

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 25

Witness Name: HIA 25

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 25

I, HIA 25 will say as follows:-

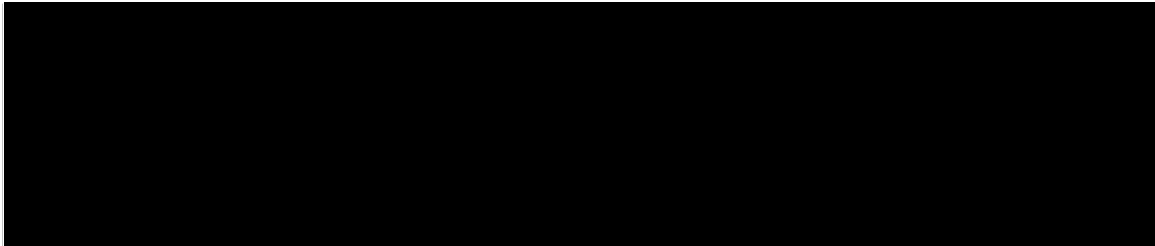
Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. A normal family bond doesn't exist between us because of how we were separated at a young age. [REDACTED]

Nazareth Lodge, Belfast (16/02/1973 – 05/11/1973)

2. As a result [REDACTED] me and six of my brothers and sisters were put into care, although this didn't happen immediately. A welfare officer was involved and we were placed in Nazareth Lodge [REDACTED] 1973. [REDACTED] We stayed there until 5th November 1973 when we were transferred to Palmerston in Belfast.

PRIVATE



Nazareth House, Belfast (17/12/1973 – 30/08/1974)

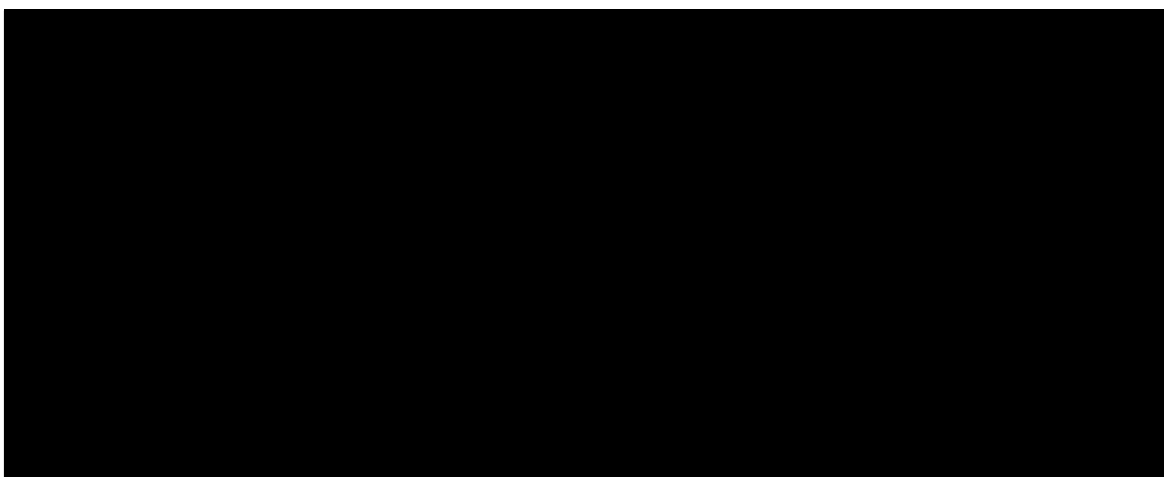
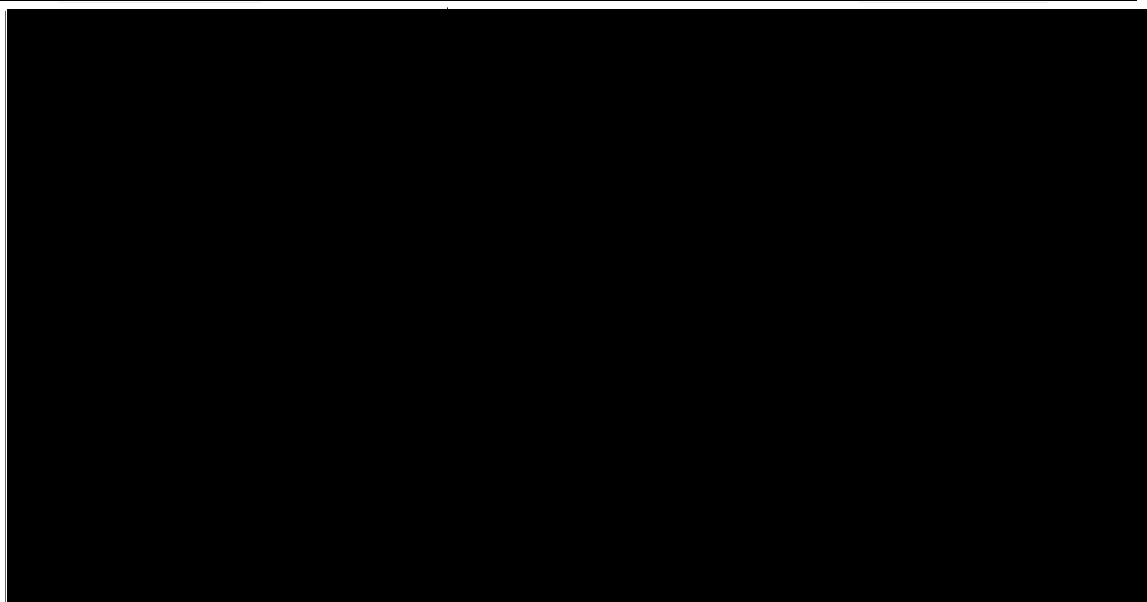
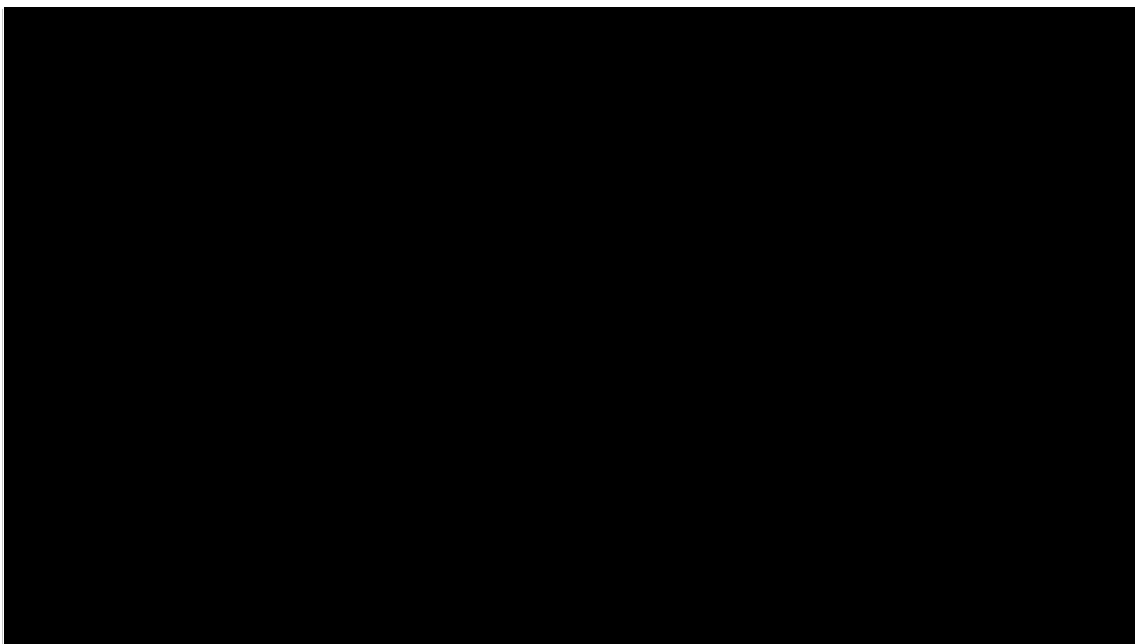
4. I was seven years old when I went into Nazareth House. I remember seeing an old man in a wheel chair. He seemed friendly and I would talk to him and fetch him things. One day he gave me a watch. When I showed it to one of the nuns she slapped my arm, took the watch off me and then slapped me about. My sister asked the nun why she did this and she said it was because I was to keep away from the old people. I don't know if the old man was a priest or whatever.
5. Things went from bad to worse in Nazareth House. One time I was trying to throw a bottle over the wall. I ended up busting my fingers in this incident but the nuns didn't give me any treatment. They just said it was my own fault. I can't remember ever seeing a doctor or dentist. I think I saw an eye specialist once.
6. We became too much for the staff to handle. I had been placed in Nazareth House along with my [REDACTED] brother **HIA 31** and my sister. My sister only stayed for one day. I think she went back to Nazareth Lodge so then there was just the two of us. As Nazareth Lodge was just around the corner, we tried to escape to get back to the rest of our family. One day we were going down the long drive when one of the nuns stopped and picked us up in a car.
7. We were taken into a room with very little furniture by the nun who caught us. She turned the light off. When the light was turned on again there was another nun in the room with a broom. She started swiping at us and hitting us with the broom. The light was then turned off again. From time to time it was turned on so the nun could see where we were to hit us with the broom. We called this

PRIVATE

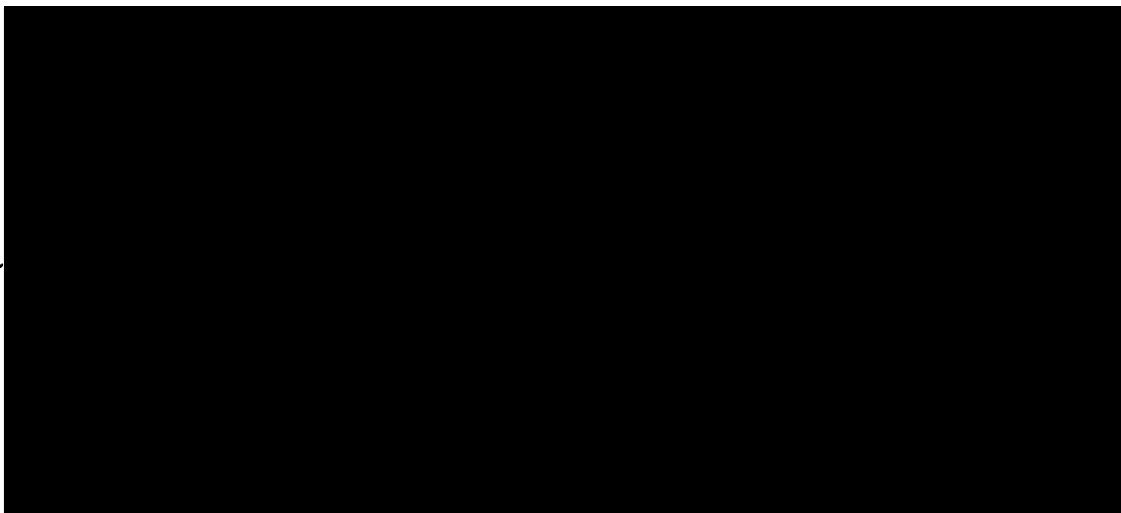
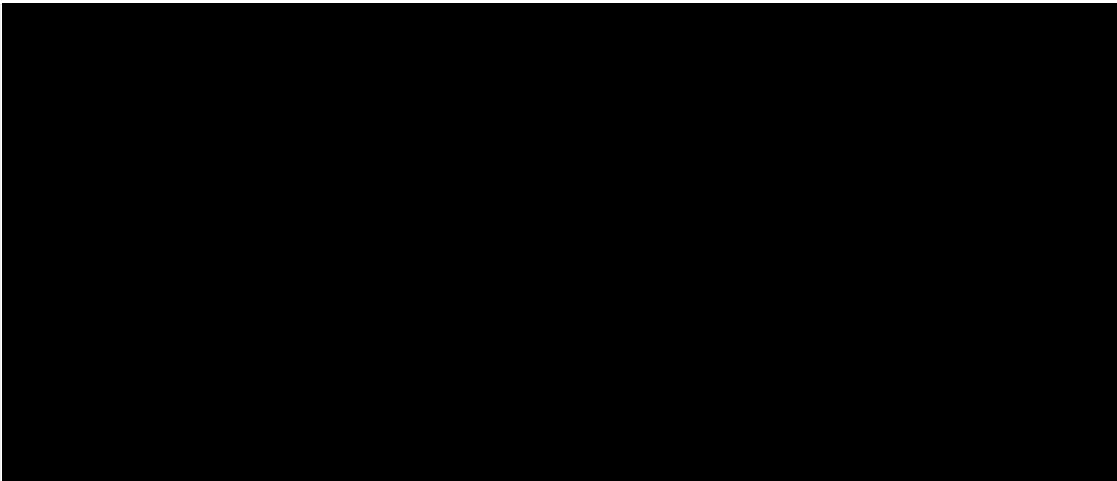
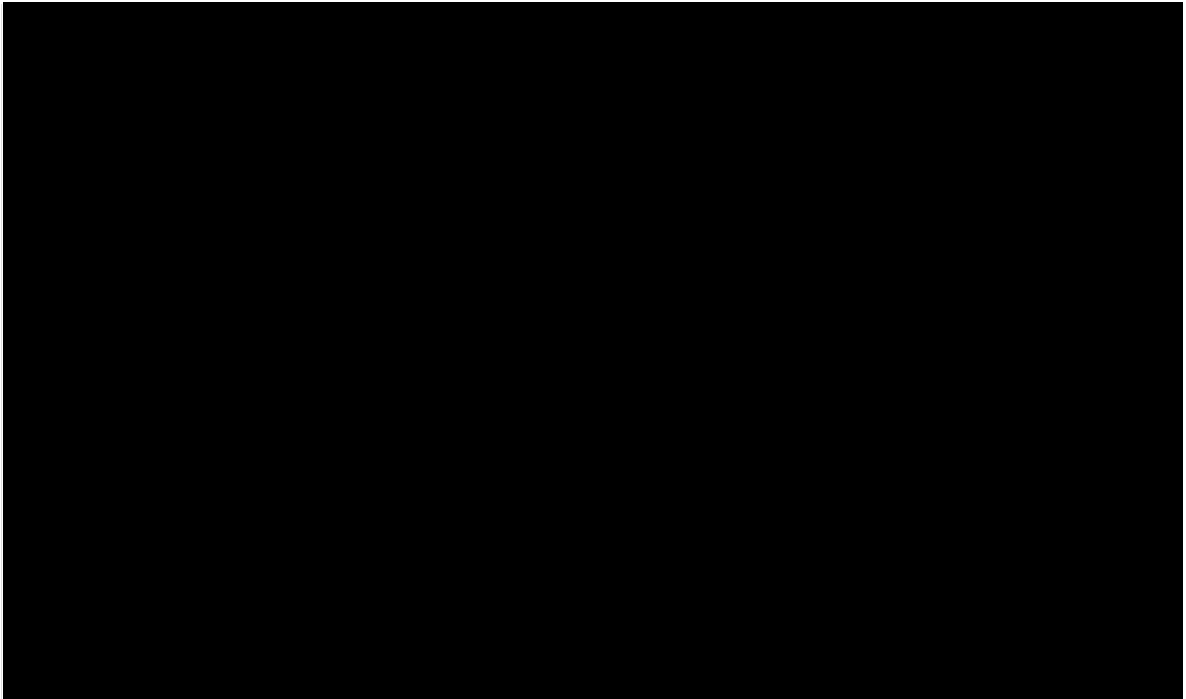
room 'the dark room'. After running away, our shoes were taken off us by the nuns and not given back to us until we had to go to school.

8. As I had just lost my father and mother in the previous couple of months, I think the nuns should have understood why I did not want to be separated from my remaining family members. [REDACTED] The punishment we received did not deter us and every chance we got we tried to escape from the home. Each time we were caught and given a beating. I either didn't know or I can't remember any of the nuns' names.
9. There was a lot of praying and going to Mass and going to school. We went to school offsite in a yellow bus but I don't remember the name of the school. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
10. Eventually I think the nuns decided we were too much to handle. We kept escaping and being brought back by the police. On 30th August 1974 I was sent to the De La Salle Brothers in Rubane House, Kircubbin.

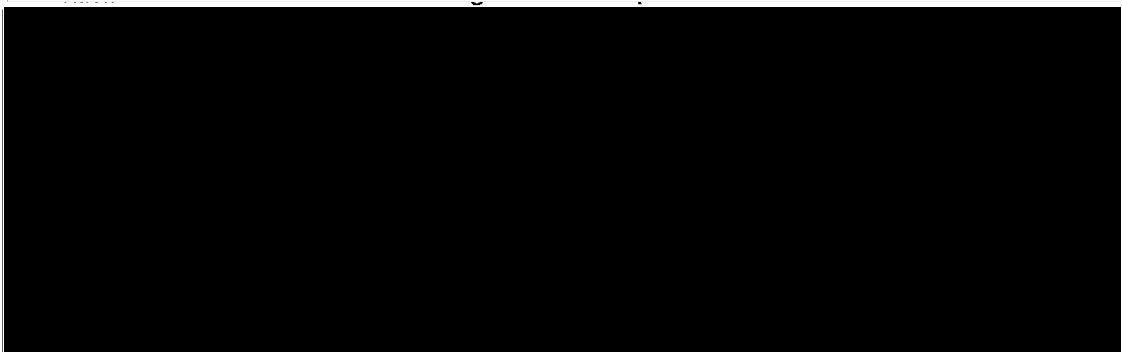
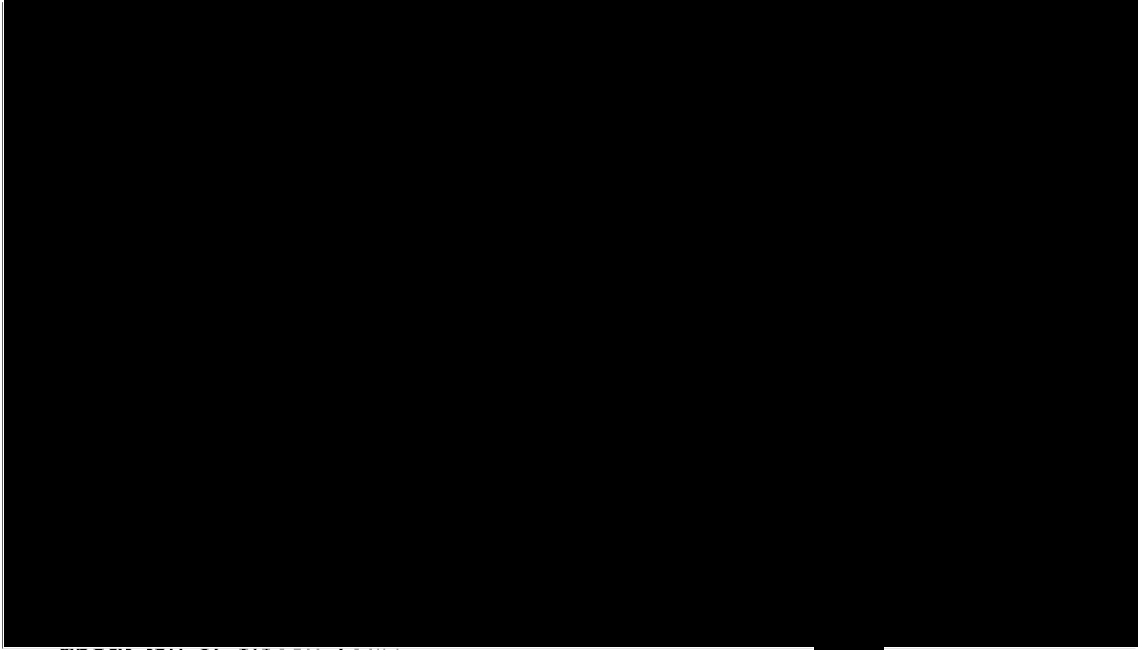
PRIVATE



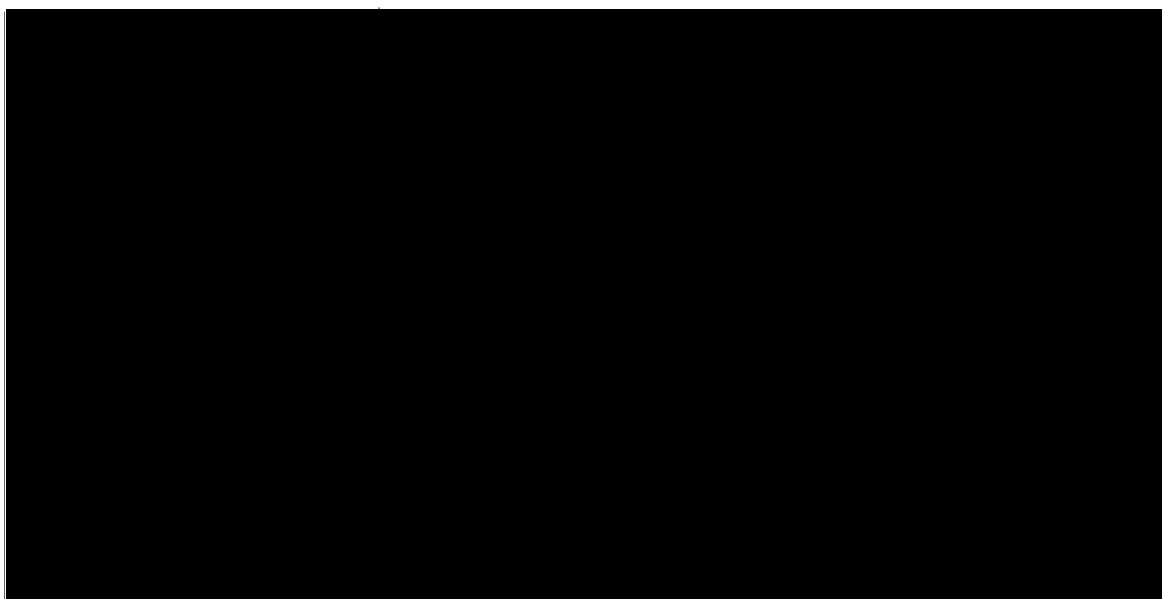
PRIVATE



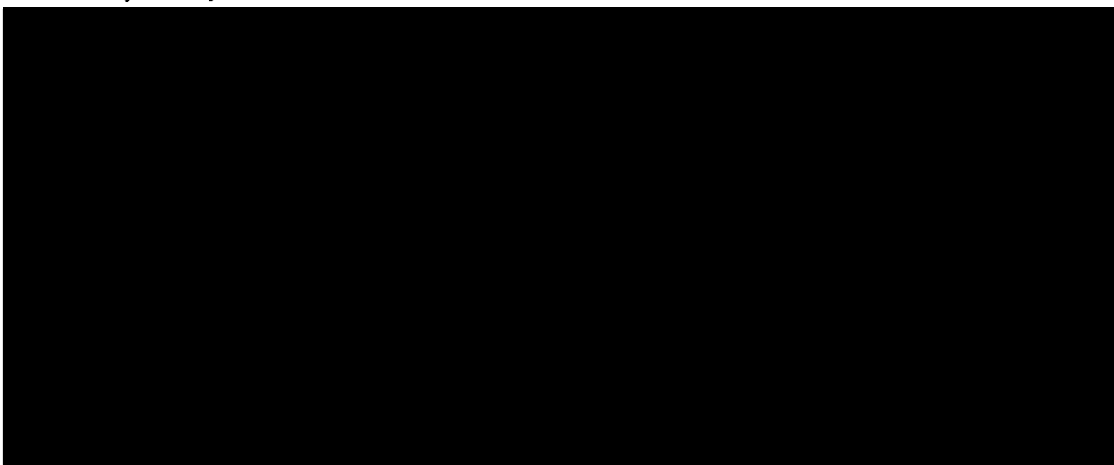
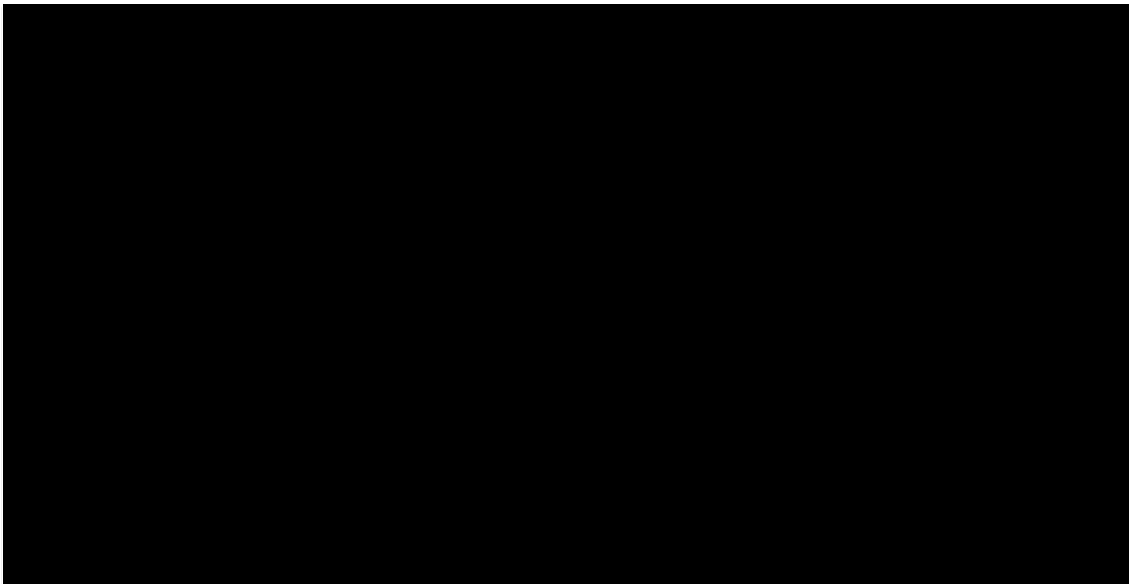
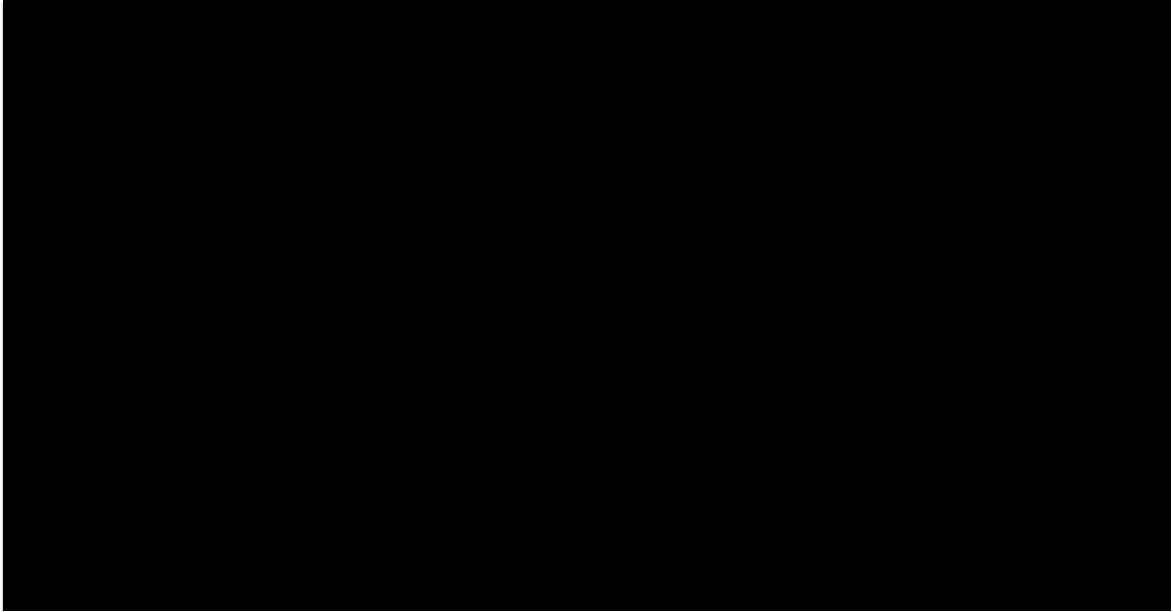
PRIVATE



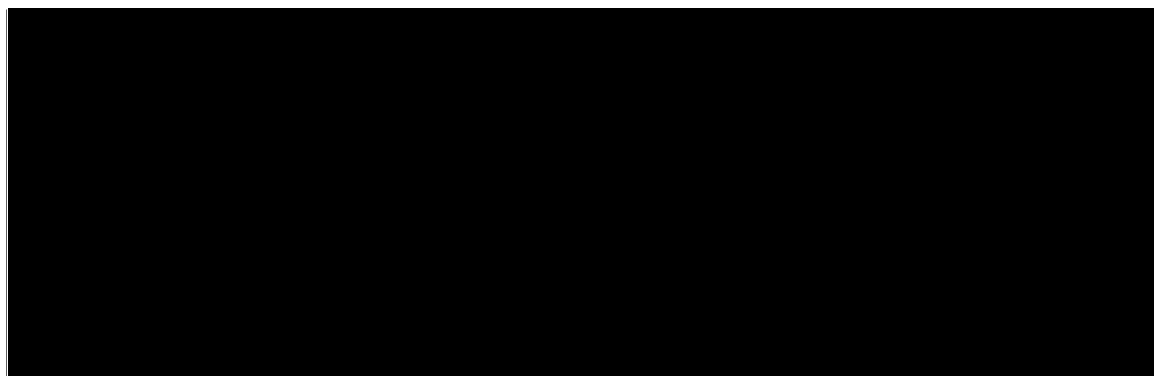
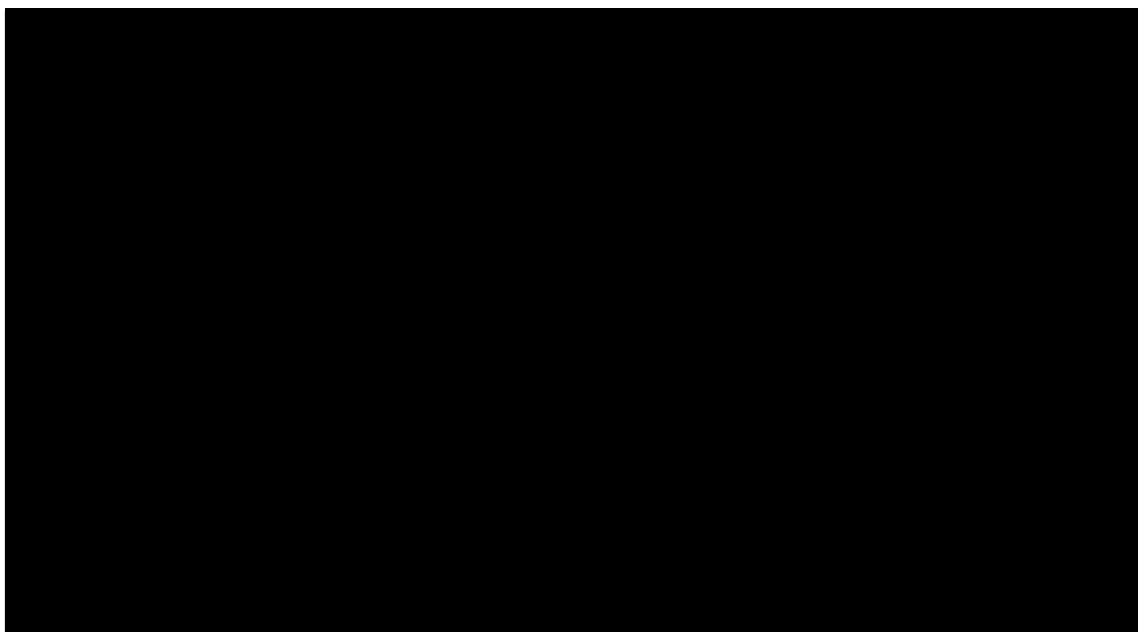
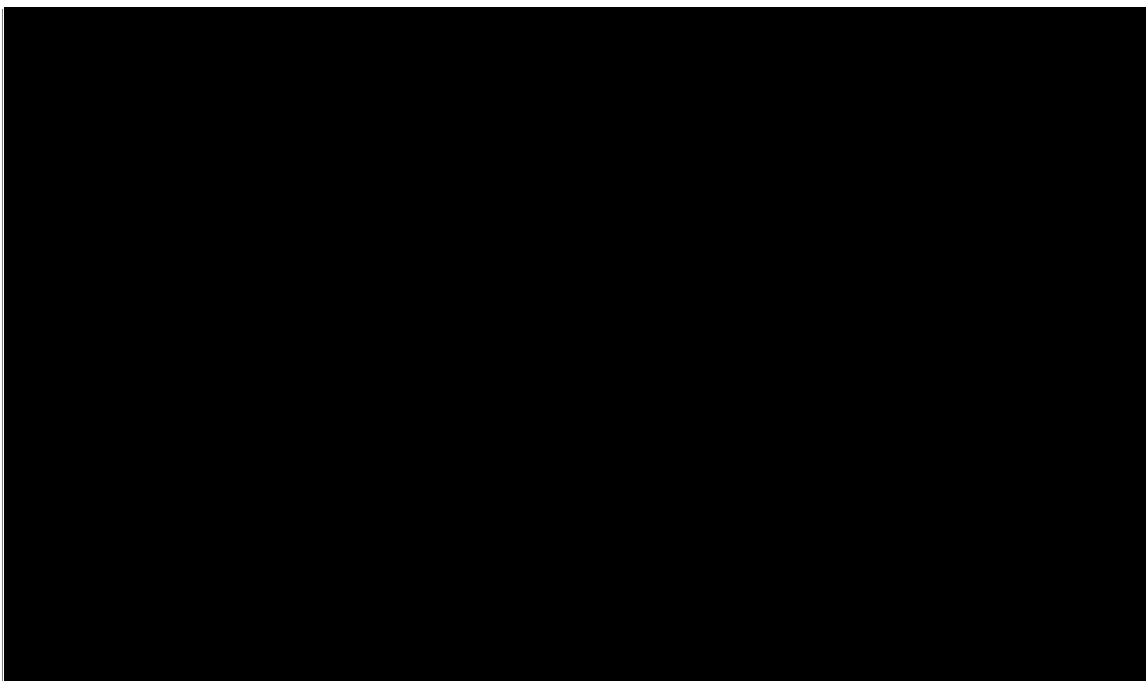
PRIVATE



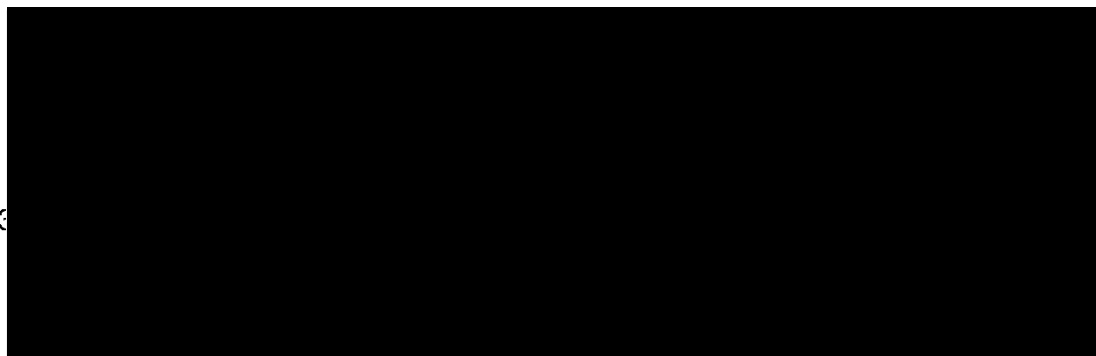
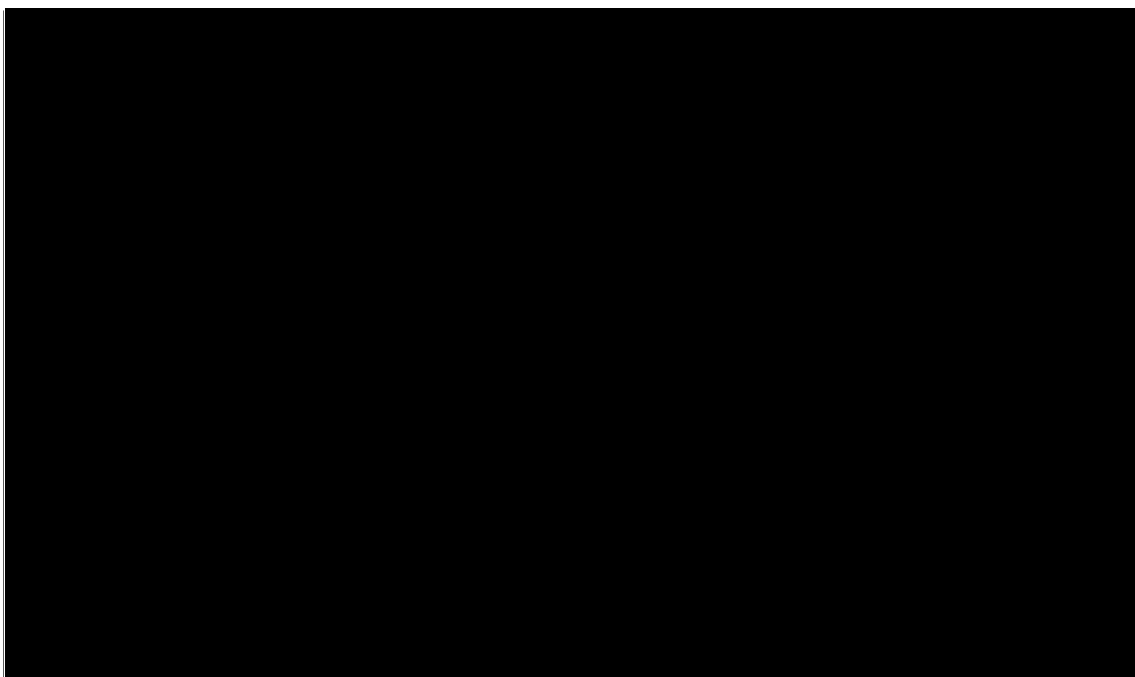
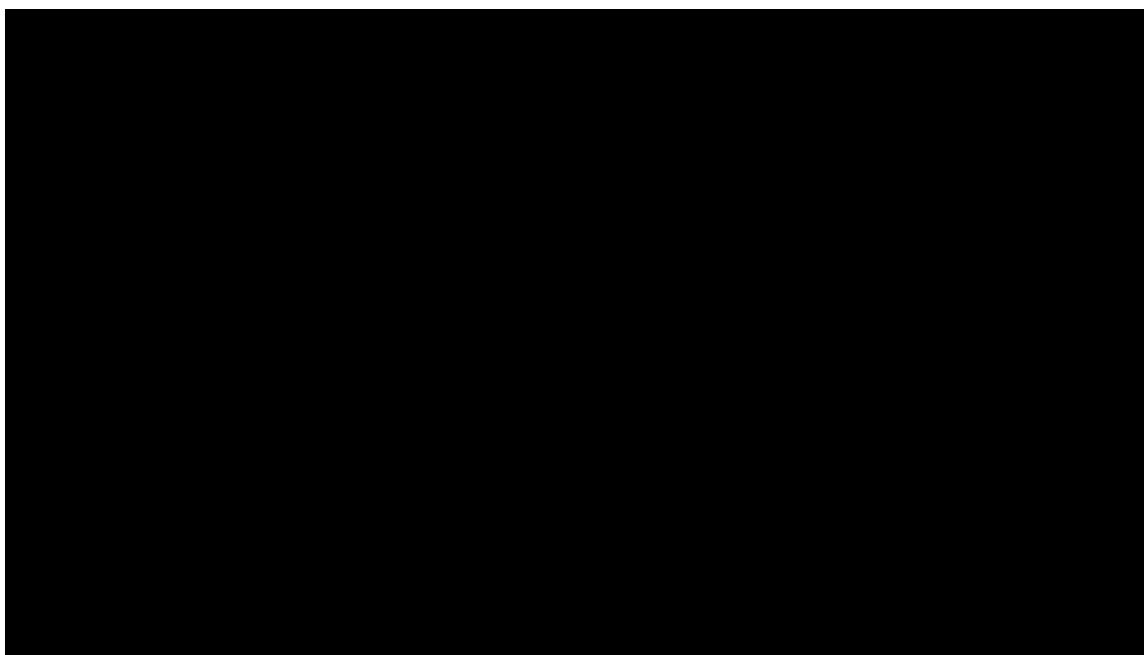
PRIVATE



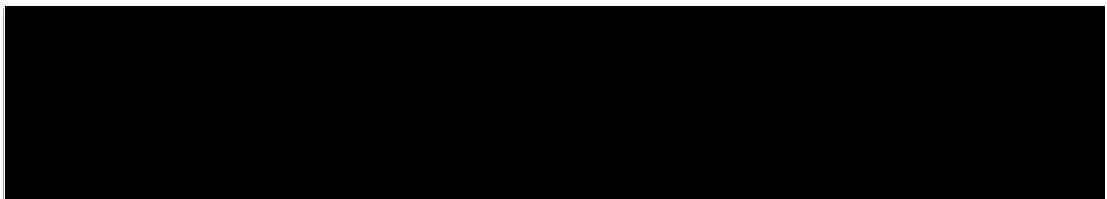
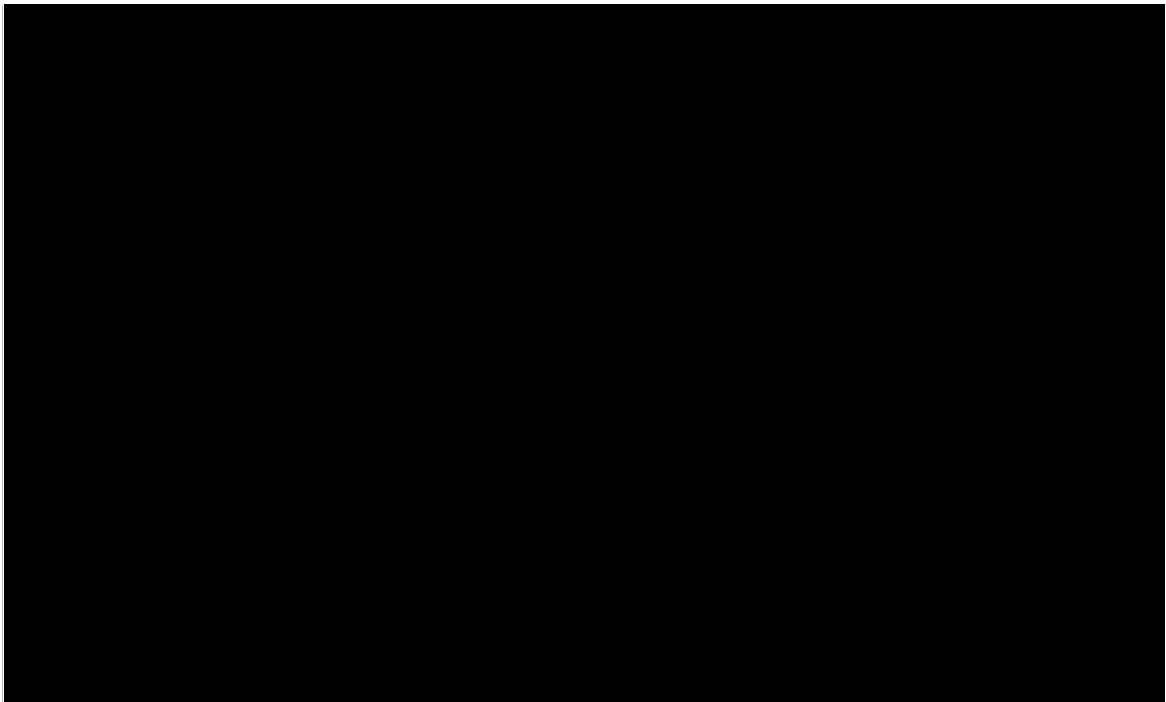
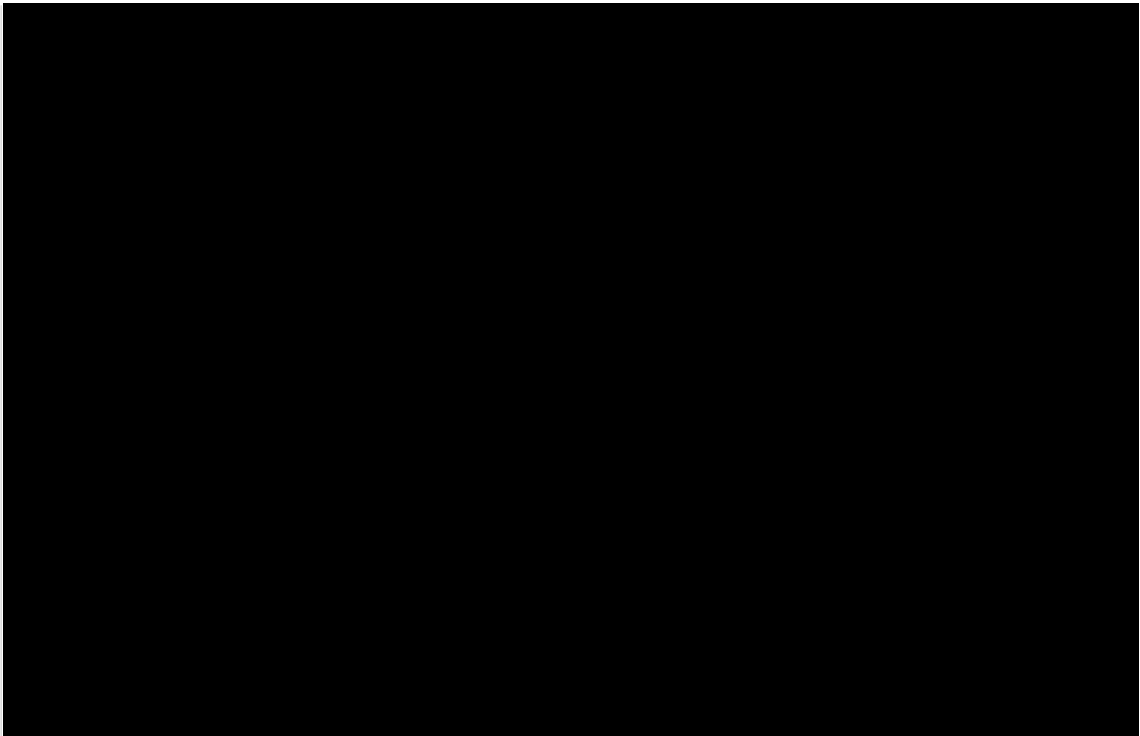
PRIVATE



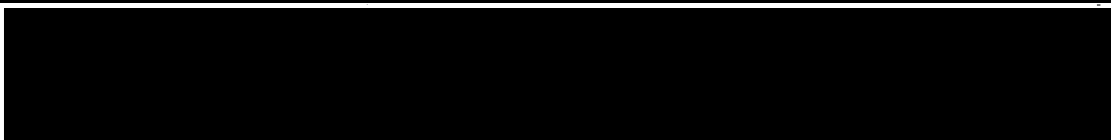
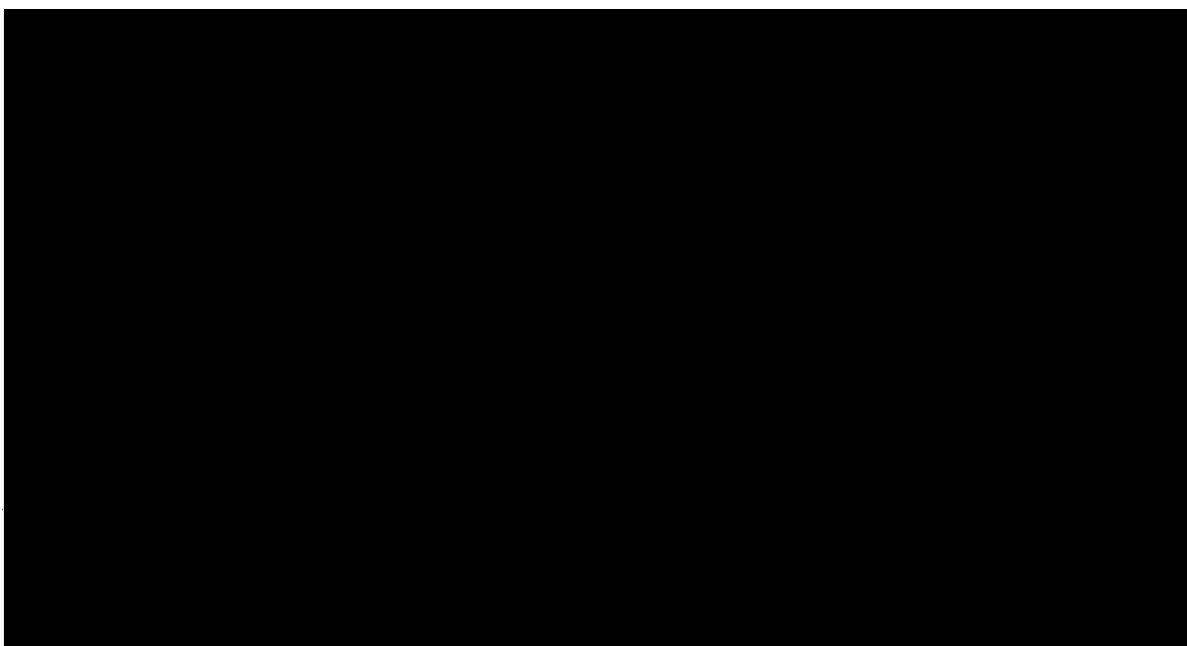
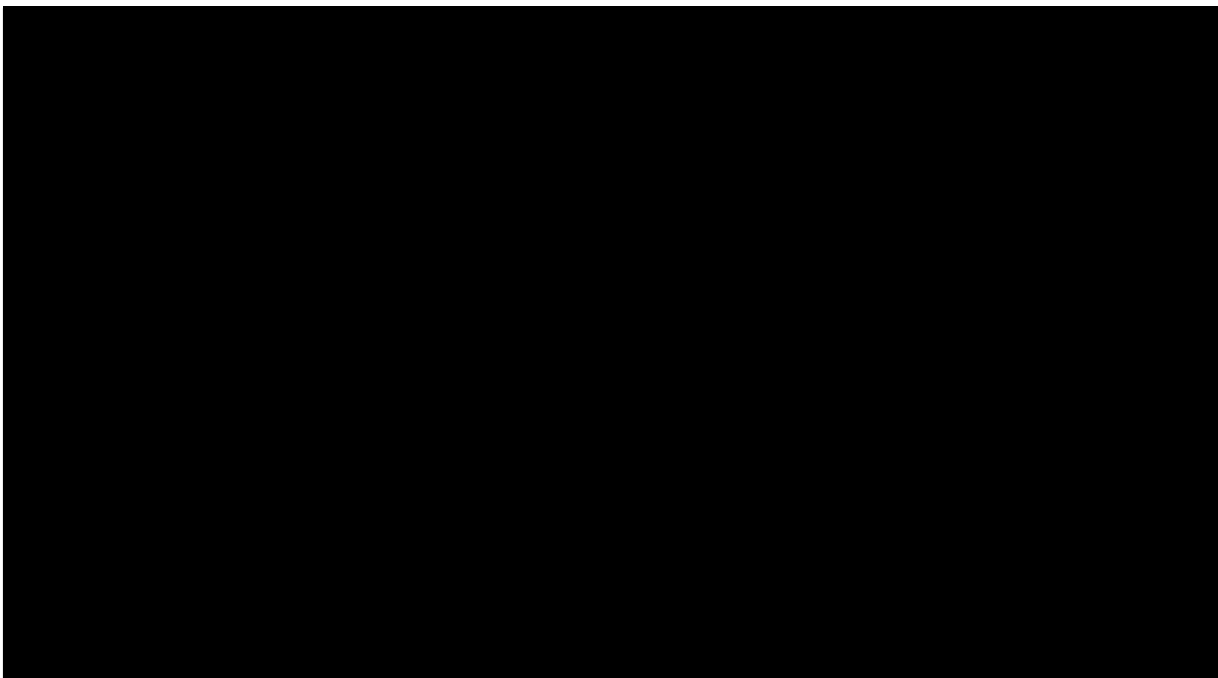
PRIVATE



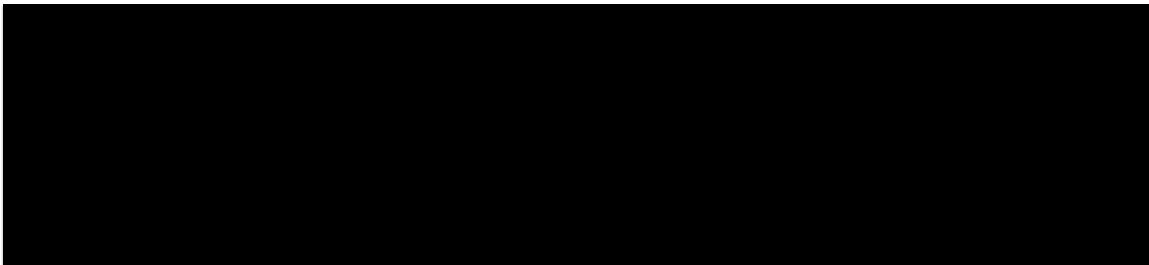
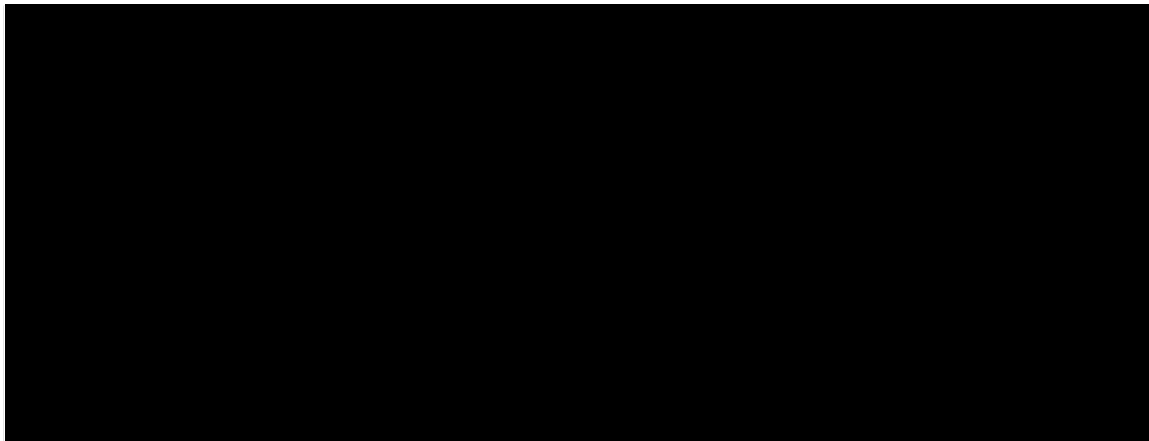
PRIVATE



PRIVATE



PRIVATE



Life after care

48. When I left the care system I was completely unprepared for life. Apart from two weeks in a flat on your own on the grounds of Rubane, there was no preparation. One day they said, 'you're out' and the next day I was gone - no money, nothing. Nobody showed us how to look after ourselves - we didn't know how to iron or use a washing machine.
49. There is a knock-on effect from how you get treated as a child. My brothers, sisters and I were split up, put into care, battered, and suffered continuous bullying as well as sexual abuse. We were fed to the wolves. That men of the cloth could do these things has really turned me away from God and religion. They did a lot of damage to me.
50. I still have trouble getting to sleep at night. The care system should have given us a bit of help instead of just thinking that these kids are going to be hassle. We were meant to be in care but we were never really cared for.

PRIVATE

Statement of Truth

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

Signed **HIA 25** _____

Dated 31-3-14.

EASTERN AREA HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

Lisburn District

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Children and Young Persons Act (N.I.) 1968

ADMISSION TO CARE

I

Surname **HIA 25** Forename(s) **HIA 25** Male/Female
 Date of Birth **[REDACTED]** Place of Birth **Belfast**
 Religious Denomination **R.C.** Baptised ~~xxxxxx~~ Legitimate/ ~~xxxxxx~~
 School attended before Admission **St. Lukes Primary, Twinbrook**
 Home Address **[REDACTED]** Responsible Authority **East Belfast and Castlereagh**
 Address before Admission **As above**
 Date Admitted **5.11.73**
 Placed ~~xxxx~~ in **Reception Centre, Palmerston Road, Belfast**

AGE GROUP OF ADMISSION

- Key No.
 (42) 0-2
 (43) 2-5
 (44) 5-School Leaving Age.
 (45) Over School Leaving Age.

NOTE: The following documents should be obtained-

- ① Consent to Medical Treatment.
- ② Free from Infection Certificate.
- ③ Medical Card.
4. Milk Token Book
- ⑤ School Attendance Card.
6. Birth Certificate

II Medical Details:

Family Doctor (Name and Address) **Dr. Hunter, 115 Newtownards Road, Belfast, 4...**

Immunisations (a) Small Pox. ✓ (b) Polio. ✓ (c) B.C.G. ✓
 (d) Diphtheria and Whooping Cough ✓ (e) Other.

History of Previous diseases or abnormalities and any special treatment required:

Has had periodic bouts of skin disease - psoriasis... Clear since the beginning... of this year.

III PARTICULARS OF ACCEPTANCE INTO CARE:

Tick Reason.	OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES	SECTION OF ACT UNDER WHICH ACCEPTED
22. No parent or guardian <input type="checkbox"/>	32. T.B. Contact <input type="checkbox"/>	16. Section 103 (short term) <input type="checkbox"/>
23. Abandoned or lost <input type="checkbox"/>	33. Illegitimate and mother unable to provide <input type="checkbox"/>	17. Section 103 (Long Term) <input type="checkbox"/>
24. Death of mother <input type="checkbox"/>	34. Parent or guardian in prison or remanded in custody. <input type="checkbox"/>	18. Fit Person Order: (non-offender) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
25. Deserted by mother <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	35. Family homeless because of eviction <input type="checkbox"/>	(i) Section 95. Care, protection or control. <input type="checkbox"/>
		(ii) Section 96 powers of other courts) <input type="checkbox"/>

PROGRESS REPORT

Child's Name **NHB 17** D.O.B [REDACTED]

Home address: [REDACTED]

Section admitted or committed to care 104 (s)

Foster parents' name and address Nazareth House, Ravenhill Rd. Belfast.

Date placed 5/11/73 Boarded-out/home on trial/under supervision Residential Care

Dates of visits since last report (underline those on which child was seen):

<u>6.2.74</u>	<u>12.2.74</u>	<u>14.2.74</u>	<u>20.2.74</u>	<u>19.2.74</u>	<u>25.2.74</u>	<u>1.3.74</u>	<u>6.3.74</u>	<u>8.3.74</u>
<u>13.3.74</u>	<u>19.3.74</u>	<u>28.3.74</u>	<u>11.4.74</u>	<u>1.5.74</u>	<u>13.6.74</u>	<u>25.6.74</u>	<u>16.7.74</u>	

CHILD

Personality (including behaviour in relation to foster parents, peers, Social Worker and other significant adults).

NHB 17 has become less attention seeking over the past few months. She still tends to be disruptive in her own quiet way - teasing & egging on her brother until a fight develops. Very well behaved otherwise, polite & well-mannered - sometimes too much so! No problems in the home and is liked by the staff. Despite the fact that I have had to be very firm with her on occasions there appears to be quite a good relationship between her & myself.

Not a particularly popular member of the group but not an outsider.

Health (remark any recent visits to family doctor)

very good.

Progress at work/school (remark any Social Worker contact with school/employer)

Now attending Immaculate Special school. She has expressed dislike of the school but no definite or specific objection. Program satisfactory.

Interests and special events (include religious observance)

No special interests - attends old-fashioned services in the home.

Eastern Health & Social Services Board

yr

LISBURN DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES

Name

[Redacted Name]

Reference PT. PATRICK'S CROSS

Address

NAZARETH HOUSE, ORMSHURD
KILCUBBIN, CO. DUBL.
LENEVIN FOSTERING CENTRE.

Category CHILDREN

SEPTEMBER 1974

I took HIA 31 and [Redacted] down to La Salle boys home in KILCUBBIN. [Redacted] came along as well, accompanied by a lot of presents from the nuns in Nazareth House for the 2 boys & [Redacted]. The children were very jovial on the journey down and seemed to be looking forward to their new home. [Redacted] was very pleased to see them & helped to settle them in. The three boys will be in the same class with a female housemother to supervise them.

Brother [Redacted] was very hesitant about the [Redacted] coming into his care because he felt that the [Redacted] were too young and would be bullied by the other older boys, who perhaps would resent their more immature means of getting attention. However, he agreed to give the new situation a trial.

During September [Redacted] was brought to court on the 5th & 12th on adjournments while he was at his new home for assessment. He remained very certain that he didn't want to go to his new home for long term stay. [Redacted] wanted to go to St. Patrick's, although I felt that this was simply because he wanted to see his mother and knew that St. Patrick's was an open school. [Redacted] Senior Social Worker & myself went to his new home on Friday 11th October for a case conference on [Redacted]. The result of this was a decision to discuss the possibility of [Redacted] being committed to the special unit in his new home without going to St. Patrick's at all. It was felt that it could offer him security &