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HIA REF 347

Witness Name: HIA 347

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 347

I HIA 347 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] I was detained in St Patrick's Training School Belfast in or around [REDACTED] as a result of my involvement in crime and non-attendance at school. I was [REDACTED] years old at the time and at the beginning was in the Junior Wing of the school.

St Patrick's Training School Belfast [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2. During my time at St Patrick's I was sexually abused by a member of staff I knew as DL 137. He was about 5'7", stocky build, around 30 years old, black hair which was long at the neck and shaggy at the front. He may have had a moustache and he had a hairy chest and tattoos on his arms. I am now aware that his name was DL 137. The first time he abused me was within a matter of days of being in the Training School. It was a weekend and it was not one of his working days. He asked me to help him with something and brought me through the kitchen to a room at the rear. He gave me a cigarette and the next thing he was lying on some sort of sheet on the floor. I do not know how this happened. He was feeling his penis over his clothing

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and then he took it out of his trousers. His penis was erect and he started to masturbate.

3. He told me to lie beside him which I did and he took off his sweatshirt. His chest was pretty hairy and his face had stubble. He lay down again and took my hand and put it on his penis. He was pulling me close to him and trying to kiss me. There was a bad smell of tobacco and I pulled away. He wanted me to masturbate him but I kept pulling away. I was holding his penis and he was making the movements. Eventually he ejaculated and then he got up and wiped himself with a handkerchief or something. Everything became a panic then and he got dressed and ushered me through a door which led to the back courtyard.
4. The next time it happened was in early [REDACTED] when I was in the Senior side of the school. It was a weekend as far as I remember and he told me to meet him at the back of the kitchen. It was after teatime and I was not sure what to do but I went anyway. He took me to the room we had been to previously. He stripped off all his clothes and he smelled as though he had just had a bath. He tried to cuddle me and I backed off. He produced a cigarette for me and asked me about a girlfriend and why I was in St Patrick's. He also said that he was going to get married soon. I then remember that he helped me to take my clothes off and we masturbated each other. I ejaculated but he did not and then he masturbated himself until he came. Everything was a panic again and we got dressed and he gave me an already opened packet of cigarettes before I left.
5. The next incident took place at a swimming pool outside Belfast somewhere. It was not at the pool in the St Patrick's complex as it was at a larger pool. We went by minibus and it was during the day at the weekend. [REDACTED] DL 137 did not go with us from the school but just happened to be there.
6. He approached me when we were in the swimming pool and told me to go to the changing rooms and that he would meet me there. I went to the changing rooms and waited for about 20 minutes. He arrived and went into a cubicle

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and beckoned me to come in. He took off his swimming pants and sat on a wooden bench and I sat beside him. He just chatted away about general stuff and we were touching each other. He told me to bend down and he put his erect penis into my mouth. I nearly choked and did not want things to go any further. He stood up, put his swimming pants back on and walked off. I composed myself and went back to the pool.

7. After this incident I avoided any contact with him as best I could and I knew that he would not approach me if I was with someone else. The last occasion anything happened was when I approached him for money. I wanted to go to [REDACTED] on the train and I did not have any money. One day after lunch I tried to make conversation with him but he did not want to know me. A couple of days later I saw him in the kitchen and we were alone. We went to the same room as before and I asked for the train money. He told me to tell no-one and I said I would not. We both took our clothes off and I noticed that his penis was erect. We were both naked and he came around the back of me and was rubbing against me. He penetrated my anus with his finger and then he tried to put his penis into my anus. He pushed me over and could not put it in. He pulled me upright and his penis was wedged between my thighs. He made body movements and eventually he ejaculated. I remember that I was so disgusted with myself and remember asking him for money. I got dressed and he gave me a £5 note.
8. That was the last time anything happened between us. There seemed to be a mutual hatred for each other after that incident. I have had problems throughout my adolescence and adult life which I believe were contributed to by the sexual abuse perpetrated against me at St Patrick's Training School. I have received psychiatric help and see my Community Mental Health Nurse regularly. I have also had problems with alcohol.
9. I do not believe I would be able to meet with the Inquiry Legal Team to talk about the abuse as it is still too upsetting to me and my health could not cope with it. I made a statement to police on 29th November 1993 setting out what happened to me.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signature **HIA 347**

Dated 4-3-15

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Telephone: Kircubbin 261

De La Salle Boys' Home,
Kircubbin,
Newtownards,
Co. Down.

Re: **HIA 347**

HIA 347 was admitted to De La Salle Boys' Home on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED], at the request of the Probation Service. The main reason for seeking residential accommodation would appear to be truanting from school and following from that stealing, aggressive behaviour and generally disruptive.

After admission **HIA 347** settled down quickly and despite his nervous disposition (for which medication was often prescribed prior to admission and when he was home on holidays) he did not seem upset by his change of environment. He likes to give the impression of being 'a hard man' type and would act in this way if he thought he would get away with it. He can and does influence younger children and use them for his own ends. He will take advantage of every situation and does not treat anything seriously. He pays little heed to advice or encouragement and will try to see a funny side to every remark. In school he again tries to disrupt and will play 'the fool' just to get things going. He lies easily and will go to any lengths to deny involvement even when the facts prove otherwise.

Despite the above remarks **HIA 347** is not unmanageable. It will take a lot of patient work and perseverance with him and with the help of the structured environment in which he is living one would hope that some positive results will follow. He is not due to leave school until [REDACTED] and should the Court so decide we will be willing to have **HIA 347** here for that period when we will continue our efforts to impress on him what are normal and acceptable standards of behaviour and what is required of him if he is to make his way in later life and become a useful member of society.

Signed: **BR 1**
BR 1 - Manager