

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 60

Witness Name: HIA 60

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 60

I, HIA 60 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in London. My father was a second generation Polish Jew living in London and my mother was an Irish Catholic who moved to London in 1956 when she was sixteen. My parents were married 10 days after I was born. I was told this by two different aunts on either side of the family. I am named HIA 60 on my birth certificate. I have a younger brother called [REDACTED] who was born on [REDACTED]
2. My parents separated permanently in and around 1968 and my mother returned to Derry with me and my brother.
3. I was known as [REDACTED] throughout my childhood. I only started to use the name HIA 60 when I starting my training as a nurse in 1990. My grandfather [REDACTED] was very good to me and people in Derry knew him. When he died in 1987 it was in tribute to him that I changed my name to [REDACTED] I was known as [REDACTED] as my grandfather was well known and respected by our community.
4. When we moved to Derry one of my mother's jobs was cleaning in Termonbacca. She started working there when I was about five or six years old

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20. In December 1979 I was placed in foster care for about six weeks with a family in Derry. They asked me to leave so I stayed between my grandfather's and my aunt's for four or five months. In July 1980 I then became a lodger in a house on Abbotts Walk, Derry which belonged to a lady called [REDACTED] SND 253 I was completing an engineering course on the YOP scheme. When [REDACTED] SND 253 two older children returned from England she needed my room so by September 1980 I was homeless. I had nowhere to go so I ended up staying in the Wells hostel which was for alcoholics for a few nights. It was arranged by social services. I was then placed in Fort James children's home.

**Fort James Children's Home, Londonderry (September 1980 – July 1981)**

21. I stayed at Fort James from September 1980 until July 1981. I lived in an independent flat on the third floor.

22. I remember one Sunday morning [REDACTED] SND 449 a lay staff member, came in to [REDACTED] room to wake him up. I did not share a room with [REDACTED] but he had a spare bed in his room and I fell asleep there one Saturday night after watching television. [REDACTED] SND 449 came in and told [REDACTED] to get up for church. She told me I did not have to go anywhere because I was just a Jew anyway. I told her she had no right to talk to me like that because she was married to an 'orange b\*\*\*\*\*d RUC man'.

23. On the following Wednesday [REDACTED] SND 448 [REDACTED] SND 449 husband, knocked on my door and told me we needed to go outside to talk. As I went to go outside he punched me in the back of the head. I turned round and he punched me in the face. I went to hit him back. He then motioned to three other RUC men who were in a parked car to come over. Two got out and ran towards me and the third drove the car into the back of my legs which threw me over the bonnet. The other three then started to kick and punch me. There was another member of staff called [REDACTED] SND 450 whose husband had arrived to pick her up from work. He saw what was happening, got out of his car and came over to stop the beating. The RUC men then left. I was left with minor injuries consisting of cuts

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and bruises. I was unable to report this matter as I could hardly report RUC officers to the RUC.

24. When I was in Fort James there was a child called [REDACTED] who I took to the park along with two other boys called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] handed me 20p and I assumed that he had been given money by his father whom he had seen that day. It turned out that [REDACTED] had taken a bag of coins out of a visitor's car. I was accused of stealing the money. I was taken to the RUC station by [REDACTED] FJ 35 a part-time RUC officer and residential social worker at Harberton House and Fort James Children's Homes. I was questioned and threatened with being sent to St Patrick's Training School. I found out years later from [REDACTED] SJM 56 [REDACTED] SJM 56 daily contact reports that he had made an application to the court for a Training and Detention Order but the Judge had denied it.

25. I remained in Fort James beyond my eighteenth birthday because I had nowhere to be discharged to. The Housing Executive eventually offered me accommodation in [REDACTED]. I was never shown inside this property before I was told that I was going to live there. I was told by neighbours after I had moved in that eight or nine people had seen the property before me and refused to live there. It had been previously occupied by an alcoholic who had vomited and defecated everywhere and had died in the property. [REDACTED] SND 132 and I spent about two months cleaning the place before it was habitable. When I collected the keys I went back to Fort James to collect my belongings. A member of staff called [REDACTED] told me through the locked office window that they had received a message from [REDACTED] SJM 56 my social worker, that as I had accommodation to go to I had been discharged from Fort James with immediate effect. I found all my personal belongings in two bin liners outside the front door as if they were rubbish. I was not even afforded the dignity of packing my own belongings. I received no help, support or guidance after I left Fort James and no preparation for life after care.

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Life After Care

26. I had no contact from social services after I left care until 2003 when [SND 468] [SND 468] contacted me after I requested my care files.

27. I moved to London in 1984. I trained as a nurse and as a social worker. I am currently an advanced social worker in [REDACTED] I used to work as a staff nurse in the cardiac ward of [REDACTED] I found it to be a refuge where I did not have to think about myself or my past. I could concentrate on other people for the twelve hour shift when I was caring for patients before and after cardiac surgery. The intensity of this environment distracted me from my own life.

28. In March 1995, on one of the occasions that I was home from London to visit my [REDACTED] I met [DL 48] on the street in Derry. I first met [DL 48] when we were both in Termonbacca. He told me he had been to the media, he had been to the RUC who were not interested and he had been to social services who were not any help about the abuse he had suffered when he was in De La Salle Boys Home, Rubane House, Kircubbin. He wanted help for male survivors of institutional sexual abuse who he believed were ignored and left to cope with the aftermath of the abuse which had destroyed their childhoods and robbed them of normal lives as adults. He asked me to meet him the following day at 1pm to discuss this. I did not meet him the next day as I felt that I was not ready to deal with everything yet. In September of that year my Aunt telephoned me to tell me that [DL 48] had hung himself. After that I vowed to myself to help any of the ex-residents if they ever approached me. [DL 48] died because he was faced with indifference and obstruction by the church, social services and the police. The organisations that were supposed to protect vulnerable children.

29. I have been attending counselling for the past thirteen years as a result of my childhood experiences however compared to some of the other ex-residents I feel that I have been lucky and I have had a life. I have got an education, a partner and good friends. It is as important to me that the experiences of those other less fortunate ex-residents are recounted because some of them have been destroyed by their experiences. Over the years [HIA 86] and [HIA 86]

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HIA 22      SND 132      HIA 69 and my brother have told me of  
the sexual abuse they suffered as young children whilst in care.

30. I made a statement to the police at King's Cross Police Station, London in  
respect of      SND 76      in 2004. He was never prosecuted.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed      HIA 60  
Dated      10/01/2014

## Introduction

1. The following report was written as I was about to leave the care of the Western Education Library social services Board (WELSSB) this report was completed by my social worker at this time, **SND 466**, on 01/05/1981. The purpose of this report was to support an application for emergency housing under the provision of group A2 of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive selection scheme.

Throughout this report **SND 466** reveals attitudes he held about me that I believe influenced the service I received from him as my allocated social worker from October 1979 until July 1981. It also provides an insight into the opinions and judgements he made about me as a young person up to the age of 18 years old.

However there are many inaccuracies, omissions and untruths in this report in fact too many for me to simply ignore. In order to correct this I intend to answer them by adding my own comments highlighted in Arial font after each paragraph to follow after Mr **SND 466**'s report which was originally typed in black Times New Roman font.

The prospect of a judicial inquiry into the Children's homes system in Northern Ireland has presented me the only opportunity I will ever have to answer Mr **SND 466**'s report and the views he held about me. I simply cannot allow this report be the only evidence of my childhood.

I obtained a copy of this report after I contacted **SND 468** in August 2002, who was the manager of **SND 466** when this report was written in 1981. **SND 468** had previously been my social worker before **SND 466**. I had originally requested to see my social services file in August 2002 eventually I was invited to do this by **SND 468** in March 2003.

I met **SND 468** on 07/03/2003 when I viewed my file; his comment to me on this occasion was that he felt that

*"This department had looked after you and your family very well"* my reply to him was *"that was not my experience"*.

I remain unconvinced that anything otherwise positive will really come from the HIA other than it will hopefully document what actually happened in the various children's' homes in Northern Ireland. I am eternally grateful to the people in my past who have shown me some kindness and I would always endeavour to repay this kindness. I am amazed and grateful at the energy and tenacity of Margaret McGuckin and the members of SAVIA who brought this issue to the attention of the media in Northern Ireland and anyone who has supported the HIA.

Recently I met with HIA 86 and HIA 92 for the first time in 27 years these two brothers are definitely survivors they explained their total distrust of the other older ex Termonbacca boys, excluding me, a point of view I also share. They told me separately that they would wake up a night only to be woken up by being sexually attacked by 4 other older residents possibly ex residents of Termonbacca. They explained that they would take turns to stay awake and keep guard however they would usually end up being over powered. I had suspected this was had been the case and until this discussion which confirmed it. This definitely did not happen when I shared their room I believe this started after December 1979 when I had left Termonbacca. The single room that [REDACTED] had given me was only a couple of doors away I would have heard anything also as I was 16 years old my bedtime was 9.30pm.

It also offers an explanation as to why I was threatened after the article appeared in the Derry Journal article in October 2002. In March 2003 I went back to Derry with my godchildren's father, [REDACTED], to view my social service records [REDACTED] on arriving in Derry by chance we had been approached by another ex Termonbacca boy. This person usually would greet me very warmly however on this occasion he simply said that he was going to get the boys which I understood as meaning the IRA and have us 'done'. I believed him because I know he had connections to the IRA. [REDACTED] told me recently that that day in March 2003 was the most frightened that he had ever been. when I asked I HIA 22 in 2012 him why these older boys were so hostile to me for such a long time he told me that it was because they were in denial I simply replied that 'I was never in denial I was in a rage'.

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD  
LONDONDERRY LITAVADY & STRABANE DISTRICT

CASE REPORT

NAME: **HIA 60** ..... CASE CATEGORY  
ADDRESS: .....

DATE	CASE DETAILS:- Visitors, Reports ETC.,
28.1.81	<p><u>Cont'd.</u></p> <p>an extremely disruptive influence on other children in Fort James, and that he should be moved out as soon as possible. Discussed possibility of digs/bed and breakfast type placement, but it was asserted by Dominic Burke that such a placement would not meet an obligation under Section 103 (CYPA). See attached form WC/10/10, dated 27.1.81, for summary of position to date.</p> <p><b>SND 466 S.W.</b></p>
16.2.81	<p><u>A.M.</u> - Phone-call from <b>FJ 5</b> asking that a meeting be convened urgently because of events over the week-end involving <b>HIA 60</b>.</p> <p><u>P.M.</u> - Meeting at Fort James, involving myself, <b>SND 468 S.S.W. FJ 5</b> and various members of the caring staff at Fort James. It transpired that <b>HIA 60</b> had become increasingly aggressive to members of staff over the week-end, and had disrupted other children to the extent that there had been a real possibility of a violent confrontation. <b>FJ 5</b> re-iterated his view that <b>HIA 60</b> should be removed immediately, and observed that his general behaviour was beginning to threaten the capacity of the home to provide adequate care and protection for the other children. Members of staff recounted versions of several incidents over the week-end, of which they felt <b>HIA 60</b> was the instigator. There was another discussion of alternatives, in which the agreements made at the Case Review of 28.1.81 were cited as the only possible arrangement for the present. It was agreed that <b>HIA 60</b> would have to be referred to the P.S.W. for Residential and Field Work for further decisions. <b>FJ 5</b> accepted this, with reluctance.</p> <p><b>SND 466 S.W.</b></p>
24.2.81	<p><b>SND 468</b> informed me that, following discussions with the relevant P.S.W., it had been decided that a Training School Order would not be a viable proposition in this case (principally in view of <b>HIA 60</b>'s age), nor were there alternative residential possibilities <b>SND 119 S.S.W.</b> had made some inquiries to Tara Lodge in Belfast, but this had come to nothing). <b>HIA 60</b> could therefore remain in Fort James, with the clear stipulation that <b>FJ 5</b> in the event of any further threat to either the other children or to members of staff, could use his discretion to involve the police.</p> <p><b>SND 466 S.W.</b></p>
25.2.81	<p>Saw <b>HIA 60</b> at Fort James, and delivered the ultimatum that the police would be involved in the event of further serious misconduct by him. He initially reacted with considerable aggression, blaming that he had been victimised by members of staff, <b>FJ 5</b> in particular. I tried to point out to him the consequences of further disruption in Fort James, indicating that he stood to lose out on (a) his educational possibilities - he has recently been attending the College of Technology regularly (b) his chance of getting a flat - in the event of his discharge from care on his eighteen birthday he could</p>

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD  
LONDONDERRY LITAVADY & SPRABANE DISTRICT

## CASE REPORT

NAME: **HIA 60** ..... CASE CATEGORY  
ADDRESS: .....

DATE	CASE DETAILS:- Visitors, Reports ETC.,
25.2.81	<u>Cont'd.</u> apply to the N.I.H.E. for A1 (emergency) statue for a flat. <b>HIA 60</b> appeared to accept this, and ended the interview still protesting his own innocence, but promising good behaviour. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
27.2.81	<b>SND 250</b> called at the office this morning. Lengthly discussion about <b>HIA 60</b> and recent events, following the lines of many similar discussions with <b>SND 250</b> in the past. She also expressed some concern about <b>SND 135</b> , whose behaviour she sees as continually troublesome. Requested that <b>HIA 60</b> in contact with the Educational Psychologist. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
3.3.81	<b>HIA 60</b> called at the office. Query re: entry fee for O-level examinations (See attached memo (13.3.81) to <b>SND 468</b> S.S.W.). Otherwise appears to be coping reasonably well. Now living more or less permanently in the flat at Fort James. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
18.3.81	<b>HIA 60</b> called at the office. Spending quite a lot of time at home at present. Not happy about living in the flat at Fort James, but would appear to be coping well. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
1.4.81	Review in Fort James. See attached form WC/10/10 for summoning. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
9.4.81	<b>SND 250</b> called at the office. Has seen quite a lot of <b>HIA 60</b> recently, and feels that he is applying himself reasonably well to <b>SND 135</b> levels. Completely discounted any possibility of a return home. <b>SND 135</b> has apparently settled down recently. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
14.4.81	<b>HIA 60</b> called at the office, where he completed a housing application form. Now almost completely confined to the flat, where he would appear to be coping satisfactorily. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
29.4.81	Attached memo to N.I.H.E. (Waterside). <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
1.5.81	Attached A2 recommendation to Dominic Burke, P.S.W. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
20.5.81	Review in Riverview. See attached WC/10/10 for case summary. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
21.5.81	<b>HIA 60</b> has been offered a bungalow at <b>SND 135</b> Creggan. Called at the office and informed that he intends to accept the offer. Feels that examinations have gone quite well, and looks forward to settling down in new flat. Intends to move in as soon as essential repairs are carried out.

## Conclusion

This experience has impacted on every aspect of my life. When I reached 50 years of age I remembered that as a teenager I did not even dream or expect that I would reach the age of 25 years I really expected to be dead by then. With the announcement of the HIA in 2011 the realisation that I felt the same as I did when I was 17 years old was a shock and brought back with a gut wrenching familiarity the feelings I had then of hopeless and helplessness.

It felt as if the intervening years had been a waste of time a charade as if I had only been fooling myself. Over the years my friends described me as a workaholic I had immersed myself in education and exercise. Nearly thirty years ago my brother observed that when my life was difficult I would just go into survival mode which he said was only my work and karate training. I would describe Shotokan karate as the most positive force for change in my life made possible by the various karate instructors I have had especially a man of the rare calibre of the late Sensei Enoda who made it possible for me to not succumb to despair and hopelessness.

Despite this I would simply choose not to exist rather than to go through the childhood I had to endure again. The only reason why I believe that I am still alive is the pure stubbornness and the pride that my grandfather [REDACTED] instilled in me. I have worked, studied and trained to become a qualified and practising staff

nurse and social worker. However now I barely feel as if I am capable of functioning. The hope I had when I was younger that my life could change and the belief that I was the catalyst for this change has now all but evaporated.

Along with the feeling of disbelief I had when the HIA was announced the overwhelming feeling I had was that by completing this statement I have served some useful purpose. The best thing about the HIA has been that it has allowed me to get in touch with former Termonbacca boys that I lost touch with over 25 years ago including **HIA 22**, **HIA 92** and **HIA 86**

**HIA 86**

I remain unconvinced that anything otherwise positive will really come from the HIA other than it will hopefully document what actually happened in the various children's' homes in Northern Ireland. I am eternally grateful to the people in my past who have shown me some kindness and I would always endeavour to repay this kindness. I am amazed at the energy and tenacity of Margaret McGuckin and the members of SAVIA who brought this issue to the attention of the media in Northern Ireland.

In October 2013 I met with **HIA 86** and **HIA 92** for the first time in 27 years these two brothers are definitely now survivors they explained their total distrust of the other older ex Termonbacca boys I also share this point of view. They told me separately that when they were

around 5 and seven years of age that they would wake up a night only to be sexually attacked and raped by as many as 4 other older residents possibly ex residents of Termonbacca. They further explained that they would take turns to stay awake and keep guard over each other however they would often be over powered. I had always suspected that this abuse was organised and was perpetrated by more than one individual this discussion confirmed it. Without giving these two brothers and the countless other victims justice the HIA is little more than a mockery and pays nothing other than lip service to securing justice to survivors and victims of the institutional care system in Northern Ireland.

I am haunted by what the **HIA 86, HIA 92** told me it prevents me from sleeping properly it reduces me to tears as a grown man. As a teenager I helped to care and protect these two young brothers so the thought of them enduring this horrendous situation alone is awful. They have continued to pay for this abuse ever since. In fact their late father once asked me to protect them and I took this responsibility very seriously, I knew that my grandfather would have expected me to. I ask myself why their father asked me to do this. What if anything did he know? How did he know that I would try to protect them? Clearly I failed and I also realise and understand that it was not my role but none of this reasoning makes me feel any better.

As stated previously I dispute the content of what **SND 466** wrote about me as a 17 year old in 1981. I believe **SND 466** had already made up his mind about me through discussing me with my family who as stated earlier had their own agenda with me At my appearance at the HIA on 03/03/2014 Mr Joseph Aiken told me that **SND 466** had been my mother's social worker since 1977, A full 2 years before I had even met him as my social worker. As I suspected this would have given him plenty of time to have made an assessment of my mother's situation and make up his mind about me without ever having met me until 1979.

**SND 466** failed in his duty of care to me as my social worker. Furthermore I believe he was disingenuous and colluded with the RUC to have me sent to Borstal. There is no doubt in my mind that I would have received the same treatment as my friends **SND 24** and **SND 24** had to endure sexual abuse and rape.

As for the RUC/PSNI I need only the example of the treatment they gave to me which is minor compared to other home boys. Including one ex Termonbacca boy who described how he was beaten unconscious repeatedly over 30 times in a 4 hour period. My experience of them is that they are despicable they are devoid of the decency or the pride to do the job they are tasked to do as a Police service. I believe that the catholic church, social services, the RUC/PSNI colluded

and made it possible for countless Termonbacca boys and girls aged 16 years and younger to be delivered to hell holes like Kirkubben and St Pats. These children were then preyed upon and abused by paedophiles who continue to hide behind the robes and religious trappings of the Catholic Church.

The Catholic Church have long ago proven they are deceitful liars and incapable of honesty and policing themselves never mind compassion for their victims. Therefore the only hope of any justice for the survivors and victims is the HIA carrying out their task thoroughly. This includes seeking justice and redress for this group who are feeling the strain of this process with several having died since the HIA was announced.

Northern Ireland society needs to take a long hard look at its self and ask the question is this how it wants it's most vulnerable and neglected children taken care of? Unless these hard lessons are learned and taken on board I am not confident that there will be an honest answer. As long as the veil of secrecy covers up how this system was allowed to work and continues to evade scrutiny Northern Ireland will remain in the dark ages. How could the agencies motivated supposedly by vocation to do good for vulnerable children collude to perpetrate such barbarity then allow it to continue for decades?

These are the questions that need to be asked however I fear that this society does not have the stomach to do

so, maybe in 50 years time. History has shown that each generation is not comfortable having its evil secrets exposed to the light of day. History also shows that future generations are only able to do this. The survivors above all others know what happened and will not be told otherwise. The victims of this regime especially those who have died including my friends cannot speak for themselves so I will.

I no longer care what anyone thinks this is the last useful thing that I can do. In May 2015 reported in the Guardian Newspaper Bishop Paul Bird of Ballarat Australia allegedly told victims 'In 40 years you'll be dead and this will be forgotten'. The Catholic Church appears to regard the HIA as a storm in a teacup after which they think it will be business as usual. They are of course right as I will be dead but so will they.

The point I want to make on a personal level is that by the time I was 17 years old in Fort James children's home I had social workers, teachers, the clergy, the RUC, and my family all write me off as worthless and a future criminal. I can provide professional references and personal testimonies to my good character as a staff nurse, social worker and as a karate student. I have spent the last 35 years in these roles and these are the only judgements of me that mean anything to me. The opinion of **SND 466** and his type mean nothing to me I have only contempt for him and his role

in my life at the time when I was at my most vulnerable as a teenager.

The so called professionals and abusers I met as a young person in care are in fact the ones who are worthless. The only purpose of my career has been to take care and protect the ill and the vulnerable either as patients or children. I have been prepared to risk life and limb as a residential social worker, nurse and field social worker when required. I doubt that any of those who passed judgement on me as a young person have ever been prepared to do the same. I have left myself very vulnerable in order to participate in the HIA as I regard it as my duty ~~to~~ not only to myself but to the other young people I met in the care system. With this in mind I came to the HIA in good faith it remains to be seen if the HIA will justify this trust.

HIA REF: [60]

NAME: [ .]

Response by HSCB

DATE: [ 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015]**THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995**

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**Witness Statement of the Health and Social Care Board**

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Marian Hall, Children's Services Project Manager, assisted in the drafting of this statement.

The Health and Social Care Board will say as follows: -

1. The purpose of this statement is primarily to respond to assertions made by the Applicant during the time when he was resident in Fort James. The HSCB will also seek to address other matters raised by the Applicant which concern social services during the time he was resident in Termonbacca.
2. The Applicant was born on [REDACTED]. The Applicant states he was born in London. The Applicants' birth certificate confirms that he was born at West Middlesex hospital, Isleworth, see Exhibit 1. It is noted that there does appear to be some discrepancy in the Applicants records wherein records provided by the Sisters of Nazareth record the Applicant as being born at Altnagelvin Hospital
3. At paragraph 5 of the Applicants' statement, the Applicant states that he was first admitted to Termonbacca in 1970, along with [REDACTED]. The HSCB has been unable to confirm any such admission from the records in its possession. It is noted however that the Applicant and his family were known to Derry Social Services from in and around 1971 where case records indicate regular visits to the family home and the efforts which were made to alleviate difficult living conditions, see Exhibit 2

4. The first identified record of the Applicant being received into care is recorded in the Admission Book for Termonbacca, which confirms that the Applicant was received into care on the on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1979, upon the recommendation of "Derry Social Services". It is noted the Applicant was received into care under section 103 of the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968 (CYPA 1968) and the Applicants mother signed a parental agreement in relation to this admission, see Exhibit 3
5. A case record dated 17<sup>th</sup> January 1979 confirms that attempts were made by Social Services initially to place the Applicant in Fort James, however, they were unable to do so due to limited availability in the home at that time, see Exhibit 4.
6. At paragraph 7 of the Applicants statement, the Applicant refers to a Social Worker being assigned to him by the name of **SND 468**. The records confirm that for a short period in 1975, case report entries had been recorded by **SND 468**. There is also correspondence from **SND 468** Social Worker in relation to the Applicants mother dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 1975 , see Exhibit 5. Later, in the records when the Applicant was resident in Fort James, the records refer to **SND 468** SSW.
7. Paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Applicant's statement reference a number of allegations of assault by ex-residents of the Home, and in particular, a **SND 76** No incidents of the nature described by the Applicant are recorded in the documents in possession of the Board during the time he was resident in Termonbacca.
8. At paragraph 17 of the Applicants statement reference is made to a Social Worker by the name of **SND 466** and the Applicant says that, as he did not have a good relationship with him, he would not have told him about the abuse which took place. Records in possession of the Board, confirm that an **SND 466**SW was assigned to the Applicant on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1979 and immediate efforts were made by **SND 466** to establish a relationship with him. The case record entry dated 22.10.1979 states "Discussed we have a common interest in football, which helped immensely" see Exhibit 6. The Applicant further states that he only saw him about two to three times

when he was in Termonbacca. However, between the period 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1979 and 5<sup>th</sup> December 1979, when the Applicant removed himself from the home, at least 6 visits with the Applicant are recorded.

9. At paragraph 20, the Applicant states that in December 1979 he was placed in foster care with a family in Derry. Records in possession of the HSCB confirm that efforts to place the Applicant with a foster family had commenced in November 1979 following concerns about the Applicants lack of progress in the Home. The Applicant was in foster care from the 6<sup>th</sup> December 1979 until the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1980. Following the breakdown of this placement arrangements were made for the Applicant to be boarded-out with his grandparents from the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1980, see Exhibit 7.
10. Between January 1980 and September 1980, the Applicant resided with various different relatives which included a short period of attempted reconciliation with his mother. Records in the possession of the Board indicate that during this period, the Applicant was formally discharged from care, see Exhibit 8. The records at this time also demonstrate the challenges faced by the social work team regarding continuous placement breakdowns and efforts made to assist the Applicant.
11. Admission records for Fort James confirm that the Applicant was received back into care on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 1980, see Exhibit 9. At this time, the Applicant was 17 years old. The records indicated that the Applicant had arrived with his bags to the local Health Centre and presented himself as homeless on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1980.
12. At this time, the social workers raised concern about the desirability of placing the Applicant in a Childrens' Home. However, they felt that Social Services had a responsibility to provide accommodation for him. The HSCB notes that the Applicant's mother signed section 103 consent forms on 18 September 1980 and the Applicant was received into the care of the Western Health and Social Services Board even though he was over the age of seventeen years at the time, see Exhibit 10.

13. Records in possession of the Board indicate it was accepted that placing the Applicant in Fort James was 'quite unsuitable' for someone in the Applicant's circumstances. However, is noted that the Applicant was given his own room and was told he would have freedom to come and go as pleased within the limits imposed by consideration of the other children in the Home, see Exhibit 11.
14. The records also confirm that efforts were made to source alternative suitable community placements. This is evidenced by the case records for the period October/November 1980, a Case Review dated 6<sup>th</sup> November 1980 and further, by confirmation of replies to an advertisement placed in the local journal, see Exhibit 12.
15. At paragraphs 22 and 23 of his statement, the Applicant refers to an incident involving a staff member by the name of [REDACTED] **SND 449** and her husband [REDACTED] **SND 448**, which left him with minor cuts and bruises." There are no entries in HIA 60's social work case records file confirming the incident described by the Applicant, or any injuries to the Applicant. The HSCB has also made enquiries of former employees of Fort James, namely [REDACTED] **FJ 33** [REDACTED] **HH 5**, and [REDACTED] **FJ 7** none whom have any memory of a staff member by the name of [REDACTED] **SND 449** and, to date, the Human Resources Department in the Western Health and Social Care Trust and, has not identified any records relating to the name [REDACTED] **SND 449** There was however a recollection by some of the former employees of a [REDACTED] Searches are currently being undertaken by the Western Health and Social Care Trusts' Human Resource Department to ascertain whether this could relate to the staff member referred to by the Applicant.
16. We note that reference is made by the Applicant to another member of staff by the name of [REDACTED] **SND 450** in relation the above incident. Whilst the HCSB have been unable at present to confirm that such a member of staff was employed in the home at that time, it is noted in a document referenced at FJH 5338 that in 1983, subsequent to the time the Applicant

was resident in Fort James, that an **SND 450** is recorded as a Temporary House Parent.

17. The records regarding the Applicant do, however, reflect that there were significant difficulties in his relations with staff at Fort James. For example:

(i) A Case Review dated 27<sup>th</sup> January 1981 states that "for the first 6-8 weeks in the home [the Applicant] was very unsettled and wanted badly to get ...*digs/shared flat ... in the community*". The case review further confirms that the Applicant's relationship with staff was poor and he "is regarded as unpopular" which appears largely due the behaviour difficulties recorded. Section F of the Review record indicates that staff did not want the Applicant to remain in the home until his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday;

(ii) An entry in the case records dated 2 October 1980 refers to the Applicant becoming '*increasingly unco-operative and aggressive and that his relationship with certain members of staff was deteriorating*'.

(iii) An entry in the case records dated 15 January 1981 records that Mr **SND 466** had received several telephone calls from **FJ 7** **FJ 7** (Assistant Officer in Charge at Fort James) who "*found him very unco-operative over the Christmas period and who wanted to know when we were moving him out. When **SND 466** discussed this with the Applicant, the Applicant rejected this and felt that **FJ 7** 'picked him out' for special treatment...*"

(iv) An entry in the case records dated 16 February 1981 states that the Applicant had become increasingly aggressive to members of staff over the weekend and had disrupted other children to the extent that there had been a real possibility of a violent confrontation.

(v) An entry in the case records dated 25 February 1981 show that Mr **SND 466** told the Applicant that the police would be called in the event of further serious misconduct by him and '*...he initially*

*reached with considerable aggression, blaming that he had been victimized by members of staff, FJ 36 in particular."*

The relevant documents as set out in above examples (i) - (v) are contained in Exhibit 13.

18. In paragraph 24 of his statement, the Applicant refers to another incident whereby he was accused of stealing, was taken to an RUC station and threatened with a training school order. The Applicant further states that when he reviewed the daily contact reports belonging to **SND 466** sometime later, he found out that an application had been made to the court for a Training and Detention Order but this had been declined by the Judge. There is an entry in **SND 466**'s case records dated 24<sup>th</sup> February 1981 which indicates that consideration was given to a Training School Order. However, social services decided this was not a viable proposition, see Exhibit 14. There is, however, nothing in the records to suggest that an application was made to Court for a Training School Order in relation to the Applicant. Rather, it appears that the Applicant was told that the police would be involved in the event of further serious misconduct.
19. At paragraph 25 the Applicant states that he remained in Fort James beyond his 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the basis there was nowhere for him to go. Records in possession of the Board confirm that on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1981 an application for emergency housing was made on behalf of the Applicant, see Exhibit 15. On the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1981, it is recorded that a Bungalow at [REDACTED] had been offered to the Applicant and this was accepted by him. It is noted that essential repairs were required to be carried out and that by the 18<sup>th</sup> June 1981, 12 days after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, he was housed in the bungalow, see Exhibit 16
20. The Applicant states, at paragraph 25, that he was informed of his discharge from Fort James by **FJ 7** "through a locked office window" and that his belongings were found in two bin liners. There is no record of the events surrounding the Applicants discharge from Fort James other than an entry in the case notes dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 1981 stating that "[the Applicant] discharged from Fort James" and an entry in the Discharge book on the 21<sup>st</sup>

July 1981 which states that the Applicant had been discharged to a flat at [REDACTED] see Exhibit 17. It is accepted by the HSCB that the practice of putting young people's belongings into large plastic bags was not unusual at that time when young people were moving into to their own accommodation and were transported with all of their belongings. At that time residential homes did not have access to petty cash. This subsequently changed and, when the Homes had access to cash, a holdall bag was provided to young people leaving the home, if required.

21. In paragraph 25 of his statement, the Applicant says he received no help, support or guidance after he left Fort James. Records in possession of the HSCB indicate that **SND 466** explained the grant procedure to the Applicant, made an appointment for him in Crown Buildings, that the Applicant received a provisional household and had enough basic furniture to live in the house. The case records also show that **SND 466** called to the Applicant's home to see him four times in July 1981 but got no reply and that when he visited him in September 1981, he appeared to have 'settled well in his house' and 'managing quite adequately'. In November 1981, the case was closed and it was noted that the Applicant was managing well on his own and *"is capable of making contact if required"* See Exhibit 18.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed:

*Peter Hall*

Dated: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015

HIA REF: [ ]

NAME: **SND 466**

DATE: [ 4 June 2015 ]

**THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995**

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Witness Statement of **SND 466**

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**SND 466** will say as follows: -

1. I was first employed by the Western Health and Social Services Board as a Social Worker (basic grade) in 1975, undertook professional training between 1977 -1979, and worked as a qualified Social Worker in the Shantallow (Londonderry) Social Work Team between 1979 and 1982. Between 1982 and 1987 I carried out the duties of the post of Team Leader (Senior Social Worker) in Child Care the Strabane Office, and the duties of Assistant Principal Social Worker in this office between 1987-1992. In 1992 I was appointed to the post of Locality Manager (Child Care) in the Waterside (Londonderry) district of the WHSSB's Foyle Community Unit. In 1998 I rejoined the WHSSB in the post of Principal Social Worker (Children's Services planning), and worked in this capacity until 2006. In 2006 I was appointed to the post of Assistant Director of Children's Services in the WHSSB, and in the following year to the post of Director of Children's Services in the WHSSB. I carried out the duties of Director of Children's Services between 2007 – 2009, when I retired from the public service.
2. I had casework responsibility for HIA 60 in my role as a Social Worker in the Shantallow Team between 01.10.1979 and 04.11.1981. I have not seen HIA 60's case file between November 1981 and the present. This statement is based upon my reading of a copy of the dairy notes placed in the file by me prior to 04.11.1981.
3. The work undertaken with HIA 60 between 01.10.1979 and 04.11.1981 was undertaken under the provisions of the Children's and Young People's Act 1968, and preceded by some

years developments such as the creation of dedicated Leaving Care teams to support care leavers from 16 years of age onwards, Departmental guidance on Care Planning, complaints procedures for children in care, and Leaving Care legislation.

4. I recall HIA 60 as an intelligent and complex young person who was struggling to come to terms with his family environment. He spent two episodes in residential children's units, one episode in a foster placement, one episode in (independent) lodgings and several episodes in the care of his mother and/or other relatives during the time of my involvement, between the ages of approximately sixteen years and four months, and eighteen years. The file record indicates that the precipitating reason for referral to Social Work services centred on his difficult relationship with his mother. More detailed information is provided in my case notes, and in HIA 60's residential care files.
5. HIA 60 was already resident in Termonbacca Children's Home Londonderry under the provisions of Section 103 of the Children's and Young Persons Act 1968 (CYPA) when I first took over the case. According to the file entries he had been admitted to Termonbacca Children's Home Londonderry on 18.01.1979. He was discharged on 05.12.1979, according to the record. He stayed with his grandfather from 06.12.1979 until 13.12.1979, and was placed in foster care from 13.12.1979 until 25.01.1980. He returned to live with his grandfather when the foster placement ended, from 25.01.1980 until 19.02.1980, and was subsequently looked after in a 'shared care' arrangement by his aunt and his grandfather between 29.02.1980 and 11.04.1980. This was the point at which the WHSSB deemed the section 103 care admission to have terminated, although he had actually been in the care of relatives from the last week of January 1980. During this period of some four and a half months the case record indicates that I was in direct contact providing social work services to HIA 60 on at least twenty five occasions when he was in care for the first period. There is reference on file to one formal case review during this time, undertaken in Termonbacca on 08.11.1979.
6. HIA 60 returned, according to the file notes, to the care of his mother between 11.04.1980 and 22.04.1980. He then stayed, according to the file, with his grandfather once more from 22.04.1980 until 23.06.1980. He moved to independent lodgings between 23.06.1980 and 16.09.1980, aged seventeen years. The file records that I was in direct contact providing

social work services to HIA 60 on at least ten occasions during this five month period after he left care.

7. HIA 60 was admitted, according to my notes, to care for a second time under Section 103 CYPA between 17.09.1980 and was accommodated in Fort James Children's Home in Londonderry. The file records that I was initially opposed to HIA 60's re-entry into residential care, but agreed on the basis that there was no other option to provide accommodation for him. In February 1981 it is recorded that he was transferred from the main residential unit at Fort James Children's Home to a flat within the residential unit which was designed to help young people experience a degree of supervised independent living prior to discharge from care. During this four month period of HIA 60's second period in care the file records that I was in direct contact providing social work services to him on at least fifteen occasions. The file also records that six formal case review meetings were convened during this time to facilitate planning for him.
8. The social work services provided in this case featured personal support, provision of residential and foster care, liaison and negotiation with HIA 60's family, several attempts to source suitable accommodation, mediation within conflicted family and care environments, advice on educational and training opportunities and co-ordination of a range of services from other agencies. The file records that the Team Leader in the Shantallow Team was actively involved at all key phases in the management/supervision of the case. The range of services which were considered and contacted on HIA 60's behalf included alternative residential and foster care (including a press advertisement), and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), for accommodation; the North West College of Technology and the Western Education and Library Board (WELB), Youthways (a youth employment scheme), the Government Training Centre in Londonderry (an apprenticeship scheme), and Young Help (a youth employment scheme) for training and education; the WELB Educational Psychology service for advice on case management; and DHSS (Supplementary Benefits) and Voluntary services for income support. In May 1981 the file records that I applied to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for accommodation for HIA 60, resulting in the allocation of a bungalow at [REDACTED] (subject to essential repairs to be carried out by the NIHE), which he agreed to accept. I contacted DHSS to arrange for grant aid for essential furniture and household items.

9. HIA 60 was formally discharged from care on 20.07.1981. The case was closed in the Shantallow office on 04.11.1981.

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

Signed

**SND 466**

Dated

04 06 2015

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD  
LONDONDERRY LITAVADY & STRABANE DISTRICT

CASE REPORT

NAME: **HIA 60** ..... CASE CATEGORY  
ADDRESS: .....

DATE	CASE DETAILS:- Visitors, Reports ETC.,
28.1.81	<p><u>Cont'd.</u></p> <p>an extremely disruptive influence on other children in Fort James, and that he should be moved out as soon as possible. Discussed possibility of digs/bed and breakfast type placement, but it was asserted by Dominic Burke that such a placement would not meet an obligation under Section 103 (CYPA). See attached form WC/10/10, dated 27.1.81, for summary of position to date.</p> <p><b>SND 466 S.W.</b></p>
16.2.81	<p><u>A.M.</u> - Phone-call from <b>FJ 5</b> asking that a meeting be convened urgently because of events over the week-end involving <b>HIA 60</b>.</p> <p><u>P.M.</u> - Meeting at Fort James, involving myself, <b>SND 468 S.S.W. FJ 5</b> and various members of the caring staff at Fort James. It transpired that <b>HIA 60</b> had become increasingly aggressive to members of staff over the week-end, and had disrupted other children to the extent that there had been a real possibility of a violent confrontation. <b>FJ 5</b> re-iterated his view that <b>HIA 60</b> should be removed immediately, and observed that his general behaviour was beginning to threaten the capacity of the home to provide adequate care and protection for the other children. Members of staff recounted versions of several incidents over the week-end, of which they felt <b>HIA 60</b> was the instigator. There was another discussion of alternatives, in which the agreements made at the Case Review of 28.1.81 were cited as the only possible arrangement for the present. It was agreed that <b>HIA 60</b> would have to be referred to the P.S.W. for Residential and Field Work for further decisions. <b>FJ 5</b> accepted this, with reluctance.</p> <p><b>SND 466 S.W.</b></p>
24.2.81	<p><b>SND 468</b> informed me that, following discussions with the relevant P.S.W., it had been decided that a Training School Order would not be a viable proposition in this case (principally in view of <b>HIA 60</b>'s age), nor were there alternative residential possibilities. <b>SND 119 S.S.W.</b> had made some inquiries to Tara Lodge in Belfast, but this had come to nothing). <b>HIA 60</b> could therefore remain in Fort James, with the clear stipulation that <b>FJ 5</b> in the event of any further threat to either the other children or to members of staff, could use his discretion to involve the police.</p> <p><b>SND 466 S.W.</b></p>
25.2.81	<p>Saw <b>HIA 60</b> at Fort James, and delivered the ultimatum that the police would be involved in the event of further serious misconduct by him. He initially reacted with considerable aggression, blaming that he had been victimised by members of staff, <b>FJ 5</b> in particular. I tried to point out to him the consequences of further disruption in Fort James, indicating that he stood to lose out on (a) his educational possibilities - he has recently been attending the College of Technology regularly (b) his chance of getting a flat - in the event of his discharge from care on his eighteen birthday he could</p>

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD  
LONDONDERRY LITAVADY & SPRABANE DISTRICT

C A S E   R E P O R T

NAME: **HIA 60** ..... CASE CATEGORY  
ADDRESS: .....

DATE	CASE DETAILS:- Visitors, Reports ETC.,
25.2.81	<u>Cont'd.</u>  apply to the N.I.H.E. for A1 (emergency) statue for a flat. <b>HIA 60</b> appeared to accept this, and ended the interview still protesting his own innocence, but promising good behaviour. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
27.2.81	<b>SND 250</b> called at the office this morning. Lengthly discussion about <b>HIA 60</b> and recent events, following the lines of many similar discussions with <b>SND 250</b> in the past. She also expressed some concern about <b>SND 135</b> , whose behaviour she sees as continually troublesome. Requested that <b>HIA 60</b> put her in contact with the Educational Psychologist. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
3.3.81	<b>HIA 60</b> called at the office. Query re: entry fee for O-level examinations (See attached memo (13.3.81) to <b>SND 468</b> S.S.W.). Otherwise appears to be coping reasonably well. Now living more or less permanently in the flat at Fort James. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
18.3.81	<b>HIA 60</b> called at the office. Spending quite a lot of time at home at present. Not happy about living in the flat at Fort James, but would appear to be coping well. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
1.4.81	Review in Fort James. See attached form WC/10/10 for summoning. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
9.4.81	<b>SND 250</b> called at the office. Has seen quite a lot of <b>HIA 60</b> recently, and feels that he is applying himself reasonably well to <b>SND 135</b> levels. Completely discounted any possibility of a return home. <b>SND 135</b> has apparently settled down recently. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
14.4.81	<b>HIA 60</b> called at the office, where he completed a housing application form. Now almost completely confined to the flat, where he would appear to be coping satisfactorily. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
29.4.81	Attached memo to N.I.H.E. (Waterside). <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
1.5.81	Attached A2 recommendation to Dominic Burke, P.S.W. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
20.5.81	Review in Riverview. See attached WC/10/10 for case summary. <b>SND 466</b> S.W.
21.5.81	<b>HIA 60</b> has been offered a bungalow at <b>SND 468</b> Creggan. Called at the office and informed that he intends to accept the offer. Feels that examinations have gone quite well, and looks forward to settling down in new flat. Intends to move in as soon as essential repairs are carried out.