

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 36

Witness Name: HIA 36

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 36

I, HIA 36, will say as follows:-

Personal Details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] and placed in care in 1957. My mother was from [REDACTED] but I was born in [REDACTED]. My mother was unmarried and she could not look after me and I was made a ward of court. I still had contact with my mother throughout my time in care. I felt lucky to have her as a lot of the other boys in care had no-one.

St Joseph's Children's Home, Ravenhill Road (27 August 1957 – 1961)

2. I was admitted in to care at St Joseph's baby home on 26 August 1957 when I was eight months old. You leave the baby home when you are about four years old.

Nazareth Lodge, Belfast (1961 – 20 August 1968)

3. I was placed in Nazareth Lodge from St Joseph's Children's Home. My mother paid five pounds every month from the day I went in there until I was eleven and I moved to Rubane House, Kircubbin. She gave the money to

SR 34

PRIVATE

4. You had two sheets and a blanket and pillow and you were warm. You had to take the pillow off at night and leave it on top of the locker. I now understand that this was for the safety of residents to prevent asphyxiation.
5. I was abused in Nazareth Lodge by a lay worker, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] He was an old man at the time and he abused me in front of another resident called HIA 56. He worked [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and he made us strip off. It happened maybe three times. I would describe the abuse as fondling. On one occasion I remember a nun coming to [REDACTED] and we were naked in it and although I cannot recall his name now I remember her calling him. You had to come down a flight of stairs but she did not come down.
6. I told my mother that it had happened and she made a complaint and a social worker got involved. I didn't really want to go in to all the detail of it but I just told what happened to me. It also happened to HIA 56 who was there with me at the time. HIA 56 is still alive and remembers everything about it. I have spent many years denying it as it was like a stigma and I just tried to blank it out.
7. I had a lot of hassle from older boys too in Nazareth Lodge. I wasn't streetwise and an older boy HIA 147 abused me in a large dog kennel and this boy went on to abuse other children outside the home. He was a dirty, evil person. I see him in town now and again. I would have been about eight or nine at the time. He looks at me as if it never happened.
8. I was a resident at Nazareth Lodge and Rubane House. Most of my time spent in both places was very good and I remember it fondly and most of the staff were really good people and were good to me. I feel as if I am betraying them by talking to this Inquiry but the truth needs to come out and even if it doesn't do me any good at least it will protect other children in the future.

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9. I could understand the nuns and the priests trying to protect themselves. I was described as a liar and an attention seeker. I just wanted somebody to believe me. I had no-one I could talk to apart from my mother.
10. My mother knew I was abused. She was ninety two when she died. I lived with her in later years and she always cried and apologised for putting me in care. She had no choice.
11. I could not talk to anyone about it because it was vile and disgusting. I still have no confidence and feel alienated from people and I don't mix well. I always was a loner but it is not something I am going to let ruin my life.
12. If you got presents when you were out of the home they would take them off you upon your return. **NL 5** worked there and she was really strict but her bark was worse than her bite. **NL 5** would have used a stick on you but she had no other way of controlling people and there were approximately seventy or eighty boys to be supervised. You got through it. I still see **NL 5** now. She ruled with a firm hand but she did not cause me any harm.
13. At Nazareth Lodge there was a group known as "the dainties". There was a sort of tier system in relation to those children that had families that visited the home. Certain parents were alcoholics and put their kids in the home for that reason but they might have been doctors or solicitors. Their children were put into the Dainties group because they had an influence from the outside world so they received preferential treatment. I belonged to this group. I was classed as an outsider. As my mother was a regular visitor I knew people on the outside so I think that is why I received better treatment at times.
14. I did not wet the bed but I knew boys that did and they were beaten for it. The nuns made you put your sheet over your head and they made you stand there. It was humiliating.
15. I still feel that I was lucky to have been brought up by them and it wasn't all bad. The staff were strict but fair. I am now fifty seven, I made my own life and I made my own mistakes and I am not blaming my past on what

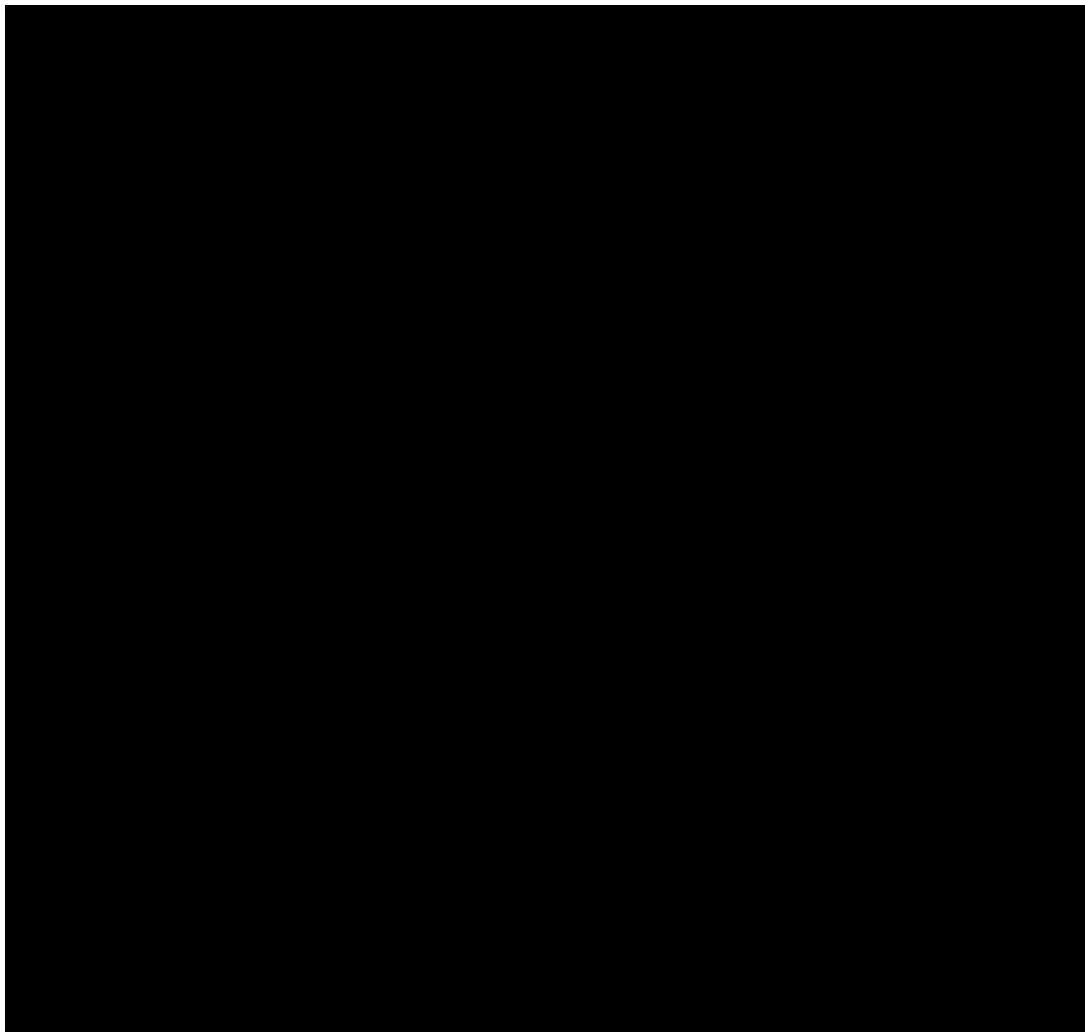
PRIVATE

happened to me. All I want is for them to realise that I told the truth all those years ago.

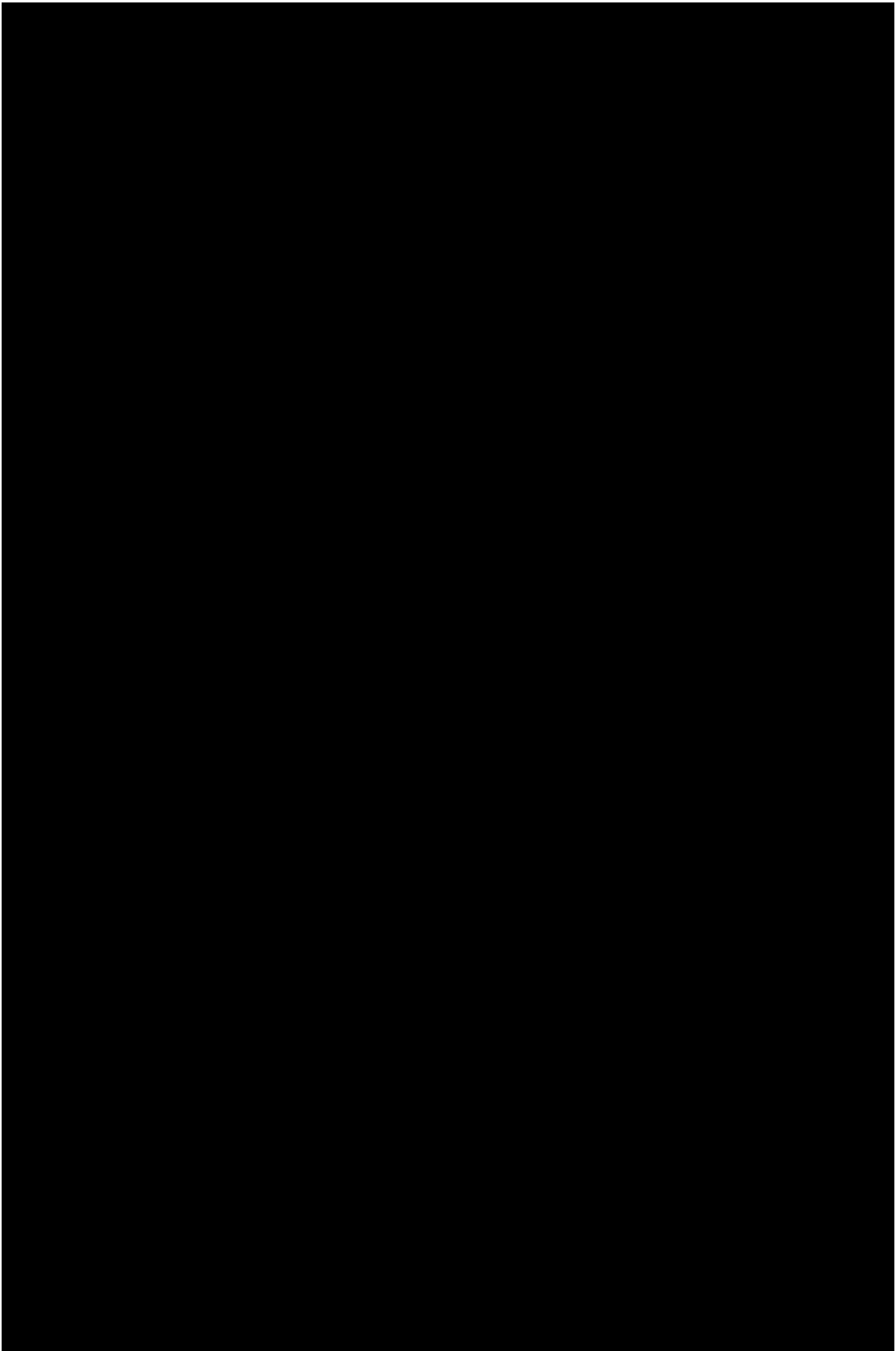
16. I have kept in contact with some of the ex residents from Nazareth Lodge and Rubane House and we have reunions on occasion. We had genuine good times. We were well fed and looked after. You got up early and went to mass every morning, had breakfast and went to school. I don't have any formal qualifications but I think I am intelligent. The teachers were strict but good.

17. The food was excellent. Cereal for breakfast and maybe boiled egg and toast. I couldn't complain about it.

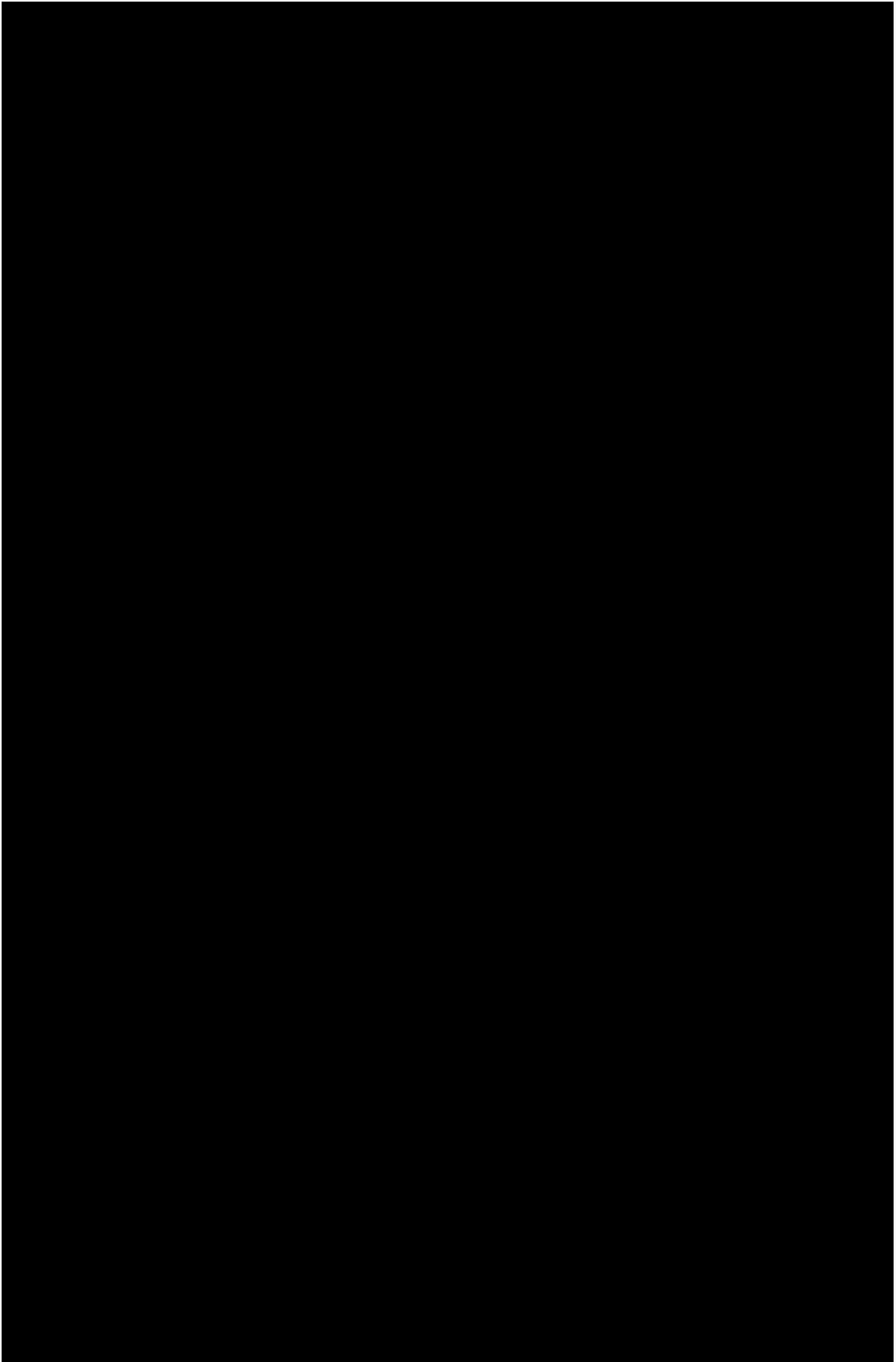
Rubane House, Kircubbin (20 August 1968 – 9 May 1972)



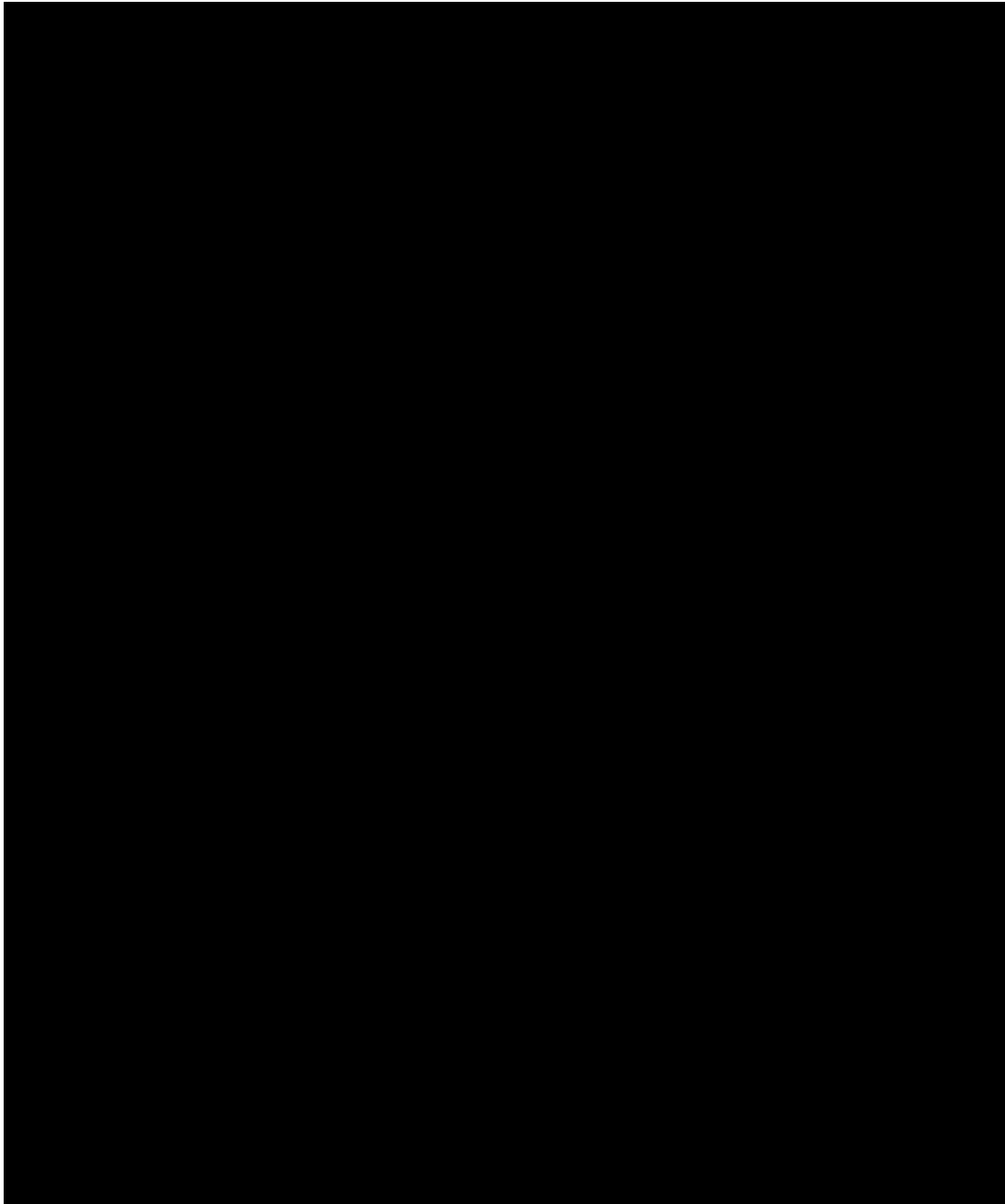
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Life after care

34. I had no preparation for leaving the home. I went to a boarding house at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. It was worse than any home I was ever in. There were eighteen people in this house with bunk beds in rooms that housed four to six people in each room. It was filthy.

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35. I had a job [REDACTED] at [REDACTED], a large factory in [REDACTED]. It closed down around 1972 or 1973 and moved its business to Dublin. I spent six years in jail. I was seventeen when I went to prison. I don't blame my upbringing for it. I found prison very easy because I was used to being institutionalised so I just played by the rules.

36. I had a shop in [REDACTED] Belfast where I worked for twenty eight years but after my relationship broke up things went to the wall and I lost everything. I do voluntary work currently for [REDACTED]. They do conservation work and make up food parcels for people that are less fortunate. I regret that I haven't got any qualifications. I can't get a job.

37. It took me a long time to form a relationship with a woman. I still have issues having an intimate relationship and am still confused at times about my sexual orientation. I was with a girl for nineteen years and she had a son who I brought up as my own. My partner died very recently. I see my son all the time but have never told him about my time in care.

38. I nursed my mother until she died. She never told her family about me and kept me a secret for thirty years. My mother was a housekeeper in Belfast and looked after three children and they became like an extended family. I'm still very friendly with them now. They never knew about me until 1975 after I had come out of the home and they found a letter in the house to say that I was in an orphanage and that is when it all came out. She was then diagnosed with cancer. It was a strange set up when any of her brothers or sisters would come to the house as I would have to leave via the back door. When the doctor told me she was going to die I told her family she was my mother and they appeared shocked although I think they believed it but I have had no contact with them since she died.

39. I often asked my mother about my father but she never told me who he was and I never found out.

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40. I still keep in contact with some ex residents and even the Brothers and nuns. It is really just sending a Christmas card on occasion or meeting them at funerals. They were like real family to me.

41. I hate religion. I think it is really false. I had religion morning, noon and night for fifteen years of my life and I don't want to see it again but it is alright if that is what you want to believe in. I just want to be able to put it behind me and move on after putting it on record that I told the truth and I should not be made to feel guilty or be made to feel that I betrayed anyone or betrayed an institution. I don't think I have betrayed anyone.

42. I always thought Kircubbin was more like borstal and the wrong place for boys like us as we didn't break any rules. There were times you were made to feel you were lower than anybody else and that you should be thankful for what they did for you. Whilst I am thankful for what they did, there were things that went on in that home that should not have happened and that have been suppressed.

43. I did not seek psychiatric help and I never made a complaint to the police. The people involved are dead now so I saw little point in lodging a complaint.

44. I never lodged a civil claim in respect of the abuse I received at either establishment.

45. Today is the end of it for me. I never wanted to be going through courts and bringing it all up again and having to speak in court. People may accuse me of telling lies but I am telling the truth.

46. I am really grateful to those that did look after me. They got me this far in life. I think I am an intelligent person and there may be a lot of people out there who genuinely need help. It is these people that I would like to help even in a small way. If I help someone to come to terms with their experiences in care then it will have been worthwhile.

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Statement of Truth

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

Sign **HIA 36** _____

Dated 19-2-14 _____

HIA 36

This form must be completed in full and returned with Baptismal and Birth
Certificates to

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO
ST. JOSEPH'S HOME, RAVENHILL ROAD, BELFAST

Name of Child in full... **HIA 36**

Date of Birth... .. Birthplace... ..

Father's Name.....

Address (if living).....

Occupation

Mother's Name

Address (if living).....

Name of Parish of Mother... .. Diocese... *Down + Connor*

Payment offered per Child per Week... *15/-*

By Whom is Case Recommended.....

Name and Address of Person to whom information
is to be sent in case of Serious Illness.....

Date... *26.4.57* ... Signed... ..

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

Name of Child... **HIA 36**

Is this child free from : { (a) Infectious disease. *Yes*
(b) Skin disease. *Yes*
(c) Any eye infection. *No*
(d) Any sign of tubercle in lungs or elsewhere. *No*
(e) Any physical deformity. *No*

Is this child in any way mentally defective or ever been subject to fits.....

State if child has had any of the following :—

Measles... *No* ... Whooping Cough... *No* ... Chicken-pox... *No* ... Scarlet Fever... *No*

Diphtheria... *No* ... Any other illness... *No*

State Family medical history, if exceptional.....

I hereby certify that I have this day examined... **HIA 36** ... and that the answers to
the above questions are, to the best of my belief, accurate.

Signature *J. G. McAnnamara*

Address... *154, Antrim Road, Belfast*

Qualification... *MD, FRCS, FRCO*

Date... *26.4.57*

[P.T.O.]

HIA 36

STATEMENT OF **HIA 147**

I was born on [REDACTED] and when I was about 6 months old I entered into the care of the Sisters of Nazareth. I was in the babies section first and later entered Nazareth Lodge where I remained until I was about 11 years old when I was transferred to the De La Salle Order at Rubane House in Kircubbin.

I can remember the head gardener for a period of time was called **NL 116** who died and was replaced by a man called **NL 11** and then there was a new assistant gardener called **NL 10** in fact I was subsequently abused by **NL 10** He had taken me into the toilets in the concert hall where he made me masturbate him, he also physically assaulted me. This happened on a number of occasions and also in the workman's toilet in the hall and in the works garage where the tools and garden machinery were kept.

I can remember a number of the staff in Nazareth Lodge. I was in the group run by **SR 34** **SR 34** and there was a **NL 5** also and in the kitchen a **SR 155** I can recall also a **NL 4** and I was beaten on a number of occasions by **NL 5** and **NL 4**

I have read the witness statement of **HIA 36** which he alleges that I abused him in a large dog kennel. I absolutely and utterly deny this. There was no dog kennel as far as I can recall at Nazareth Lodge.

Signed:

HIA 147

Dated:

9.1.2015

HIA Ref - NL5

Name NL 5

Date

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of NL 5 – NL5

1. My full name is NL 5 and I was born in Belfast on the [REDACTED]. I have just recently celebrated my [REDACTED] birthday.
2. I have never married and have no children of my own although I consider all the children I have helped to raise over the years as my own. This is particularly true of NL 28 about whose arrival to Nazareth and care I will describe more later.
3. I have read the Statements supplied to me from the Inquiry and have found this very hurtful and distressing and my health has been badly affected by the resurrection of untrue allegations of mistreatment against me. Some of these matters were the subject of Police investigations which I am reminded by the papers were in 1996 and again in 2012. Those times were also very stressful and I thought that all this was over then.
4. I should state at the outset that I never smacked or assaulted any child in my care. I deny all of these allegations and I will so far as possible respond to each of the statements below. I would also state that I never saw any abuse or excessive punishments of any child by any of the Sisters or by NL 4. It has been described that I worked with NL 4 or was her “side-kick” and this is not true. We worked with separate groups and interacted only at meal or playtimes. I never considered corporal punishment of a child to be my responsibility but left that to the nuns and it always seemed reasonable and appropriate to me.

Personal History