

HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY 1922 – 1995

Statement of SPT125

Module 7 – St Patrick’s Training School

Date: 6th August 2015

10 AUG 2015

SPT125 will say as follows;

1. I was in St Patrick’s between [redacted] and [redacted] I was [redacted] when I arrived.
2. Initially I had a bed in one of the large dormitories. Generally it was BR26 who settled us in. After lights out you never saw BR26. There was a civilian night watchman who patrolled the dormitory during the night.
3. There would have been a bit of messing about, slugging, horseplay after lights out but it invariably settled down very quickly. I don't recall ever witnessing the nightwatchman having to administer any form of punishment. Similarly, I have no recollection of the Brothers ever being called back into the dormitory or of them visiting the dormitory/taking boys out of the dormitory after lights out.
4. I would have been very close to BR26. I'm not sure how the relationship developed but I do recall that he was the Brother who admitted me. I often wandered about the grounds talking to BR 26. There was a real closeness between us. I was [redacted] and perhaps he recognised something of himself in me in that regard. We chatted about all sorts of things, current affairs and how I should be conducting myself. I distinctly remember him telling me to be myself and not to be drawn into groups or pacts. I never ever felt uncomfortable with BR26. He was a bit like having a big brother.
5. BR26 did come round the dormitory before lights out. He would check in on people. I just felt that was his way of keeping in touch with everyone.
6. When [redacted] were built I moved out of the dormitory and into [redacted] with [redacted]. I had been studying [redacted] in [redacted] class. He taught a [redacted] but I sat in a desk to the side and studied, under his supervision I suppose. After I [redacted] and the Brothers made arrangements for me [redacted] in [redacted] were I did. Part of the reason for my move to [redacted] was to facilitate me with a single room and some privacy for [redacted].
7. BR86 [redacted] also stayed in [redacted]. He was brilliant and I had great fun spending time with him. In the evenings when the [redacted] had left [redacted] I often sat up with BR86 [redacted] watching Match of the Day or the news. I'm shocked to hear that allegations have been made against him. I often sat next to him on the sofa, watching TV, lights out, totally [redacted].

innocently. I just don't believe that he could have abused children. As I reflect on it I think I would have been mature enough to have noted if anything was going on in that regard.

8. I wasn't ever subject to corporal punishment in St Patrick's. I never witnessed anyone else being the subject of the strap or cane and I never heard any talk about it. I wasn't even aware that you could be strapped or caned. The school seemed so different from what I was used to I didn't even think that ~~rod~~ existed. I had experience of witnessing and being on the receiving end of the strap in St Patrick's was not like that at all. Perhaps that was because I was on the Senior side, but that is my clear recollection.

9. I didn't have much dealing with BR94

10. I knew BR83 His name always stood out but my abiding memory of him is a man who was constantly smoking and who looked as if he could keel over at any moment.

11. I had no real dealings with

12. I recall BR1 but he was in and I had no dealings with him.

13. I actually think I stayed on longer than I had too. I believe that I was entitled to leave at some stage through my final year but that BR26 persuaded me to stay on and The fact that I stayed shows that I must have been comfortable there.

14. I never absconded but there were some who absconded all the time. There were just different types of people. In my spare time I read. Most others played sports or messed about. The Brothers arranged for me to go from Tyrone sitting down beside me one night asking me to wanted to steal a car and get back home. There were just different mentalities. — as they

15. There would have been an element of bullying but you got to know who the main players in the school were very quickly. As advised by BR26 I didn't get involved. I kept my head down and kept myself to myself.

16. I never saw any sign of sexual activity among the other boys nor did I ever hear any talk about it.

17. We showered with swimming trunks on.

18. BR26 and I became real friends. He came to my wedding and always exchanged Christmas cards etc. When I was in Belfast I would have called to St Patrick's to visit BR26 in It was on one of these visits, about 3 months ago, that he revealed to me that he has been facing allegations. Knowing the man, both now and then, I was totally shocked. I know he would simply not be capable of it. Furthermore, I know him as a man of

principle and if he had known that someone else was perpetrating such abuse he would have done something about it.

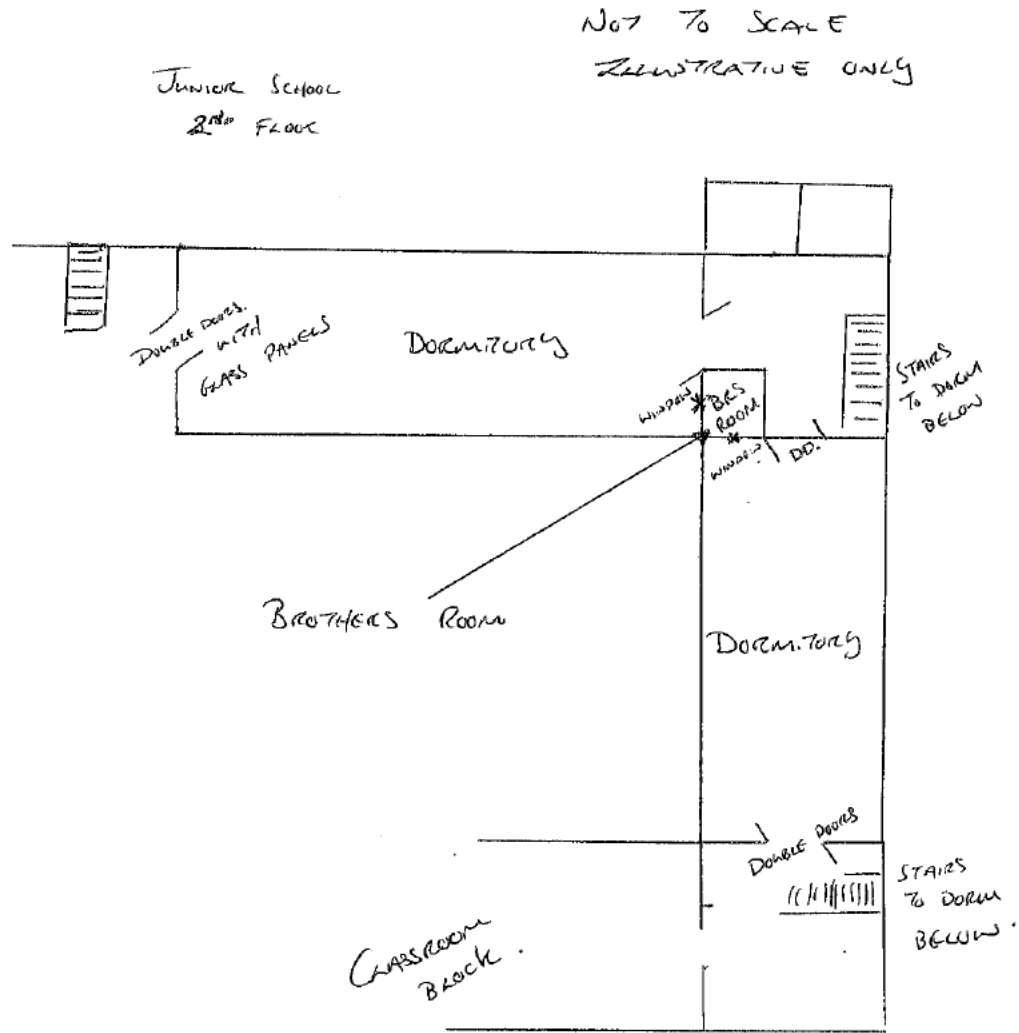
19. I owe a lot to ^{BR26} and the De La Salle Order. They have both had a big influence on my life.

20. worked in After I had finished she encouraged me to apply for a I did just that and I worked in for the best part of years before

SPT125

Signed:

Dated: 7 August 2015



THERE WERE 2 DORMITORIES ON JUNIOR SIDE.

1 ON 1ST FLOOR + 1 ON 2ND FLOOR ABOVE + BELOW EACH OTHER

THE ARRANGEMENT WAS REPLICATED ON THE SENIOR SIDE.

1 NIGHT SUPERVISOR PATROLLED ALL 4 DORMITORIES AND
 COULD ACCESS THEM ALL ON PATROL BY WALKING
 THROUGH THEM AND UP + DOWN STAIRS TO NEXT
 LEVEL.

BR94

FROM DESCRIPTION BY