

HIA REF: 227

Witness Name: HIA 227

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 227

I, HIA 227, will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. I have [REDACTED] I am the third youngest in the family. The family moved back to Belfast in [REDACTED] and we lived in the [REDACTED] of Belfast.
2. My parents, [REDACTED] separated when I was still a young child and my father left the family home. I only saw him a couple of times a year after my parents separated. My mother developed a drink problem after the separation and this caused some problems at home.
3. I was taken into care when I was eleven or twelve years old. I was placed in [REDACTED] and I am still not aware of the reason why to this day. My older brother was [REDACTED] at the same time but the rest of the children stayed at home with my mother.

Terrace Hill Children's Home Belfast

4. I remember the day I was taken into care very clearly and I will never forget it. I was driven to the Home by a Social Worker and I had one small bag with one change of clothes. I believe I was in Terrace Hill for about [REDACTED] in total.
5. Terrace Hill was for both boys and girls and the age range of the children was from eleven to sixteen years old. I was one of the youngest children there. It was classed as a [REDACTED] there however there were never any problems with sectarianism. I attended [REDACTED] [REDACTED] but I was treated brilliantly and had lots of friends there. I visited my mother and family every other weekend.
6. A few months after I was placed in Terrace Hill, I was physically abused by the head care worker called **SPT 122**. I had been at school and telephoned the home pretending that I had run away. By the time I got back to the home, **SPT 122** had already reported me to the police as missing. As punishment, he brought me up to my room, took all the furniture out of my room, stripped me naked and beat me from top to bottom. He beat me full force with an open palm and it left red marks all over my body. I was afraid to tell anyone about it because I didn't think they would believe me. I ran away from the Home that night and went back to my family but my mother contacted Social Services to return me to Terrace Hill.
7. I eventually reported **SPT 122** to the police in early 2013 and he was interviewed by police. The PPS directed that there was not enough evidence to prosecute him. I spoke to police about the case and was informed that he denied even knowing me. This denial makes me angry because he knows exactly who I am. I believe that he would be in [REDACTED] now.
8. That was the only occasion that **SPT 122** physically abused me in Terrace Hill. After that incident, he avoided me as best he could. I never had any problems with other members of staff. I do not think they knew what was going on. I continually ran away away from Terrace Hill after that incident. I was

getting into trouble and I was placed in St. Pat's under a Training School Order when I was [REDACTED]

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

9. I now believe I was sent to St Patrick's under a care and supervision order for [REDACTED]. I recollect that I was taken initially to Rubane House but refused to go inside and was then taken to St Patrick's. I cannot really recall my time there because I believe I absconded and spent most of the time outside St Patrick's. I certainly do not remember any abuse at that time.
10. I returned to St Patrick's in [REDACTED] as I received a Training School Order for a period of one to three years after I was convicted of burglary and theft charges. Although the order was for a maximum of three years I was there longer than this and it may have been because my home life was so unstable due to my mother drinking.
11. I was placed in a chalet on the grounds rather than the main building. **SPT 53** [REDACTED] were the Housefather and Housemother and they were really nice people. I felt safe when I was in the chalet. There were dormitories as well as two single rooms in the chalet and I slept in one of the single rooms. The daily routine was that I got up at about half past seven, washed, dressed, had breakfast and went to the school on site. There were about fifteen boys in my class and we moved from class to class for different lessons. There was only one Brother, called **BR 86** who taught classes and the rest of the teachers were civilian staff. There was no real education and the teaching was very basic. There was never any homework given out. After school there were activities until around five o'clock then free time until tea was served at six. In the evenings, the boys went back to the chalets and played football or pool if they wanted. There was also a gym on site which I went to from time to time. The boys then went to bed around half past nine or ten o'clock. During the summer, we went down to a holiday home in Waterfoot.

12. During the week there was a point scheme for good work and good behaviour. If I received enough points I was allowed to go home to my family for the entire weekend. I always had enough points but sometimes I chose to stay at the chalet instead of going home because my mother was drinking heavily. I did not see my brother [REDACTED] during my time at St Patrick's and I believe our whole family was only together once in three or four years. I never remember seeing a Social Worker more than once during my time at St Patrick's.
13. There was a lot of bullying during my time at St. Patrick's. The housemasters would shout at you and mentally torture you although there was no physical abuse from them. It was a very strict regime and they used the leather strap from time to time. There was lots of bullying from the older boys and they would slap me and verbally abuse me. It was hell at times because I was one of the youngest boys at the School. I never considered telling the staff what was going on because I thought it would only make things worse if the boys found out I had told anyone.
14. I had been at St Patrick's for around [REDACTED] years when I was abused by [REDACTED]. His name was [REDACTED] DL 137 and I reported him to the police around 1997. He was convicted of abusing me and three other boys and he received a suspended sentence. DL 137 only abused me once but he was abusing other boys. He was playing table tennis with me and then asked me to go into a room facing the staff canteen. I did not know what he wanted but I went with him anyway. He started to feel my penis through my trousers for about five minutes and then he pulled his trousers and underpants down to his knees. He told me to masturbate him and I noticed that he had an erection. I was so frightened but I did what he asked because he was a member of staff. I masturbated him until he ejaculated and then he cleaned himself with an old pair of blue overalls which were hanging up in the room. He gave me fifty pence and told me not to tell anyone what had happened.
15. I left the room because I was in a panic and was afraid he was going to try or suggest doing something else. On a few occasions after that incident he

suggested that we both go back to that room. I knew exactly what he meant and I refused and tried to avoid him as much as I could. I never reported it to anyone because I was afraid that no one would believe the word of a child over that of a staff member. I think he got fired because of it. The housemasters had to know what he was doing because all the kids in the place knew and were talking about it.

16. The only other person who abused me at St Patrick's was [REDACTED] BR 4 [REDACTED] He was [REDACTED] He frequently felt my backside through my trousers and he did this no matter where you met him or whether people were there as well. I saw him do this on numerous occasions to other boys. I believe he must have been getting a sexual thrill from his behaviour. I told police about it at the same time as I made my statement about [REDACTED] DL 137 [REDACTED] He was not prosecuted and he died in [REDACTED]
17. I was released to the care of my mother on [REDACTED] but this was revoked and I was readmitted to St Patrick's in [REDACTED] I was released to live with my sister on [REDACTED] and apart from a short time on remand I never went back to St Patrick's.

Life after Care

18. When I left St Patrick's I continued to get into trouble and eventually I was sent to Hydebank Young Offenders Centre. I recall once that I was called as a witness to an adjudication hearing and [REDACTED] SPT 122 [REDACTED] was on the visiting panel. He recognised me immediately and smiled at me even though he denied to the police that he knew me. I assume he has a significant role within Social Services if he was a member of the visiting panel.
19. I turned to alcohol to block out what had happened to me both in Terrace Hill and St Patrick's. I am an alcoholic but I am trying to get help for my addiction. I was married in [REDACTED] but it broke down ten years later due to my alcohol abuse. I have an amicable relationship with my ex wife and I see my [REDACTED] children. I have [REDACTED] I did discuss some of the abuse with my former wife but my

children know nothing about what went on. My children are grown up now and have done well for themselves. Parenting was hard for me because of the things which happened to me when I was just a child. I still get flashbacks and take medication for depression and post traumatic stress disorder. I did try to go to counselling but I only went once. I could not even speak to the counsellor and I feel that I am not ready yet to open up to a counsellor about my experiences. I remember seeing DL 137 once in Crumlin Road gaol in 1986. Seeing him brought it all back to me and I turned to alcohol again upon my release. I am not working at present and receive benefits.

20. I want an apology from St Patrick's, the Catholic Church and the State. I also believe I deserve compensation for what I suffered.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

HIA 227

Dated 6/5/15

NEW ADDRESS:

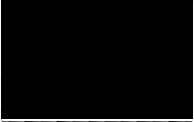


REMAND AND SHORT-TERM COMMITTALS

Register No.



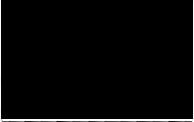
File No. W.



Name

HIA 227

DOB



Address



Height

4' 7"

Hair

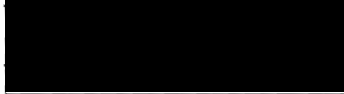
Fair

Eyes

Brown

Complexion

Dist Marks



Previous School

C/34/79

Rel Den

Build

Small

Reason for Remand/Committal

Burglary

Court Appearances



Sect

51

Court

Belfast

Appeal Disallowed/Affirmed

To Hospital

Returned from Hospital

To Lisnevin

Returned from Lisnevin

Disposal

6 mth Sentence in Y.O.C.

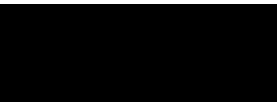
Date



(same day)

(Got bail pending Appeal on Sentence same day)

Father's Name



Empl

Address

Unknown

Recomm
[Redacted]

New Address: [Redacted]

COMMITTALS

HIA 227

Surname Reg No. *9/34/79* File No. W.
 Other Names Rel. Denom. *R.C.* DOB. *26.4.46* Place of Birth
 Address Previous School/Emp. *St. Peter's Sec School*
 Admitted. Age on Comm. A. Det Expires 9th Birthday. Supervision Ends
 Height *4'7"* Hair *Dark* Eyes *Brown* Complexion Build *Small* Dist Marks
 Reason for Committal. *Theft by Stealing* Court *Belfast Juv* Sect of Act. *W 0 1 74*

To Lisnevin From Lisnevin To Lisnevin From Lisnevin
 (Assess)..... (Assess)..... (SP Unit)..... (SP Unit).....
 Bail (Pending Appeal)..... Appeal Heard..... Decision.....

Previous Appearances	Date	Court	Reason	Result
	[Redacted]	Belfast Juv.	Burglary & Theft	T.S.O. 1-3 yrs.
Re-Committals (In School)	[Redacted]	Belfast	T.A. D.A. - Eq. for theft	T.S.O. 1-3 yrs.
	[Redacted]	Belfast	Theft	T.S.O.

To Hospital (Name) Reason Date Returned
 Licensed. To Mother to commence Secondary School [Redacted]
 License Revoked. Reason
 Re-Licensed. To his sister to commence [Redacted]
 Final Discharge [Redacted]

Father's Name [Redacted]
 Mother's Name [Redacted]
 Guardian's Name Address Empl.
 Change of Address 1 2 3
 4 5 6

[REDACTED]

Committed :	[REDACTED]
Winevin :	2
Prison :	1
Remands :	20
Absconders :	4 + 36

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Committed :	19 + 51
Winevin :	2
Prison :	1
Remands :	20
Absconders :	4 + 36

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HIA 227

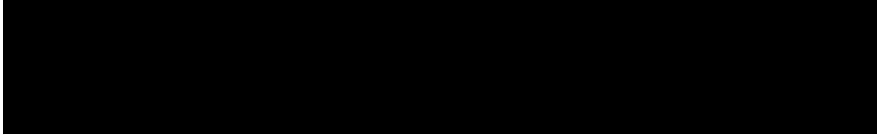
Knocked tea-pot round chest
searched - [unclear] - [unclear]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Week 37 (796-110)



HIA 227

} collision in pool.

point to R.V.H.

3 rattles each,

- 1. forehead.
- 2. on chin.

HIA 227