

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 56

Witness Name: HIA 56

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 56

I, HIA 56 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in Belfast. I was placed in St Joseph's Baby Home on 5th March 1957. I think a priest in my mother's parish, Father [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] arranged for me to be placed in care. He thought it would be in mine and my mother's best interests.

Nazareth Lodge (16/10/59 – 20/8/68)

2. I was placed in Nazareth Lodge from St Joseph's Baby Home on 16th October 1959 when I was two and a half years old. I was moved into a group called Bethlehem. I stayed there for about a year and then I moved into a group called Our Lady's. There were four groups with thirty boys in each – Bethlehem, Our Lady's, Sacred Heart and St Joseph's. I was in the same group throughout my time in the Lodge. I stayed in Nazareth Lodge until I was eleven years old.
3. In the Lodge older boys who were in their late teens and early twenties went out to work during the day. When they came back to the Lodge they were in charge of groups of younger boys. These older boys were called 'charge boys'. They were in charge of us when the nuns went to the convent between 6pm and 9pm. A nun had a room called a 'cell' in the dormitory and she could look into the dorm

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from her cell. The cell had a half wall around it and it was open at the top. The charge boys slept in another part of the dormitory.

4. [REDACTED] SR 47 was in charge of my group. I thought she was very good. She never put a hand on me. I don't know if [REDACTED] SR 47 is still alive. I think [REDACTED] SR 34 was also in Our Lady's group. We went to bed at 5pm everyday and the nuns went away to the convent at 6pm. That is when the charge boys took over and they abused us. They were bullies. We were terrified of them. There were two brothers called [REDACTED] DL 280 and [REDACTED] DL 209. On one occasion when I was about six or seven and they were fifteen or sixteen years old, the brothers made my group all line up – there was about twenty five to thirty in each dorm and they just lined us all up and we were told to take our pyjama bottoms off. Then they went along the line and touched everyone's penis until we got erections. Not everyone got an erection. If anyone got an erection and they would hang these flannels with loops on. Then they made us wiggle so the flannel moved and they thought this was hilarious. The charge boys were also physically abusive and they used to kick and punch us. [REDACTED] DL 280 and [REDACTED] DL 209 were bullies and they used to beat up a boy called [REDACTED]. I saw them hit and kick him. I believe the [REDACTED] DL 209, DL 280 went to England and one brother committed suicide.
5. There was a man who was in charge of [REDACTED] in St Joseph's Baby Home. He was elderly, I think he was in his sixties then and he had white hair. I think his name was [REDACTED] NL 116. I do not know his surname. The [REDACTED] NL 116 was sort of a friendly figure as he knew us as babies. I used to go over to see the staff [REDACTED] as I always knew there were sweets there. When I was in [REDACTED] NL 116 locked the door and he took down my shorts and pants. He sucked my penis. He would have his trousers down exposing his penis and lower body. He sat me on his knee and his penis came up between my thighs. He made me touch his penis and he moved back and forward. He gave me Toffee Crisps and I ate the sweets while he was abusing me. I think he started to abuse me when I was about six years old. He abused me on a couple of occasions.

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6. One day my group was walking down the driveway with **SR 47**. The **NL 116** was over on the grounds and I pointed him out to Sister **SR 47** and I just said 'that's that man who done dirty things to me'. I don't remember getting a reaction from her.
7. I was also sexually abused by **NL 10** at Nazareth Lodge. This was after the sexual abuse by **NL 116**. I was about six or seven years old. It happened on a couple of occasions. He was called **NL 10**. He had dark hair and he was in his late twenties or early thirties at the time. He lived in **NL 10**. **NL 10** assisted **NL 11** who was **NL 10** took me up into his bedroom and he felt all around my penis. He made me feel his penis by grabbing my hand and placing it on his penis. I think his trousers were down. This occurred on several occasions. I didn't understand what was happening but I knew he would give me sweets for doing it.
8. I was abused by **DL 269** and **DL 231**. When I was about 8 years old they were about 11 years old, maybe a bit older. One day they took me up on the stage in the hall where we watched TV. Furniture was being stored on the stage. They took me under a table and then they started to fight with each other. One said 'he's mine I had him first'. I think it was **DL 231** that said this. Then they took my trousers and pants down and started touching my penis and testicles. I was really frightened. They both had their trousers down at the time but I don't recall them touching each other. **DL 269** told me I had the nicest bum in the home. I was also abused by **DL 269** and **DL 231** individually a few times around the henhouses. I was told by the police that **DL 269** was arrested recently for sexual offences and I believe **DL 231** ended up in **DL 231**.
9. There were two civilian staff who worked in the Lodge. They were called **NL 4** and **NL 5**. They patrolled the dorms to check if you were asleep. I saw **NL 4** hit people with her hand. **NL 174** messed his

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bed one night and I saw [REDACTED] NL 4 [REDACTED] rubbing his face in the mess. She made an example of him. [REDACTED] NL 4 [REDACTED] left the Lodge. Everyone was afraid of her and they cheered in the refectory when they saw her leave with her bags. However [REDACTED] I knew to stay out of her way in order to avoid being beaten. On one occasion she called my mother a 'tart' and said 'who does she think she is?' and punched me on the shoulder.

10. During the holidays we used to stay with families. When I was about eight or nine years old I went out at Christmas to a family who had a son about thirteen or fourteen years old. I had to share a bed with him. He tried to force me to have sex with him. I remember crying and screaming. He was hitting me as well as doing other things. I don't know name of the family.
11. I remember the food in the Lodge was basic. We ate things like vegetable roll, fried bread and powered potatoes which came in big sacks. There used to be a market in the city centre called 'Mays market' and the nuns would go down two or three times a week. At the end of the day people in the market would give the nuns food. They were getting the leftovers from the market. Buns were also donated every Sunday by Kennedy's Bakery. I remember being hungry all the time. Sometimes we went down to the playing fields at the back of the home. We picked a green leaf from the hedgerows called 'salix'. You could heat the leaf on the radiator and eat them. They were nice.
12. I think a lot of the clothes were donated to the home. Also the toys at Christmas were donated. After Christmas the toys were taken off us and the nuns told us that they were being sent to the babies in Africa who really needed them.
13. I never had any complaints about the nuns. The nuns were good and I have nothing bad to say about them. I was happy with them. They made sacrifices for us. I just suppose they didn't see what was going on. Even today I really miss them. I have missed them since I left Nazareth Lodge.

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14. I think it was hard for the nuns. I think they had very little state help, if any. They went out twice a week to collect money around the doors all over Belfast and the countryside. They used to bring the money back and we put it into bags for them. It was hard for them. They couldn't afford to feed us properly. They must have worked hard for us. We weren't aware of it at the time but now I realise the sacrifices they made.
15. I don't think the nuns were aware of what was going on other than that incident with ^{NL 116} I talked to **SR 47** about. Obviously there was nothing done about it at the time.
16. My mother came to visit me twice a week from when I was five until I left at ten. I didn't really see her as a mother, I was actually terrified of her. She had a boyfriend at that time called **██████████** and the two of them used to come up. The problem was she brought a change of clothes with her and made me strip and then she washed me and put on clean clothes. She also brought me food like custard and stewed apple. She humiliated me as I got teased by the other boys 'your ma's here to strip you, it's time for your wash and your feed' and all this. I had to strip out in the gardens no matter who was looking. It was humiliating. This happened twice a week.
17. I later discovered that I was in care voluntarily and that my mother could have taken me out at anytime. She did not want me to be put up for adoption.
18. Once a week we had to do chores in the home. The floors in the chapel and the home had to be waxed. The chapel was on the first floor. Some boys had to put orange wax on the floor and then we put a blanket around our feet and ran up and down the corridors. It was fun at the time but you had to do it a lot. I also did the odd job in the kitchen and that allowed me to be up an extra two hours because I didn't have to go to bed until 7pm. I washed up and cleaned the floors and was allowed to eat snacks. The woman in the kitchen was called **██████████** and she died a few years ago.

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19. During every summer holiday we went away to an RAF base in Ballyhornan which was given to the nuns for the children. We stayed in huts. On a Saturday we were given a bar of red soap and told to go into the sea and get washed. I don't think there was any kind of baths then.
20. I left Nazareth Lodge on 20th August 1968 when I was eleven years old.

Rubane House, Kircubbin (20/8/68 – 28/11/72)

21.

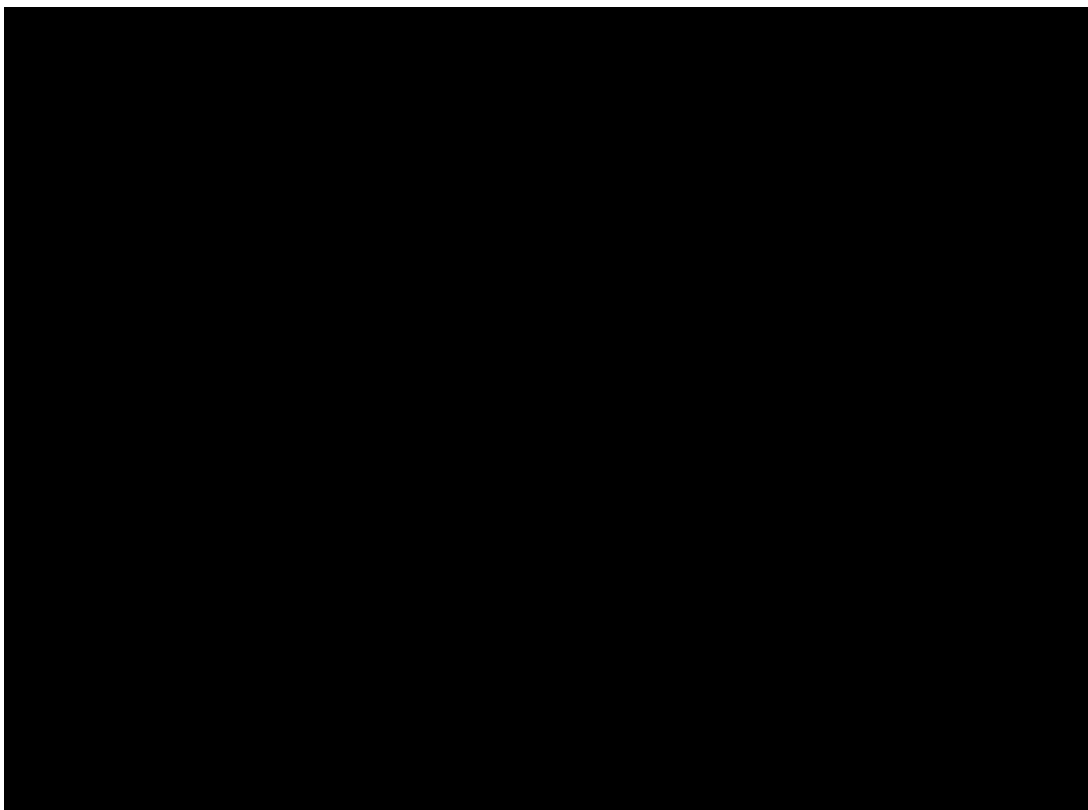
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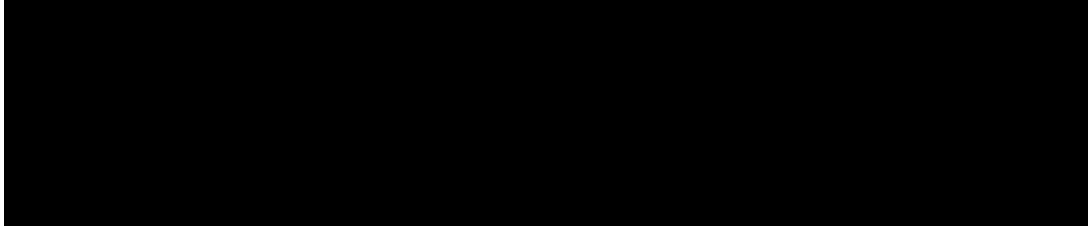
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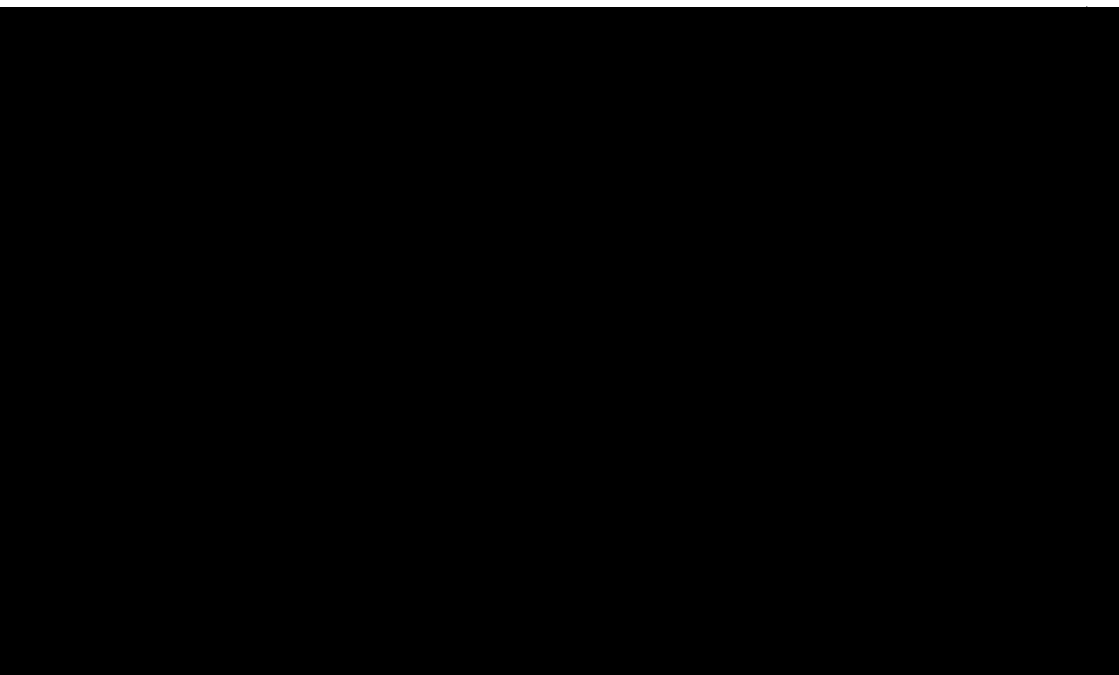
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33. [REDACTED]

34. [REDACTED]

35. [REDACTED]

36. [REDACTED]

37. [REDACTED]

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40.

41.

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42

Life after care

43. You don't realise the lasting damage that abuse and being in care has done to you until you get older. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The abuse I suffered robbed me of my life and caused irreparable damage.

44. When I left Rubane I didn't see my mother until 1988 when she was dying. She was fifty two when she died. I wish I told her about my time in care but she was cold and I couldn't talk to her. After my mother died I found out that my father was called [REDACTED] I don't know anything else about him.

45. I am currently unemployed and my goal is to find a job. I have retained my faith. I like Our Lady better than Jesus. It's hard not to keep a bit of it after all those years.

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46. As a result of the abuse I attended counselling at the Rape Crisis Centre in 1997. I have also received counselling on the Newtownards Road which was organised by the Order of St John of God whose office is on the Antrim Road. The counselling was paid for by the De La Salle Order. I had to walk from my house off the [REDACTED] to the counselling so [REDACTED] BR 2 bought me a bike to get there. I attended every two weeks for a year and a half but I didn't find counselling helpful. [REDACTED] BR 2 is now retired in [REDACTED] in Dublin.
47. I have gone through life feeling sad and empty. I feel drained. I feel I have no worth, no value. I am lonely. I feel excluded and isolated. I wonder why I am different. I question 'is there something wrong with me?'. I am clamped to the past. I have no qualifications, no employment prospects. I feel completely and utterly contaminated by abuse. I am sexually disorientated. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] – I feel destroyed and worthless. I avoid people where possible. I always try to please and pretend there is nothing wrong. I can't take the risk of letting people get too close. I feel afraid to trust. I am aware of the loneliness and isolation this creates. It is despairing but I feel safer.
48. I have no motivation to make progress in anything. I have never loved or been loved. Simmering beneath the surface I feel dangerously full of unexpressed rage and anger with a dreadful sense of hopelessness. I feel surrounded by unbreakable barriers. I feel perfectly justified in asking myself 'why the hell am I still on this planet?'
49. Who were these people who decided my life and how it will be? Who decided my sexuality? Who denied me my human right to create a family of my own? Who were those people who failed even to provide a basic education and to prepare children for life outside the institutions. These awful decisions have created considerable misery for many and all for a few seconds of gratification.
50. I have now managed somehow to reach the age of 56 years old, perhaps partly due to the retention of my Catholic faith and the slight glimmer of hope I struggle to keep a hold of in the hope that things might get better. I can honestly say that

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its not all doom and gloom. I have educated myself to a reasonable level with particular interests in English, Geography and History. I enjoy classical and Irish music as well as Irish art. I am very keen on furniture restoration and love gardening. I remain healthy, fit and active and humour plays an important part in my life.

51. I am prepared to whole heartedly throw every effort into changing my present circumstances and make a positive step forward because I want to prove that I am not totally useless. The best I can realistically aim for is to try at least to find worth and value and meaning in life and perhaps even happiness.

52. I have been fortunate enough to have recently started on a 'condition management programme' suggested by the Health and Social Trust' and through the efforts of my occupational therapist, [REDACTED] I am already feeling the benefits. I also attend the Good Shepherd Convent and meet with [REDACTED] She is very good and understands me perfectly. I feel quite content and comfortable in their presence and wish to continue with the programme.

53. I am painfully aware that none of us have experienced the supposed joy and innocence of childhood. I am aware that most of us live alone and have done so for a long time, depending on benefits. This is not right. We deserve better. I have had enough of dwelling deeply on my past. I want someone to look me directly in the face and say 'sorry'. I need that.

54. I made a statement to the police on 22nd February 1995. The police came back to me around 1998 and told me they couldn't take the case any further as there was no physical evidence. I was annoyed at this decision. I am the evidence as are other boys in my position. I had a solicitor at the time on Castle Street.

55. [REDACTED]

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56. On 29th May 2012 I made a further statement to the police in Strandtown clarifying some points I made in my earlier statement in 1995. I gave my statement to Constable Singleton (service number [REDACTED])

Statement of Truth

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

Signed [REDACTED] **HIA 56**

Dated 17. FEB 14.

HIA REF: DL280

Witness Designation: **DL 280**

Date: 15/1/15

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of DL 280

I, **DL 280** will say as follows: -

1. I was born on [REDACTED]
2. I have consulted with my solicitor in respect of statements made by two persons alleging I was involved in serious assaults against them in Nazareth Lodge.
3. I can confirm I went to Nazareth Lodge and I believe the dates I went there from 1956-62.
4. I have read over the statements and affidavits of **HIA 19** and **HA 56** **HIA 56** I do not accept the allegations they make against me in any way.
5. I do not have any specific memory of either of these two persons.
6. I do not recall ever being a charge boy or a working boy as they refer to it in their statements.

DOWN & CONNOR CATHOLIC FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY.

Tel: 27657/8.

107A, Falls Road,
Belfast BT12 4PE.

13th October, 1970.

BR 6

Rubane House,
Kircubbin,
Co. Down.

Dear BR 6

Re: HIA 56

Rubane House.

I am in receipt of your letter of 7th instant on the above. It certainly makes grim reading and as you say provides some ground for my suspicions. However, I really think there is little we can do for two reasons. Firstly, the evidence, however offered in good faith, is circumstantial and certainly one couldn't base any action upon it.

Secondly, the fact that he is a voluntary child ties our hands considerably. His mother is at liberty to take him from care at any time she chooses. Contra-indications would have to be very positive before we could ask the Welfare Authorities to take any action. I have discussed the matter with Mr. John O'Kane the Co. Antrim Children's Officer, and he confirms my opinion.

The only thing we can do at the moment is ascertain the mother's address and refer the matter to the local priest. Perhaps you could talk to HIA 56 on the first point and if you have any result you could let me know.

Meanwhile, I will 'phone to arrange a mutually acceptable time to go down to see you.

I suppose you have heard [redacted] and [redacted] have been changed. Would you mind if I brought their successors, Mother [redacted] and [redacted] to Kircubbin? I would like them to meet you and, of course, they would like to see your chalets.

I'll be 'phoning you and we can talk about it.

Yours sincerely,

DL 298

DL 298

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF:

HIA 56

AGE OF WITNESS [If over 21 enter 'over 21'] : OVER 21 24021957

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS:

ADDRESS:

I declare that this statement consisting of pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 22 day of February 1995

N CROMIE

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

by whom statement was recorded or received

HIA 56

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

When I was born, I was placed into Saint Joseph's Baby Home, Ravenhill Road, Belfast. I remained there until I was 5 years old. I was then moved to Saint Nazareth's Lodge, Ravenhill Road. This was in the same grounds as the Baby Home. When I became 11 years of age I was moved to the Boys' Home, De La Salle, Kircubbin, Co Down, in the townland known as Rubane. This as far as I recall was around the end of 1968. I recall on my arrival there I was made take a shower with other new arrivals and it was **BR 15** who supervised us. We all got a pep talk and told that we better tow the line or else. I should say that before I came to De La Salle I had been sexually assaulted by the maintenance staff at Nazareth Lodge. One of the men was called **NL 10** he was the gardener and lived on the premises. He would feel all around me and touch my penis and make me feel his penis. This was on several occasions. The other man was much older I can't remember his name. He would bring me into the boilerhouse, lock the door and strip me naked and would suck my penis. He would have his trousers down exposing his penis and lower body. He would put me over his knee,

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Statement of Witness

Statement of: HIA 56

Age of Witness: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

I declare that this statement consisting of page/s, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature of Witness: HIA 56 Date: 29/05/12 Service/Staff # if police/staff

Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)

Signature of Member: K Singleton PW1966 Date: 29/05/12 by whom statement was recorded or received Service/Staff # if police/staff

Further to my statement made on 22nd of February 1995 I now wish to state that I have no knowledge of an affidavit being made by myself in 1996 saying that I didn't wish the males in the statement to be investigated. I would say though that this was a particularly difficult period in my life. I made a newspaper report in the Sunday World in 1997 in relation to my time at Nazareth and de la Salle, because of this I was called names by the people I grew up with. I found this really difficult. I have made complaints in my statement against NL 10, the He was in his late 20s-30s at the time of the sexual assaults I have outlined. He had dark hair and I can recall that he lived NL 10 assisted NL 151 who was the head maintenance person. I saw him doing the and I think he From I went to Nazareth Lodge in around 1963 he would have abused me. He would have taken me up to the hall area and staircase area around his room and into his bedroom. I don't recall how he got me to go there but once we got there he felt all around my penis, I would have been wearing shorts but I don't recall how he touched me, whether it was under my pants or over. He then would have made me feel his penis by grabbing my hand and placing it on his penis. I think his trousers were

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Signature of witness: HIA 56 Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Statement of Witness

Statement of: Chris Hutton

Age of Witness: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

I declare that this statement consisting of 1 page/s, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature of Witness: C Hutton 19752 Date: 3/5/13
Service/Staff # if police/staff

Signature witnessed by: _____
(Appropriate Adult)

Signature of Member: G McIlwaine PW2167 Date: 3/5/13
by whom statement was recorded or received Service/Staff # if police/staff

I am a Constable in the Police Service of Northern Ireland currently attached to Willowfield Police Station. On Tuesday 30th April 2013 I attended Musgrave Custody to conduct an interview of [REDACTED]. Also present for the interview was Detective Constable Gail McIlwaine and Dennis Maloney. The interview was regarding a historical allegation of indecent assault that occurred around 1965 in Nazareth Lodge, Belfast. The interview started at 1510 hours and terminated at 1529 hours. During the interview [REDACTED] was asked if he had ever grabbed [REDACTED] HIA 56 and touched his penis and testicles. [REDACTED] stated that he remembers [REDACTED] HIA 56 from Nazareth Lodge but he denied ever touching his penis and testicles. Upon termination of the interview [REDACTED] selected a tape that was sealed with tape seal T112404A and labelled CH1. [REDACTED] was informed that he would be reported to the Public Prosecution Service. I had no further dealings with [REDACTED]

Signature of witness:	C Hutton
Signature witnessed by: <small>(Appropriate Adult)</small>	