

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 320

Witness Name: HIA 320

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

## WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 320

I, HIA 320 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] and lived at home with my parents, [REDACTED] and my brothers and sisters. I have [REDACTED] brothers and one sister and I am the [REDACTED] child of the family. We lived in our own house near [REDACTED]. My father worked in a hotel and my mother was a housewife. My father drank heavily and he wasn't very nice to my mother. She had to struggle with the house and she suffered a lot.
2. My mother used to beat me when I lived at home. I was thin as a child and I suffered a lot from allergies. I also used to wet the bed a lot so she probably viewed me as a weak child.
3. I used to sell newspapers to earn money because my father drank and I used to give the money to my mother. I also shoplifted and gave her some money made from that as well. My mother had to go to court once because I was caught shoplifting. She told the Judge that she could not cope with me and with what I was doing so they put me on remand at St Patrick's Training School in or around the [REDACTED].

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St Patrick's Training School , Belfast [REDACTED]

4. At St Pat's there was a daily routine. I think we got up at 8 o'clock and went down for breakfast and we were allowed to smoke even though we were underage. Then we went to school at nine o'clock. My teacher was called **BR 87** and he was a nice man although I believe he was a drinker. He was nice but I was too aggressive in class and he would not teach me. Sometimes instead I would help the cleaner, **STP 77** clean the corridors. He was [REDACTED] as far as I can remember. I remember that there was a TV room and a table tennis table and a small snooker table that we were allowed to use.
5. I slept in a dormitory at first but later on the dormitories were partitioned off and all the boys got their own rooms. I cannot remember when this happened. The food was okay and was better than the bare minimum that you received in borstal. I do not recall seeing any Social Workers and Probation was not really a big thing then so I have no memory of ever seeing a Probation Officer.
6. I received visits from my mother when I was in St Pat's as my father was working at the time. My mother came up when she could as she had to keep the family going. As time went on I was able to get home leave at the weekend but I did not always go home as my home life was so unhappy. I would sometimes abscond at the weekend but I would always end up back at St Pat's either by returning voluntarily or the police catching me. The Brothers gave you gym shorts to wear if you ran away to try to deter you from running away again.
7. There were a few members of staff who were a bit vicious in the way they treated the boys. I remember that they would have belted us at times. The names that I remember are **SPT 2** who was a bit of a bully, and **STP 78** **STP 78** They were both housemasters. St Pat's was a strange lonely place and some of the staff were not very nice. If you did something wrong then they would slap you or stop your weekend parole. **BR 20** hit a friend of mine called **STP 79** and I remember he took him out of the dining hall and he beat him with a strap. There was a lot of violence in the place and people got slapped and punched. **BR 4** was a quiet big man but he would have whacked

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you too. BR 46 was a strict man but he was fair although he left fairly early after I was sent to St Pat's. I recall one occasion when he smacked me on my face for smoking a cigarette. There was frequent bullying going on and I ended up becoming a bully myself. There was a tier system between the boys and I was able to handle myself but I hate myself for that today.

8. I remember that we were taken to Lisburn Swimming Pool for swimming lessons. There was a member of staff and his name was DL 137. I do not know his surname but he was a DL 137 and he was just always called DL 137. There were two DL 137 and DL 137 looked after the boys in the evenings and took them to the pool as well as being employed as a DL 137. DL 137 kept putting his hand down my swimming pants and I really didn't understand what was going on because I was so young. As the weeks went on I started to understand a bit more. Back at St Pat's, he came up to me and he offered me cigarettes to go into the swimming pool to have sex with him but I refused.
9. He was always at me and he would corner me sometimes and let on to jokingly wrestle but I was uncomfortable with this and I was afraid of him. I believe that later he was on trial for assaulting some young people. I think he was convicted for sexual offences. I saw him on occasion wrestling with other boys in the home but we never discussed it between ourselves or reported any incidents to staff. There was a stigma attached to that type of behaviour and everyone felt that there was no point in reporting it to staff in the home as they would not have listened to us.
10. I saw DL 137 once in later years on Tate's Avenue near the Lisburn Road and I confronted him about what he had done to me. I don't know what year that was but it was in or around the late 1990's. He just said that his head was away. I've always thought about him sexually assaulting me but I've never wanted to talk about it before.
11. In or around [REDACTED] I was placed at Lisnevin Assessment Centre, Newtownards for six weeks. I was transferred from there back to St Patrick's

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Training School. I absconded from St Patrick's in [REDACTED] I was out of the home for six months until I was caught by the police in [REDACTED] and sent to borstal in Millisle.

Millisle Borstal [REDACTED]

12. [REDACTED]

13. [REDACTED]

Life after care

14. [REDACTED]

15. I would have to say I was a troubled young man. I was very afraid of things probably because my childhood wasn't so good. I think it now affects me in real life and I am trying to deal with it. I suffer from stress and I suppose anger and depression. I should have had counselling when I was younger but there was no one you could speak to about it at that time.

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16. My father died about [REDACTED] My mother suffers from [REDACTED] and is in a nursing home in Northern Ireland. I keep in contact with one brother who lives in [REDACTED] but I don't see my other siblings very often.
17. I married when I was [REDACTED] years old. We were married for [REDACTED] years and we had [REDACTED] children but my wife and I are no longer together. My children now range in age from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] years old. I have maintained a good relationship with all of them. I was involved in low level crime throughout my marriage, mainly theft, burglary and criminal damage. I spent periods of time in and out of many prisons both in Northern Ireland and England. During August 2000 I was arrested for assaulting a police officer and criminal damage. I moved to [REDACTED] to live with my brother.
18. I went to [REDACTED] in 2000 and thought I would leave Northern Ireland to stay out of trouble. I met a girl in 2001 and we have been together since then. We have one daughter who is [REDACTED] years old and I try my best to provide for her. I have stayed out of trouble since meeting her and I now live a very settled life. I am working as a [REDACTED] because even at St Pat's I was always good with my hands and because I didn't want to be signing on the dole my whole life.
19. I still continue to suffer from depression and the after effects of being in care. I have good days and bad days.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed HIA 320

Dated 11/04/15

ST. PATRICK'S TRAINING SCHOOL TS/7

RETURN FOR QUARTER ENDED 31st March, [REDACTED]

(TO BE FURNISHED TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE FOLLOWING QUARTER)

NUMBERS AT END OF LAST QUARTER (BROUGHT FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS RETURN)

"COMMITTED" CASES IN SCHOOL 85
"COMMITTED" CASES BOARDED OUT 1
DETAINEEs IN SCHOOL (SECT 73)
"NON-COMMITTED" CASES
IN HOSPITAL
ABSCONDED 23
ON LICENCE (DETAINEE AND COMMITTED CASES) 56

NUMBERS AT END OF THIS QUARTER

NUMBER FOR WHICH SCHOOL IS CERTIFIED 149
"COMMITTED" CASES IN SCHOOL 92
"COMMITTED" CASES BOARDED OUT 1
DETAINEEs IN SCHOOL (SECT 73)
"NON-COMMITTED" CASES
IN HOSPITAL
ABSCONDED 22
ON LICENCE (DETAINEE AND COMMITTED CASES) 53

Table with 7 columns: Admissions and Discharges, etc During Quarter, Name, Regd No, Date, Name, Regd No, Date. Rows include Absconded, Returned from absconding, Sent to hospital, and Returned from hospital.

DATE 5/4/ [REDACTED]

SIGNED

BR 95 [REDACTED]