL 164** to wait for days, without reason. He will then lose his temper and shout at Sr and will be told by Sr that he wait receive his money, given his attitude.

I expressed to Judy my belief that Waverly Lodge was a "time bomb waiting to go off." I am deeply concerned at how **NL 164** and **NL 168** would be continually manipulated by Sr and are often sanctioned or ostracised for losing their temper. This occurs with all of the children but most especially with **NL 164** and **NL 168**. I have maintained firm links with both of the above and

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 cleaning.
 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 2** last year I am aware that
 Sr told **NL 168** and **NL 164** I had complained
 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**
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

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