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HIA REF: 384

Witness Name: HIA 384

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

## WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 384

I, HIA 384 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] and my birth name was HIA 384 I lived with my family in [REDACTED] initially and we moved to [REDACTED] when I was still a baby. I lived with my parents, my two brothers [REDACTED] my two sisters [REDACTED] and my half sister [REDACTED]. My brother [REDACTED] was profoundly deaf and autistic. My mother was an alcoholic and I now believe that his difficulties may have stemmed from my mother drinking throughout her pregnancy. She contracted rubella and this may also be linked to his disability.
2. I believe that my parents separated during February 1984 after the family moved to [REDACTED] and my father started a relationship with a woman called [REDACTED]. They lived together in an estate called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] beat me repeatedly. I was beaten with a belt and kicked and suffered horrendous abuse at her hands. My brother [REDACTED] was boarding at [REDACTED] in Belfast during the week but he also was beaten when he returned home at weekends.
3. I recall being sexually abused by my father. He would take me to a field where

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he grew vegetables and he would make me fondle his private parts. This happened regularly. He indulged in this behaviour with other children present.

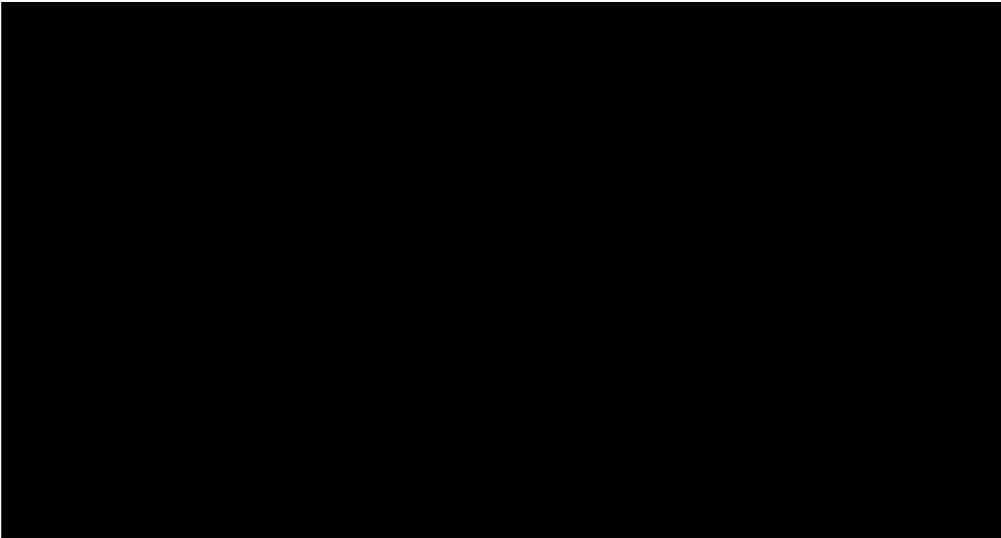
4. My mother lived in her own house as the family lived with my father. We did not live with her because she drank excessively and had a promiscuous lifestyle. She used to force us to perform sexual activities with her friends for money. She was prosecuted for gross indecency against three of my siblings at Enniskillen Court in or around July 1987 and she received a two year sentence suspended for three years. The family were made the subject of a Care Order because of the abuse which we were enduring. I moved from the family home initially to [REDACTED] which is a short term care unit. We moved on several occasions in and out of care homes to our home in [REDACTED] but eventually I was placed in [REDACTED]

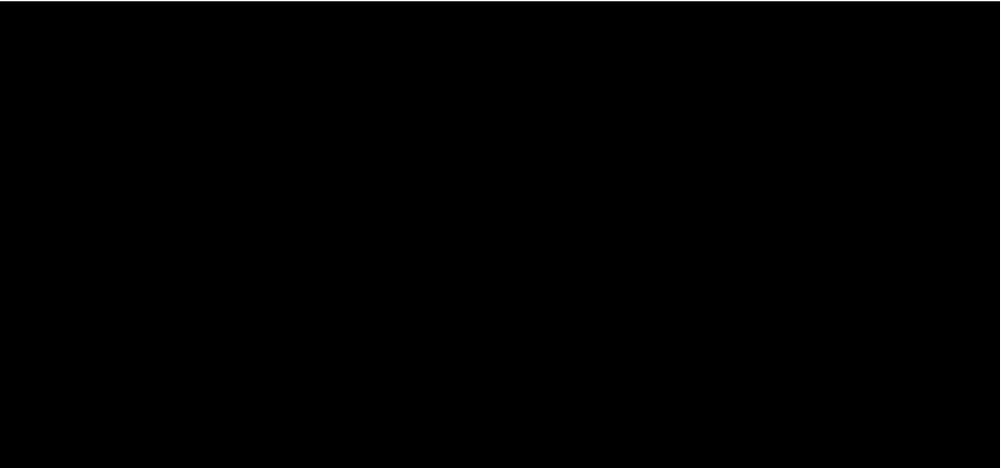
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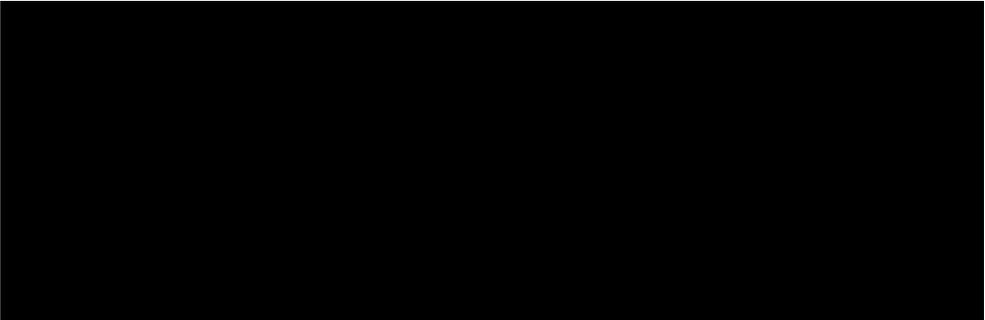
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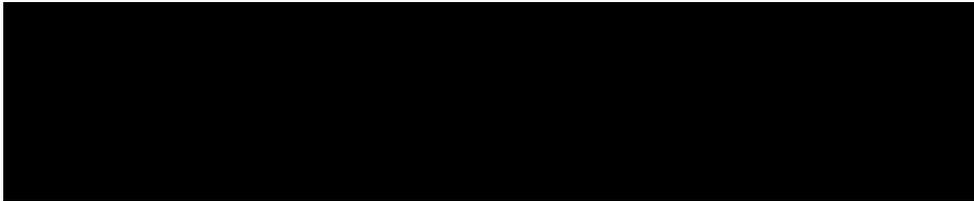
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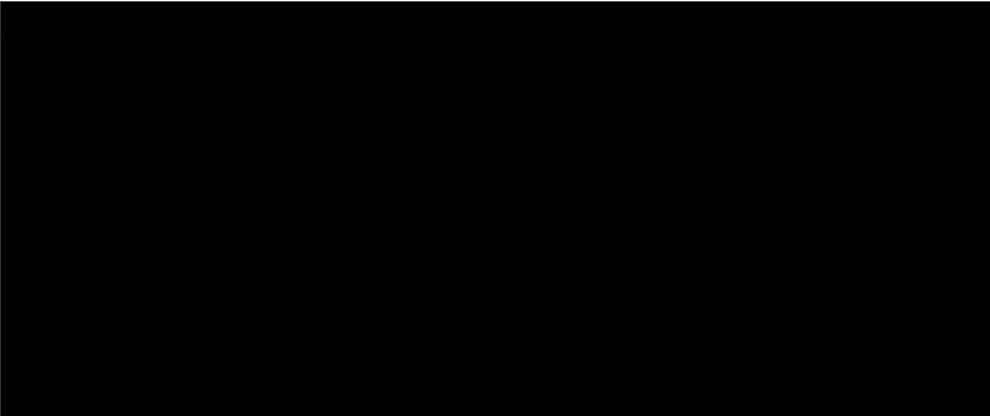
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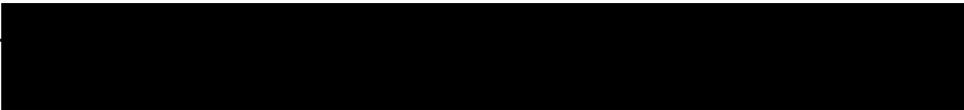
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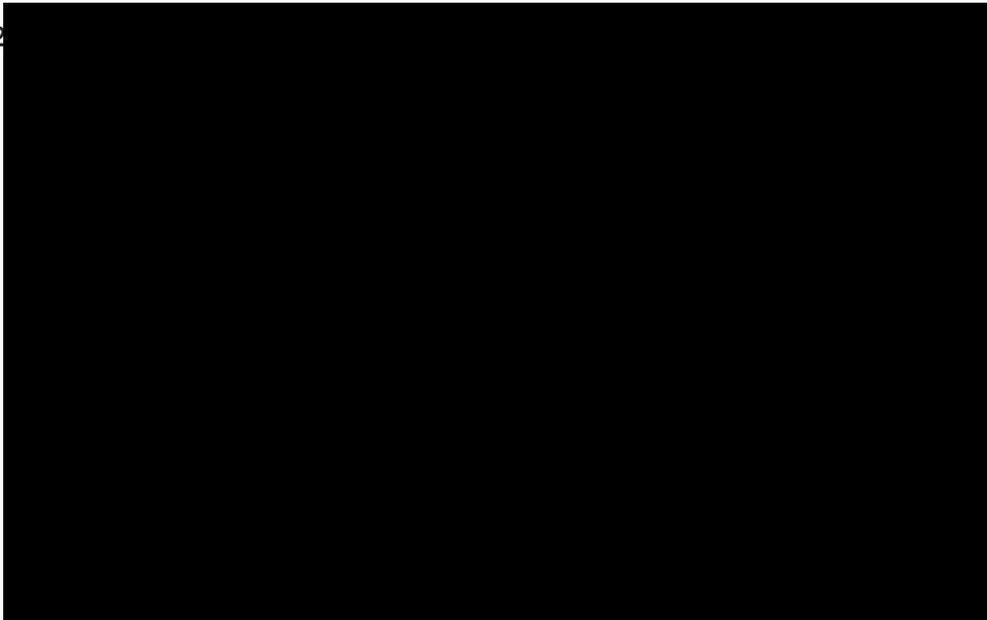
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St Patrick's Training School , Belfast (17 September 1993 – 20 December 1993)  
& (17 January 1994 – August 1995)

14. When I arrived at St Pat's I was placed in the Reception Unit. There was another boy in the Reception Unit called **SPT 50** and he was a violent and abusive bully. He bullied me on a daily basis along with others and all the staff who had direct contact with me were aware that it was taking place. This included the teaching staff. He punched and kicked me, pushed me into walls or onto the floor and verbally abused me. He abused me about my sexuality and called me "queer" and "faggot". He also used to steal toiletries, clothes and money from me.
15. The members of staff within the Unit were aware that this was going on and in my opinion they provoked the assaults. They made me sit at the same table as the people abusing me or left me on my own with them. It was either deliberate provocation or total incompetence. **SPT 13** was called **SPT 13** and he was unable to deal with the bullies. I complained to him frequently but he never took a firm line. He would admonish them with a mild rebuke and this non punishment only encouraged the bullies to continue their abuse.
16. On one occasion **SPT 50** attacked me with a hammer during a woodwork class. He threw the hammer at me and it just missed me and the **SPT 5** who was called **SPT 5** but he did not receive any punishment at all. He was able to carry on bullying me and other people followed suit. He was the

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ring leader in all of it. The situation was intolerable and was one of the reasons that I kept running away.

17. On another occasion, I was walking up the stairs and was sprayed in the eyes with aerosol air fresheners by **SPT 50** and **SPT 51** and some others I cannot remember. This happened when I was about twelve or thirteen years old. I had to go to the nurse but there was no serious damage to my eyes. I was abused constantly in a variety of manners such as my school work being destroyed, being stabbed with pens and pencils and generally tortured beyond belief. My bed wetting recommenced and I was in a state of constant fear. This bullying continued throughout the time I was in the Reception Unit and also when I moved to Saul House in about July 1994. It also happened when I was placed in Slemish House. I was placed in Slemish House for close observation for three nights on 2 October 1993. An Interim Detention Order was granted on 18 October 1993 to enable me to begin a process of being phased back in to Bocombra Children's Home. I stayed overnight at Bocombra on 27 October 1993 and on 28 October 1993 I began a treatment programme for adolescent perpetrators of sexual abuse. I was then transferred from St Patrick's Training School to Bocombra Children's Home on 31 October 1993. However, I absconded once again from Bocombra on 29 November 1993 and was found by Garda in Dublin and was returned to St Patrick's Training School under a Place of Safety Order. This pattern of absconding continued for some time and eventually I was transferred to Slemish House which is the Close Observation Unit, a secure unit within St Patrick's.

18. I remember that I complained on several occasions to **SPT 52** **[REDACTED]** **[REDACTED]** for St Pat's Training School, and **SPT 53** who was **[REDACTED]**. Both men acknowledged that they were aware of my situation but as far as I am concerned they did little or nothing to alleviate it. The attitude appeared to be "what could they do about it". On one occasion I informed **SPT 52** that if he did not move me from Reception that I would call the police because I was not getting enough protection. I was moved about three weeks later to Saul House

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but the bullying still went on.

19. When I moved to Saul House I met a boy called **SPT 54**. He subjected me to horrendous rape on a daily basis over a period of approximately three months. **SPT 54** also bullied me but yet he was also getting bullied. I remember that the people in charge of the greenhouse garden area were called **SPT 55** and **SPT 56**. They saw **SPT 54** bully me and often sent him back to the Unit. I do not know if they advised the Unit staff of what was happening. I remember a specific day when **SPT 54** sexually assaulted me at the bushes near the greenhouses. **BR 37** actually watched him coming out of the bushes pulling up the zipper on the front of his trousers but he didn't do anything. It is my view that **BR 37** was paying **SPT 54** and actively encouraging him to sexually assault me. **SPT 54** was **BR 37** "golden boy" and I often saw him give **SPT 54** money after he had abused me. **SPT 57** a member of staff, asked me whether I wanted to make a statement to police. I think **SPT 52** came with me to the police station and took notes of what was said when I made my statement. I was not allowed to contact a solicitor for any advice.

20. I made a statement and **SPT 54** was arrested but because he was friends with all the young people in the Home in St. Patrick's they started bullying me even more to drop the charges against **SPT 54**. His best friend was called **SPT 58** **SPT 58** and he threatened me that the IRA would be contacted if the charges were not dropped. St Pat's had a number of boys detained for paramilitary offences and I believed the threat could be serious. I was transferred to Slemish House and the staff also brought a lot of pressure to bear on me to retract my statement. The pressure consisted of threats and constant conversations about the statement. I was treated as if I had done wrong and I was then bullied by **SPT 59** the local authority Social Worker, to drop the charges against **SPT 54** because he said "gay people do those things". **SPT 2** **SPT 2** the Head of Slemish House, would say these are lies and would make my life worse. I had to withdraw my complaint against my will.

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21. In or around September 1994, I decided to abscond along with my sister, [REDACTED] who was in Northern Ireland at the time. We went to the Republic of Ireland and eventually made our way to [REDACTED]. We were placed in a home but the authorities at St Pat's were contacted. Some staff members travelled to [REDACTED] and drove me back to St Pat's. I do not believe there were any court proceedings to authorise this. I was placed back in Slemish House.
22. Slemish House was a secure unit but there was still bullying even in that controlled environment. I was abused repeatedly by SPT 60 who was also a resident in Slemish House. I knew who he was because he had spent some time in Nazareth Lodge with my brother [REDACTED]. He verbally abused me every day about what had happened to me in the Reception Unit. He was extremely vicious in his insults. The staff could not control him at all and he was incredibly disruptive during classes and was very jealous of anyone who achieved any success with school work.
23. The teaching at St Pat's was basic. There were a number of people in the classroom and a large number of them had no interest in learning and were disruptive. This caused difficulties for anyone who did want to learn. The boys also had very differing levels of knowledge and there was no attempt to put pupils into a class more conducive to their particular academic standard. I believe that I could have had a better education if there had been more structure in the approach adopted by the staff.
24. The general regime within the units operated on a privilege scheme. The scheme was based around attaining a different colour and each colour had privileges attached to it. The lowest rank was black, followed by red, amber and green. Green was the highest rank and therefore had the most privileges. Essentially black was a punishment rank and there were no privileges and boys had to go to bed at 6pm. You were not allowed to keep your clothes in your

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room, there were no personal belongings allowed and you were denied any reading materials.

25. I remember that it always took me much longer to work my way to green status because I was always taken down the rankings for any infraction no matter how slight. I believe I was treated more harshly than other boys who made the same type of mistakes. I particularly recall that **SPT 3** Deputy Head of Slemish, took a perverse pleasure in reducing my status. He frequently built up my hopes that I would get enhanced status then deliberately misinterpreted incidents to justify not following through with his promises. He also called me "queer" many times and took pleasure in grabbing me by the throat and trailing me into the "time out" room.

26. I was at the beck and call of the staff in a vain effort to gain more privileges. I had to make cups of tea on demand, cook meals and clean the unit. The system was akin to slavery. I had never committed any crime but I was treated like a common criminal. I accept that I had a number of behavioural problems but these were caused by the environment I had to live in and despite my frequent complaints I received no help merely further punishment.

27. I distinctly recall writing about my concerns to my Social Worker, **SPT 59** I subsequently discovered that my post had been intercepted by **SPT 3** and **SPT 2** Head of Slemish House. They informed me that my complaints were lies and I was stripped of some of my privileges and given extra work to perform. My sister, **[REDACTED]** has since told me that she wrote to me frequently whilst I was at St Pat's. I trust what she says implicitly but I received very little correspondence from her. I can only assume that the post was also intercepted by staff within Slemish House.

28. In February 1995 I absconded again because I could not cope with the abuse. I

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made my way to the Republic of Ireland and contacted the authorities. I asked to stay there but the judge ordered I be returned to St Pat's. The abuse did not abate and in April 1995 I ran away during a trip to the swimming pool. I appealed to the courts to be allowed to remain there and there was a lengthy hearing. The judge ruled that I had to return but made recommendations in relation to my welfare and safety. The staff who gave evidence stated that they would try to comply but when I went back to St Pat's nothing changed.

29. I was returned to Slemish House and approximately one week after that I was taken to a police station as I wished to make a statement about sexual abuse I had suffered. I believe that I was taken to Grosvenor Road police station on Easter Sunday 1995 by **SPT 87**. I made a statement to police that I had been repeatedly sexually abused by three boys, namely: **SPT 61** **SPT 62** **SPT 62** and **SPT 63**

30. Approximately one week later I attended a meeting with the Directors of St Patrick's. The meeting was attended by **SPT 52** **SPT 87** **SPT 53** **SPT 53** **BR 37** and **BR 90**. I was obliged to stand throughout the meeting whilst being harangued by those present. I was accused of being a liar, a trouble maker and had fabricated my allegations. I found this to be a shattering experience as my attempts to highlight the abuse were being dismissed. At the end of the meeting I was taken back to Slemish House and was harangued in the same manner by the senior staff, namely **SPT 2** **SPT 3** **SPT 87** **SPT 87** and **SPT 88**. I was placed on black and remained on that rank for three months. I became very depressed and did not care what was going to happen next. I believe that I may have signed retraction statements in relation to the sexual abuse allegations but I cannot recall exactly given my low mood. If I did sign such statements it was only due to the pressure I had to endure.

31. In August 1995 I absconded again and returned to Dublin. Between August 1995 and January 1996 I absconded on four occasions. On each of these

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occasions I remained in the Republic of Ireland. I brought proceedings in the Southern court and finally was allowed to stay in the Republic of Ireland rather than being returned to St Pat's.

**Life after care**

32. I absconded from Dublin in August 1997 and moved to [REDACTED]. I stayed initially in [REDACTED] I was sexually assaulted on two occasions by my landlord there. I then moved to [REDACTED] I lived on the streets in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for over two years. During the day I did voluntary work and at night I studied for my English and Maths GCSE's.
33. My brother [REDACTED] currently lives in [REDACTED] He has his own house and staff care for him. I try to see him as often as I can but I have no contact any longer with my mother or my half sister, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is sectioned in psychiatric care in [REDACTED] and she writes to me often. My sister [REDACTED] lives in [REDACTED] and I try to keep in touch with her via the internet. I have limited contact with my brother [REDACTED]
34. I have been treated for depression since September 1994 and I take medication for PTSD.
35. I married in November 2006 and I have one son who is four years old. I am currently serving time in [REDACTED] and I am due for release during November 2015.

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Statement of Truth

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

Signed **HIA 384**

Dated 21-4-15

[HIA REF – BR 26]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995WITNESS STATEMENT OF BR. **BR 26** – BR 26

1. I was born on [REDACTED] and I am now 85 years old. I joined the De La Salle Order on 7 July 1946. On 1 September 1951 I was sent by my Provincial to the Industrial School in Belfast which at that time was based in Milltown. My role was that of a Prefect which was the name then used for what was in effect a Housemaster. I had no ambition to be a teacher. The school transferred to a site on the Glen Road, Belfast in 1957. It was then officially known as St. Patrick's Junior and Senior Training School. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
2. In Milltown the boys were all educated together and I supervised them outside of school hours. In 1957 when the new school on the Glen Road opened it was divided into a junior section and a senior section. [REDACTED] Normally this was for boys aged [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] and upwards. [REDACTED] By then the term Housemaster was coming in and this was the description of my role. In the mid-1960s I was sent to Birmingham for a training course in the residential care of children. This course lasted one year and I got a certificate. I then returned to St. Patrick's to resume my role as Housemaster. In the early 1970s [REDACTED] I was [REDACTED] while continuing in my role as Housemaster in the senior section. [REDACTED] I reverted to the single role of House Master. [REDACTED]
3. I am aware a total of sixteen persons have made allegations against me. Details are included in the HIA papers which have been provided to me. Of those sixteen individuals, seven have made statements to this Inquiry and nine others gave interviews and/or statements to the police. I propose to comment on all of these allegations starting with those who made statements to this Inquiry.

COMPLAINT No. 1 – **HIA 17** – HIA 17

4. **HIA 17** made a statement to the Inquiry on 12 February 2015 and one year earlier, on 26 February 2014, he made a statement to the police. On 14 May 2014 I attended an interview with the police to respond to **HIA 17** allegations against me.
5. I have no clear recollection of **HIA 17**. He was born in [REDACTED] and was [REDACTED] years old when he came to St. Patrick's. He would have been in the Junior School. [REDACTED] There was no reason for me to have any contact with him. It was not my role or responsibility to issue shoes and clothes for the boys in the junior school and I deny his allegation that he saw me abusing **SPT 157** in the stores. I also had no responsibility for treating the boys for head lice.

As I had nothing to do with the [REDACTED] I can only assume this role would have been carried out by a nurse or perhaps another Brother. I deny I picked on this individual or regularly struck him for no particular reason. He has also described an incident in which he alleges he observed me fondling one of the female cooks in the kitchen. Again this is pure fantasy. It did not happen. In his statement he has alleged I exposed myself to him in the shoe store after he came up to ask me for some new shoes. As stated above, this is not possible. He would not have asked me to provide him with new shoes and he would have gone to one of the Brothers in the junior section of the school if these were needed. His description of incidents puts me in places or situations where alleged abuse took place which could not be true. Finally [REDACTED] HIA 17 alleges that [REDACTED] BR 83 struck me as a result of [REDACTED] HIA 17 reporting the alleged abuse to him. I am clear no Brother ever had reason to speak to me about a complaint from a resident and his description of the incident in which [REDACTED] BR 83 allegedly knocked me to the ground is completely untrue. My recollection is that [REDACTED] BR 83 was not even a teacher as he claimed. Furthermore he was [REDACTED] In his police account he said [REDACTED] BR 83 walked with him across the balcony to the classroom where I taught English and Maths before he attacked me but I was not a teacher in the school at all and so yet again this account could not be true.

COMPLAINT No. 2 – [REDACTED] HIA 26 – HIA 26

6. [REDACTED] HIA 26 made a statement to the Inquiry on 28 February 2014 and had been interviewed by the police about his allegations on 5 May 2012. The police interviewed me about his allegations on 6 March 2013.
7. [REDACTED] HIA 26 states he was placed in St. Patrick's Training School on 16 November 1970 and was there for one year. I remember him. He was unsettled and regularly absconded from the school. Sometimes the police picked him up and brought him back and sometimes staff at St. Patrick's were able to find him. He had to be brought back to the Courts as we were unable to control him and this is probably why I remember him. Eventually he was transferred to the Borstal at Millisle. I also accept [REDACTED] HIA 26 may have been placed in the isolation room on occasion. This was regulated and he would not have been kept there for 2 or 3 days at a time as he alleged. I also completely deny his allegation that I attempted to fondle and kiss him when he was in the isolation room. I have no clear recollection of him cutting his wrists and attempting self-harm, but if he did, I would have sought medical assistance from the nurse in the surgery department.

COMPLAINT No. 3 – [REDACTED] HIA 51 – HIA 51

8. [REDACTED] HIA 51 made a statement to the Inquiry on 19 February 2015 and he made a statement to the police on 20 June 1996 in which he made allegations against me. I was interviewed by the police in respect of those allegations on 5 September 1996. I note HIA 51 was born [REDACTED] and that he was admitted to St. Patrick's in July 1982 where he stayed for a period of approximately five weeks. As he would have had his [REDACTED] birthday when he was there, it is quite likely he was placed in the senior school. I have no particular recollection of this individual although over the years a number of boys called [REDACTED] were placed in St. Patrick's. Nothing in particular stands out about this individual although it is quite possible I would have supervised him during the time he was placed there.
9. I agree I may have called into his room to give him comics to read at night. I regularly distributed comics to the boys at night time to settle them down. I probably would have done this on average twice a week. However this would have been the only reason for me visiting a boy in his room and I categorically deny that I abused him on those occasions as he alleged. I also do not have any recollection of being prevented from entering this boy's bedroom at night as he has alleged in his Inquiry statement.

## COMPLAINT No. 4 – HIA 54 – HIA 54

10. HIA 54 made a statement to the Inquiry on 17 January 2014. He states that when he was admitted to St. Patrick's in 1978 he was placed in the junior wing and this is probably correct as he would have been [REDACTED] years old. I would have had little if any contact with HIA 54 at that time because I was a Housemaster in the [REDACTED] section of the school. He alleges I brought him to the house where the Brothers lived and that while two other Brothers, whom he does not name, held him down, I raped him. This is a complete fabrication. I have never been interviewed by the police about his allegations.

## COMPLAINT No. 5- HIA 58 – HIA 58

11. HIA 58 made a statement to the Inquiry on 6 February 2015 in which he states he was born [REDACTED] and was admitted to St. Patrick's in 1964 when he would have been [REDACTED] years old. He stated he remained in the school until 1968. The first thing I would like to say is that he would have been admitted to the [REDACTED] section of the school and so I would have had no particular dealings with him. I also am not aware if he ever made a complaint to the police. I have not been interviewed by the police in respect of his allegations. He has alleged he got a lot of beatings from the De La Salle Brothers and he has named me as one of the Brothers involved. He also alleges that after he ran away and was found, four of the Brothers, including myself, punished him by throwing him into the deep end of the swimming pool at the school. Apart from the fact I had no reason to supervise this particular individual, I deny I would have beat him as alleged. I do not recollect using corporal punishment on the boys that I supervised and any serious incidents of misbehaviour would have been referred to the Director or school principal. I am also adamant that I never was involved in throwing HIA 58 or any boy into the deep end of the swimming pool at the school. This simply did not happen. He has also described an incident where he ran away after being taken to the cinema at Broadway. I have no recollection of this person running away from the cinema and having to be picked up. He also said on one occasion I attacked him with a big bunch of keys and also hit his legs with a stick. I would have had a master key rather than a bunch of keys. I also never used a stick to beat any boys.

## COMPLAINT No. 6 – HIA 253 – HIA 253

12. HIA 253 made a statement to the Inquiry on 10 April 2015. I am not aware he made any statement to the police and I have not been interviewed by the police in respect of the allegations he has made in his statement to the Inquiry. His date of birth is given as [REDACTED] and he has stated he was admitted to St. Patrick's Training School in August 1983 when he was nearly [REDACTED] years old and that he remained in the school for a period of less than five months. While I cannot be sure it is possible he was in the senior school.
13. He has alleged that I abused him. He described it by alleging I put my arm around him and touched him. He claims this happened when we were cleaning up the gym and the handball courts. He alleged this happened on other occasions and that I asked him to touch him as well. He also claims I took him to my room and tried to persuade him to touch my penis and masturbate him. He claims that he refused to do so. He was uncertain of my name and said it was either [REDACTED] who abused him.
14. None of this happened. At the time HIA 253 was in St. Patrick's I believe I would have been [REDACTED] and also worked as a senior Housemaster in the [REDACTED] school. I don't think it would have been my responsibility to clean out the gym or handball courts. I have no particular recollection of this individual but I deny I abused him or any boy.

## COMPLAINT No. 7 – HIA 384 – HIA 384

15. HIA 384 made a statement to the Inquiry on 21 April 2015. I am unaware if he ever made a statement to the police and I have not been interviewed by the police about his allegations. The first thing I would say is I have no particular recollection of him although I do recall the name SPT 54 whom he has mentioned in his statement.
16. In his statement he states he was in St. Patrick's Training School on two occasions. The first was for a period of three months in 1993 and then for eight months in 1994. During the time he was in the school I was or I would not have had regular dealings with the boys at that time. In his statement he alleges I was encouraging and in fact paying SPT 54 to sexually assault him and that SPT 54 was my "golden boy". He says he actually saw me give SPT 54 money after he had abused him. These allegations are totally ridiculous and I deny them completely. I do recall SPT 54 and that he came from a dysfunctional background and was a difficult child. It is possible I attended meetings about both of them and it is likely the police would have investigated the complaints made by HIA 384 against other boys.
17. The other individuals who have made complaints against me have not contacted the Inquiry or made statements but their allegations are contained in police material which has been made available to me. The police interviewed me in respect of allegations made by some of these persons, but not all of them.

## COMPLAINT No. 8 – SPT 136

18. He made a statement to the police on 21 September 1993 and I was interviewed by the police about his allegations on 15 April 1994. He alleges that he was in the school for about 3½ months when I started to sexually abuse him. He claims these incidents occurred in his own bedroom on a Monday night when I was doing the comic round. He claims I talked to him and then started to touch him and this went on for about three to four months and escalated to involve oral sex.
19. During my police interview I pointed out his description of me was not particularly accurate but I agreed his description of me going regularly to on a Sunday morning and of distributing comics to the boys as reading material was accurate. The police also stated during the interview SPT 136 had informed him that he reported the abuse to his Social Worker whom he named as well as his own father but that when both individuals were contacted by the police they denied any knowledge of any such complaint. I totally deny his complaints about me and this remains my position today. I also understand that a number of other boys interviewed around that time as a result of the SPT 134 inquiry also made reference to the "comic round" and about rumours pertaining thereto. I maintain any contact with the boys during the delivery of comics was innocent. I, along with a number of other Brothers and lay Housemasters would have routinely distributed comics and reading material around the dorms.

## COMPLAINT No. 9 – SPT 96

20. On the 26 October 1993 SPT 96 made a statement to the police in which he stated he was sent to St. Patrick's Training School about 1964 when he was about years old. The police interviewed me about his allegations at Grosvenor Road RUC Station on 15 April 1994. The police commenced the interview by informing me that the police had commenced their investigation following allegations made by SPT 134 who had been resident in St. Patrick's during the early 1980s and that during the investigation newspaper articles had been written concerning the investigation. The police stated as a result of those newspaper articles, SPT 96 had come forward and made his statement of complaint. I informed the police I recalled SPT 96 and that he had initially been placed

in the junior school and so I would not have had any particular dealings with him. However he also recalled that **SPT 96** was very troublesome and absconded and so he was then transferred to the senior side of the school and during this period of time I would have been one of the members of staff who would have worked with him. When the police put the allegations to me I denied them completely. I maintain I did not sexually abuse him in any way and his allegations are totally fabricated. It is quite possible **SPT 96** was placed in the isolation room because he was difficult to control but this would have been authorised by the school principal. When interviewed by the police I also denied the allegation that **SPT 96** had told **SPT 142** the [REDACTED] about his allegations against me and that a meeting took place in which I was present with a number of Brothers. The police informed me they had approached **SPT 142** about this and took a statement from him in which he apparently denied he had taken **SPT 96** to the office in relation to any complaint that he had made to him. The fact is the allegations I sexually abused **SPT 96** are utterly false and unsubstantiated.

**COMPLAINT No. 10 – SPT 145**

21. **SPT 145** was interviewed by the police in [REDACTED] on 20 January 1994 in which he stated he was in St. Patrick's Training School, in the senior wing, around 1962. When asked he said he remembered me and said I was well liked and that I was hard but fair. He also said that when he first went to the school I punched him hard in the stomach just to let him know who was boss. I don't recall **SPT 145**. At no time ever did I punch a child.

**COMPLAINT No. 11 – SPT 154**

22. **SPT 154** made a statement to the police on 18 May 1995 and on 5 September 1996 I was interviewed about the allegations he made against me. He alleged that when he was in St. Patrick's I took him out in my car around the town and that I squeezed his shoulder and rubbed his thigh. I informed the police that I did not really recall this individual although his name was familiar. It is possible that I occasionally would have had a boy in the car when I was carrying out messages but I definitely would not have touched him or any other boy inappropriately as he has alleged.

**COMPLAINT No. 12 – SPT 119**

23. **SPT 119** was interviewed by the police on 4 August 2010 and on 6 March 2013 I was interviewed by the police in respect of his allegations. The police informed me that **SPT 119** was at St. Patrick's during the late 1980's and I explained that I had no specific recollection of him although there were a number of [REDACTED] in the school over the years. According to the police **SPT 119** was born in [REDACTED] and so during the late 1980's he would have been between [REDACTED] years old when he was at the school which meant he would have been in the [REDACTED] section. I pointed out to the police that I was then a Housemaster of the [REDACTED] school and so had very little if any contact with the younger boys in the school. The allegation is that **SPT 119** was left alone when the rest of the boys in his dormitory went to the Glens of Antrim for their summer holiday. This would not have happened. No boy would have been left alone in this way. I totally deny his allegations against me. I did not rape him or hold him down while another Brother raped him as alleged. He also claimed when the sexual assaults took place the three Brothers, including myself, had been drinking and that we were drunk. However as I pointed out to the police I have been a teetotaller all my life. There were a limited number of staff in the school and when the boys went on their holiday the care staff who looked after them would have gone too. It would have been a total waste of resources to keep staff back to look after one individual in a dormitory. I also would have had no reason myself to visit the dormitories of the junior boys' school.

## COMPLAINT No. 13 – HIA 137

24. I was interviewed by the police on 26 June 2013 in relation to allegations made against me by a HIA 137. The police informed me that a statement was taken from him on 28 May 2013 although I have not seen a copy of it. He alleged that he went to St. Patrick's in March 1971 and I informed the police I vaguely remembered him. He said he remembered on one occasion I made him go down to take a cold shower but I do not accept I forced any boy to stand in a cold shower for 15 to 20 minutes in freezing water as he alleged. I also denied that when he was drying himself after taking a shower I was striking him with a leather strap. According to HIA 137 I had the nickname of [REDACTED]. I had never heard that. I was aware that some of the boys would call me [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] and this is because I used to have a couple of little [REDACTED]. I also informed the police I had no recollection of HIA 137 running away as he claimed. However if he did then the usual general punishment was a curtailment of privileges. The police also told me of an incident in which HIA 137 claimed he broke the door to the tuck shop and that all the boys then went in and stole cigarettes and sweets etc. I informed the police I had no recollection of this. He claimed that afterwards I took out my strap and hit him all over the body. I totally deny this. I also deny his allegation that one time after he had run away and the police brought him back I brought him to a room which he claimed was known as the restraining room and beat him with a belt to the extent he thought he was going to pass out. Nothing like this ever happened. I did not carry any sort of leather strap and in fact I have no specific recollection of carrying out corporal punishment myself. It was always my practice to refer a boy who was particularly unruly to the Director or Principal of the school who would administer corporal punishment. On reflection I think it is possible I may have administered corporal punishment by slapping a boy but only on the orders of the school Principal or Director and under his supervision. No cane was ever used.

## COMPLAINT No. 14 – HIA 374

25. HIA 374 made a statement to the police on 18 February 2014 and approximately three months later, on 14 May 2014, I was interviewed by the police about this. In his statement he states that he believed it was in 1976 he was sent to St. Patrick's Training School and that on arrival he was brought into the office to meet one of the Brothers. He informed the police he could not remember the Brother's name but thought he was the Housemaster. He described him as [REDACTED]. I confirmed to the police that around this time I was a Housemaster in the [REDACTED] section of the school and I accepted it would have been my responsibility to meet a boy on his arrival in the Housemaster's office. I have no recollection of HIA 374. I am not sure his description of me is accurate as my [REDACTED]. However if it was me who met him I can certainly say I never got him to touch my penis on the outside of my clothes as he alleged.

## COMPLAINT No. 15 – SPT 130

26. SPT 130 made a statement to the police on 4 June 2015 in which he claims that he was sent to St. Patrick's Training School around October 1981 when he was aged [REDACTED]. He alleged that I, BR 94 and [REDACTED] came into his room together and sexually abused him under the pretence of delivering comics. This is one of a number of allegations made by boys in which they refer to incidents taking place when I was handing out comics to them in their rooms. While I did deliver comics I did not sexually abuse SPT 130 or any other boy. I also deny I would have gone into any boy's bedroom accompanied by two other Brothers as alleged. There was a night supervisor on duty and it would have been very strange indeed for three Brothers to be observed going into any boy's bedroom. He alleged he was abused in this way on numerous occasions – at least three or four times a week during the month he was resident at St. Patrick's. This is simply untrue. His allegations are without foundation.

27. In my role as Housemaster and latterly as [REDACTED] between the period 1951 until 1995, I would have had contact with and supervised several thousand boys who came through the school system. Some of these boys would only have been in the school for a matter of weeks whereas others would have stayed for several years. While I accept fifteen of these boys have made allegations against me, this has to be placed in the context that I had contact with thousands of boys during the course of my work at St. Patrick's. At any one time there could have been four Housemasters on duty managing the senior boys. This number varied whenever the number of boys going through the system increased. While some of the Housemasters were Brothers, others were lay staff members.
28. It is patently obvious to me that a small cohort of individuals have conspired together to discredit me. I look forward to appearing at the Inquiry to clear my name.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**BR 26**

Dated: 2 - 9 - 15

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Re HIA 384 — HIA 384

Response by De La Salle Order

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015

I, Br Francis Manning, will say as follows:-

1. St Patrick's Training School maintained files on each of the individuals committed to the School. When the School closed in the mid-1990s the vast majority of all paperwork, documents and records including individual personal files were removed from the Training School by the NIO. It is believed that these records, or at the very least the personal files have in recent years been maintained by the Youth Justice Agency. The Order does not have access to the records.
2. The Order has not been able to examine HIA 384's personal file prior to submitting this response. If a file is located the Order will provide a supplementary response.
3. In respect of paragraph 3-13: It is noted that HIA 384 alleges he was sexually abused within his family unit. It is also noted that he concedes to being involved in sexual activity with children before his admission to St Patrick's Training School. HIA 384's personal file may assist in determining whether HIA 384's background was disclosed to the Brothers and care staff on admission but neither BR 26 nor BR 94 have any recollection of ever being notified of a resident with such a history.
4. In respect of paragraph 14-16: Surviving Brothers do not recall a SPT 50. It is accepted that there would have been an element of bullying and peer hierarchy within the school, much in keeping with any school, but Brothers would not have condoned such activity if they had been aware of it. It is noted that [REDACTED] attracted positive reflections from another applicant. The woodwork teacher he identifies is SPT 145.
5. In respect of paragraph 17: It is noted that HIA 384 was on a programme for adolescent sexual offenders. HIA 384's personal file may provide further detail.
6. In respect of paragraph 18: SPT 52 Housemaster and SPT 53 [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] School were experienced staff. Surviving Brothers believe that they would have acted properly at all times. The personal file may record whether any complaints were in fact made.
7. In respect of paragraph 19: SPT 54 DOB [REDACTED] was a resident from 26<sup>th</sup> January 1993 – see Exhibit I. BR 26 denies the allegation. BR 26 denies witnessing the sexual abuse as alleged and denies the allegation that he paid SPT 54 to abuse HIA 384. Surviving Brothers cannot name [REDACTED]. He may have been an [REDACTED] worker. SPT 56 worked with [REDACTED]. She was from [REDACTED] but surviving Brothers don't remember her surname. If HIA 384 is correct he implies that SPT 57 and SPT 52 may have known about the abuse. The Order has not seen any police material or statement relating to the alleged attendance with the RUC.

8. In respect of paragraph 20: The Order is unable to confirm or deny whether [REDACTED] SPT 54 was arrested as alleged. SPT 2 is still alive and may be able to assist the Inquiry. He is believed to be living in the [REDACTED]. The HSCT may be able to trace SPT 59 and gain his recollection.
9. In respect of paragraph 23: HIA 384's reflection on disruptive pupils is accepted. The Brothers and civilian teachers, who constituted the majority of teaching staff, did their best in difficult circumstances to educate the boys.
10. In respect of paragraph 24: Neither BR 26 or BR 94 recognise this 'colour' scheme. Rewards and privileges were determined by points/scores. It is conceded that an individual house unit may have adopted its own 'colour' scheme. Former residents may have genuinely held reflections on the provision of scoring/marking but surviving Brothers recall staff were 'fair'.
11. In respect of paragraph 27: The Order queries whether a social services file exists. SPT 2 is still alive. The whereabouts of SPT 3 is not known.
12. In respect of paragraph 29: The Order queries whether the 1995 RUC statement referred to is available. It would be surprising if HIA 384 did not complain about SPT 54 or make reference to BR 26 [check the other boys residency]
13. In respect of paragraph 30: BR 90 was the [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED]. He died on [REDACTED] 1997. BR 26 accepts that there may have been case conferences on boys but has no recollection of this meeting and in particular the implication that it arose as a result of allegations of sexual abuse being made against other boys.
14. The Order understands that HIA 384 brought proceedings against the Care Trusts/Health Boards and received compensation. If this is correct, it is surprising given the allegations against BR 26 and St Patrick's being made today that they were not included in those proceedings/claims. If any medical evidence was produced in support of a civil claim the Order would welcome sight of it because one would have expected HIA 384 to have referred to his history at St Patrick's Training School at that time.

Signed: *B. Graue Manning*

Dated: *5 June 2015*

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Re HIA 384 — **HIA 384**

Supplementary Response by De La Salle Order

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015

I, Br Francis Manning, will say as follows;

1. To be read in conjunction with my earlier statement of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
2. There are over 2000 pages of material in respect of HIA 384. They detail a tragic family background and the efforts of the staff at St Patricks to try and help a clearly very troubled child.
3. There is a factual basis for much of what HIA 384 alleges.
4. The contemporaneous records do support the allegation that he was abused within his own familial unit. SPT-50128 demonstrates that the staff at St Patricks were aware of the history of sexual abuse at home, HIA 384's sexual involvement with two young children and the activity with the **██████████** seaman in **██████████** which pre-dated HIA 384's arrival in St Patricks.
5. SPT-50128 also demonstrates the existence of a programme for sexual offenders. HIA 384 was attending a Clinical Psychologist, Michael Lenaghan, in Craigavon Hospital. An effort was obviously being made to address the sexual issues suffered by HIA 384.
6. SPT-50129 makes reference to HIA 384 being involved in sexual relations with another boy within St Patricks. This would appear to be an inference to what HIA 384 describes at paragraph 19. SPT 50189 refers to a **██████████** it appears that just like HIA 384 **SPT 54** had been abused in his own home. It is clear from the records that staff, social services and the RUC were aware of the behaviour. It also appears that initially HIA 384 did make a statement of complaint. However, SPT 50130 records that HIA 384 conceded that he [HIA 384] had been a willing participant in whatever went on with **SPT 54**. The **SPT 54** papers at SPT 12557 demonstrate that **SPT 54** was unlikely to have received much sympathy from the IRA — **██████████** in contrast to HIA 384's allegations it appears that any relationship with **SPT 54** was 'consensual'. The allegation that **BR 26** was paying **SPT 54** remains fantastic.
7. The records demonstrate a significant number of case conferences were held to try and address HIA 384's problems. While De La Salle Brothers, **BR 50** **BR 26** and **BR 90** were present at a number of these meetings it is noted that by this era the Residential

Social Workers were leading the staff efforts to help HIA 384. Much of the specialised care was, by this time, being managed by trained lay workers, rather than De La Salle Brothers.

8. SPT 50159 demonstrates that staff were giving consideration as to how they could mitigate the risk of HIA 384's offending. However SPT 50168 records that *'staff feel that they do not have sufficient expertise in treatment of juvenile sex offenders'* and that there is no *'treatment model/school policy on the treatment of juvenile sex offenders'*.
9. At SPT 50171 **BR 26** highlighted *'the protection of other boys'* as an area of importance.
10. There is reference to a meeting which may fit with HIA 384's description at paragraph 30 but if this is the meeting to which he refers neither **BR 26** or **BR 90** were present at it. There is no reference in the notes of that meeting to suggest that HIA 384's allegations against other residents formed any part of it.
11. The records do establish that HIA 384 did make allegations against **SPT 62** and **SPT 61**. At 50189 HIA 384 reported that he had witnessed **SPT 62** and **SPT 61** interfering with each other. SPT 50241 records the allegations in similar terms. However, at SPT 50243 HIA 384's account has changed slightly and he is now making allegations that **SPT 62** and **SPT 61** were making invitations to him. In an affidavit sworn by HIA 384 in proceedings associated with his absconding to **SPT 61** he advised the Court that **SPT 61** and **SPT 62** had abused him. The RUC did become aware of the allegations and papers relating to their investigation naming **SPT 62** **SPT 61** **SPT 63** are at SPT 21775.
12. The records do, in fairness to HIA 384, establish that he was being bullied and teased about sexual issues – SPT 50402. Other residents appear to have been aware of his background.
13. At SPT 50246/47 HIA 384 made contemporaneous complaints against lay staff **SPT 88** and **SPT 3** but then withdrew them. Indeed, one gets the general impression that HIA 384 often made allegations against staff, residents and his own family and then readily withdrew them or changed his account.
14. The records do establish that there was a **SPT 50** in the home with HIA 384.
15. There is an interesting sequence of letters at SPT 50225 dealing with **BR 90** request for NIO assistance after HIA 384 absconded to Dublin and how St Patrick's should deal with the matter. The absconding, and the cost of the Court proceedings in the Republic of Ireland were clearly of concern to **BR 90** and the school. The reply from the NIO representative that *'informing the [NIO] does not absolve you of responsibility'* may be taken to suggest that they were not overly keen to assist with HIA 384 who was clearly posing considerable problems for St Patricks.
16. It is of note, at SPT 50316, that on questioning from the Judge HIA 384 confirmed that he had 'confidence' in **BR 50**

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17. In respect of paragraph 27 it appears that HIA 384 is correct when he reports that his mail was intercepted by staff. This is recorded in the papers and was implemented in an effort to identify risks of sexual re-offending.
18. It is evidently clear that HIA 384 was a very complex case. HIA 384 arrived in St Patricks both as a victim of abuse and as a sexual offender. He appears to have readily admitted to staff that he had sexual attractions to both other boys in the home, to his sisters and to the children of members of staff. The Therapy programme that he was sent on – to see the Clinical Psychologist illustrates the extent of the options open to staff who were trying to accommodate HIA 384 within a unit with other boys. Managing the risk was clearly going to be very difficult indeed. The relationship between HIA 384 and SPT 54 boys with similar backgrounds highlights the risk. This was occurring in 1994/95 but it has been seen in other modules, including Rubane, that boys with sexual experiences both as victims and offenders, were being admitted to residential homes from 1940s/50s and probably before. By the 1990s, there were at least some sort of support mechanisms in place for staff. The Inquiry may want to reflect on how difficult it would have been to manage someone like HIA 384 in an earlier era and the type of risk he would have posed to others within an institution.

Signed: *Dr Francis Manning*

Dated: *5 Aug 2015*



█ reviews and the form confirming discharge of the Applicant to his █ care are found at Exhibit 4.

4. The Applicant then, █, remained in the care of his father, who █ █. The Applicant's █ █ and █ were removed from the family home on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1985 on an emergency basis after difficulties in their relationship with █ the father's partner. Weekend trials at home were unsuccessful. The Applicant remained at home with until 24<sup>th</sup> February 1986. On that date he attended at school with evidence of bruising to his face. A Child Abuse Case Conference convened on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1986 decided that the Applicant should be admitted to █. A report of the Case Conference held regarding the Applicant and a report completed by the Health Visitor following examination of the Applicant are at Exhibit 5.

5. The Applicant did not return to the care of either parent after this date. He transferred to Bocombra Lodge on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1986. He later moved to a new satellite unit, which was known as Edenvilla, on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1987. He remained there until 1993 when the events that led to his admission to St Patrick's Training School commenced.

6. At paragraph 3 of his statement, the Applicant offers direct recollection of sexual abuse by his Father. No record that details this being disclosed during his time in the care of Craigavon and Banbridge Unit of Management has been located. His sister and brother did disclose sexual abuse in late 1986. █

█

7. At paragraph 5 of his statement, the Applicant complaints about his treatment during his placement in Bocombra Lodge, Portadown, which was initially for the period 7<sup>th</sup> March 1986 until 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1987. No records are held by the HSCB which identify any complaints of assaults by staff, as now alleged. As regards peer sexual abuse, records identify one known incident between the

Applicant and his sister on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1987. The Applicant references a staff member [REDACTED], the HSCB believes this is a reference to [REDACTED] who was a member of staff in Bocombra Lodge at the time. Records do not suggest that [REDACTED] observed the incident, rather that it was later disclosed to her. Following same, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] met with the RUC on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1987 to make them aware of the situation, and the Applicant's sister was interviewed on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1987. Following his incident the Applicant was referred, with his sisters, to the NSPCC for specialist counselling. By June 1987 they note that the Applicant had been involved in further sexual behaviour with another boy in the unit. It was however considered that the Applicant had been assisted to have knowledge in relation to protection against abuse, although it was queried whether he had the capability of retaining such knowledge if put into an abusive situation. Copy documentation in relation to this incident is at Exhibit 7.

8. At paragraph 6 the Applicant refers to a second incident of peer sexual abuse between himself and his sister in June 1987. The original record of this incident suggests it occurred on 15 June 1987. On this occasion [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Senior Houseparent, appears to have come across the immediate aftermath of the incident. Following this incident the appropriateness of the Applicant's sister to remain in Edenvilla was considered. The record indicates that it was agreed, following discussion at great length, that she could remain but any further incident would lead to her removal. In December 1987 it was noted that the Applicant had been deeply disturbed by what had taken place, and that there were subsequent reports by his sister that on two occasions the Applicant had approached her inviting her to participate in sexual activities. Assessment at that time was that it was difficult to ascertain the truth as both children were capable and skilled at telling totally convincing lies, and would each hold on to their version until the "bitter end". A copy of the Untoward Report of [REDACTED] following the incident of 15<sup>th</sup> June 1987, which also outlines the further action taken, and the next report of Edenvilla for the Applicant's review on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1987 are at Exhibit 8.

9. At paragraph 7 of his statement the Applicant makes particular allegations against **SPT 164**, while noting: "I felt at the time that I had a good relationship with **SPT 164** but as an adult looking back on things she was very manipulative". All records that document the relationship between the Applicant and **SPT 164**, who was the Applicant's keyworker over a long period in Edenvilla, detail a good and positive interaction. The HSCB notes that within the full social work file, which has been submitted to the Inquiry, there are repeated references to the good relationship between the Applicant and **SPT 164**, who continued to befriend the Applicant even after his placement in Edenvilla ceased. The following, in particular, are highlighted:
- a. On 30 May 1993 (when the Applicant was in Bocombra for an initial 2-week time out placement) it is noted: "However within a short period of time he was saying that in reality he doesn't care about anyone in Edenvilla except **SPT 164**";
  - b. On 5 June 1993 the Applicant wrote his own account of why he then did not like living at Banbridge (Edenvilla). His main complaint then related to school. He also noted: "All though I do not miss them at all except **SPT 164**, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]"; He also notes that he is scared of sexually abusing others;
  - c. While in St Patrick's Training School the Applicant wrote to **SPT 164** on 14 October 1993;
  - d. On 18 November 1993 (after the Applicant's first placement in Training School) a Case Discussion while he was placed in Bocombra noted in relation to befrienders, that **SPT 164** continued to be involved with him "arrangements are being made for [HIA 384] to be taken out for his Christmas lunch with **SPT 164** and [REDACTED]";
  - e. On 29 March 1994, after the Training School Order was made, the Social Worker, **SPT 166** recorded having undertaken a visit to the Applicant at St Patrick's Training School with **SPT 164** noting that he was delighted to see us "in particular **SPT 164**";
  - f. By September 1994 it is recorded that the Applicant was still in contact with **SPT 164** by letter;

The HSCB notes that these records detail the period of the Applicant's placement in Edenvilla ceasing and thus suggests that even after **SPT 164**

ceased to be the Applicant's keyworker that this remained a positive, supportive and important relationship for him. There are no documents that detail the negative matters that the Applicant now asserts. The documents that detail the particular observations highlighted are found at Exhibit 9.

10. Further, it is noted by the HSCB that in writing to the Senior Social Worker on 6 July 1993 Dr McCune, Consultant Child Psychiatrist, referenced a need for the Applicant to maintain contact with his previous key worker in Edenvilla. It is believed this is a reference to **SPT 164**. Dr McCune considered this relationship to have been excellent, with the keyworker having done "outstanding work" with the Applicant. A copy of the relevant letter is at Exhibit 10.

11. Further the HSCB has not identified any complaint at the time in relation to the other staff now named by the Applicant. There was however a complaint made by him of unfair treatment by a houseparent, [REDACTED]. This related to being put in a "cupboard" under the stairs on a number of occasions. Upon the making of this complaint the relevant staff member was transferred out of the unit in which the Applicant was residing and an investigation was undertaken. The Board notes that the investigation included consideration of the space that the Applicant described as a "cupboard". The documents detail that [REDACTED], houseparent, described it as approximately 17ft in length, and 5ft in width. She could not recall a lock on the door, suggested it was big enough to store a couch, could not recall if there was a light, but described it as big and newly plastered. HIA 384 himself described it as long and dark adding it was "cold, there was hardly no air and no light getting in". The note of his interview suggests "it was kind of a broom cupboard". Mr [REDACTED], houseparent, described the "cupboard" as 3 ½ ft wide by 8 ft in length. He noted a height of around 6 ½ ft but added that the roof sloped down with the stairs. The full handwritten notes of the investigation are at Exhibit 11. The final investigation report is not available to the Board at the time of filing this statement, however records confirm that the complaint was upheld. Specific documentation detailing the complaint and the outcome are at Exhibit 12.

12. The HSCB has also noted that in June 1993 a contact card was received from the Applicant at a time when he was resident in Bocombra Lodge. The only records currently identified in relation to same are at Exhibit 13.
13. At paragraph 8 the Applicant makes a specific complaint against [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the HSCB believes this should be a reference to [REDACTED] SPT 167 [REDACTED] who was a houseparent in Bocombra Lodge. No record detailing a complaint of this nature being made at the time has been identified.
14. At paragraph 9 the Applicant details an incident on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1991. The HSCB notes that this occurred at the home of [REDACTED]. Their son was in the same class as the Applicant at school, and they began to befriend him with him visiting their home on Sundays. On 25<sup>th</sup> February 1991 some concern was raised about the Applicant's behaviour in their home before a particular incident, which occurred on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1991, was reported on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1991. On this occasion a specific incident had occurred between the Applicant and the couple's 3 year old daughter. On 26<sup>th</sup> April 1991 it is recorded that the Applicant was interviewed and cautioned in relation to incidents with the two children. Relevant documentation is at Exhibit 14.
15. At paragraph 10 the Applicant describes experiencing sexual feelings towards other boys in the home and notes his involvement with Dr McCune. As already detailed above, the Applicant had initially been involved in specialist counselling with the NSPCC in 1987. Advice from Dr McCune was then accessed by the Social Worker and staff from the home initially in 1990 regarding the Applicant's enuresis. See Exhibit 15. Social Services sought the further involvement of Dr McCune from mid 1991 through the following years, which involved direct meetings individually with the Applicant and alongside siblings as he describes in his statement. Dr McCune's final meeting with the Applicant was in May 1995 while the Applicant was placed in St Patrick's Training School. Correspondence from Dr McCune and documents detailing the nature of his involvement are at Exhibit 16.

16. The Applicant was also referred to a Boys Adolescent Group, led by Michael Lenaghan, Clinical Psychologist, from October 1993. Mr Lenaghan also continued to liaise in respect of the Applicant's case after his admission to Training School. For example, at paragraph 11 the Applicant refers to developing a practice of stealing boys pencil cases and using them to masturbate. This was considered at a Case Review held at St Patrick's Training School on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1995, at which time telephone contact was made with Mr Lenaghan (who had sent his apologies). On other occasions he did attend Case Reviews at St Patrick's Training School. Relevant documents are at Exhibit 17.
17. At paragraph 12 the Applicant references a complaint of sexual assault which occurred while he had absconded to [REDACTED]. In this respect he refers to a statement that he made to [REDACTED] about this and alleges that he withdrew this statement because of pressure, mainly from staff within the home. The HSCB does not accept that any pressure was placed upon the Applicant not to pursue this complaint by any member of staff as alleged. This incident occurred when the Applicant was aged 13. Upon his return to Northern Ireland and disclosure of what had occurred in [REDACTED], arrangements were made for him to be medically examined (30<sup>th</sup> August 1993) and to give a statement of complaint to the RUC (1<sup>st</sup> September 1993). This statement was given under joint protocol procedures so that a Police Officer and Social Worker were both present. [REDACTED] SPT 165 [REDACTED] was the relevant Social Worker. The Applicant confirmed to the police that he had not told any staff after the first incident, but was only disclosing after the second. On 13<sup>th</sup> September 1993 [REDACTED] gave a statement to [REDACTED], however it is not clear when that came into the possession of the Social Workers. The police made contact with the Social Worker on 1 October 1993 and asked if the complaint was to be pursued. They sought confirmation in writing. On 4 October 1993 the Social Worker facilitated an appointment between the Applicant (who was now in St Patrick's Training School) and Dr McCune. She recorded a discussion about the proposed complaint and Dr McCune's view that it would maybe be best if a complaint did go ahead. Confirmation was given to the police in writing on 14 October 1993 that a

complaint was being pursued. On 29 November 1993 a Case Discussion was held in relation to this specific issue. It is noted that the Applicant's solicitor was in attendance. Having considered HIA 384's best interests, and taking into account consideration the logistical difficulties and emotional factors, 'it was agreed that that it was not in his interest to pursue this matter, as there is nothing positive to gain'. Subsequent correspondence from the Social Worker to the Police on 22 December 1993 confirmed this. Same also notes that the Applicant had been advised of this decision by his solicitor and was accepting of same. All documentation relating to the above chronology is contained in Exhibit 18.

18. At paragraph 13 the Applicant notes that prior to placement in St Patrick's Training School he had periods back at Bocombra Lodge, Portadown. His return to Bocombra Lodge was initially to be a two-week time out placement from 26<sup>th</sup> May 1993 to 9<sup>th</sup> June 1993. Unfortunately after the Applicant's return to Edenvilla he continued to abscond and his placement there could not be secured. He therefore returned to Bocombra Lodge on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1993.

19. The Applicant was then placed in St Patrick's Training School on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1993 pursuant to a Place of Safety Order. This placement was continued following an Interim Detention Order on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1993 (on which date an Order also issued revoking the Fit Person Order) before the proceedings were withdrawn on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1993 following a phased return to Bocombra Lodge. Copy Orders for 17<sup>th</sup> September 1993 and 18<sup>th</sup> October 1993 are at Exhibit 19. The Order of 15<sup>th</sup> November 1993 is not available to the HSCB at the date of lodging this statement.

20. The Applicant was readmitted to St Patrick's Training School pursuant to a Place of Safety Order on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1993, following which an interim order for detention was made on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1993 before a Training School Order (for 2 years) was made on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1994. Copy Orders for 30<sup>th</sup> November 1993 and 17<sup>th</sup> January 1994 are at Exhibit 20. The Order of 20<sup>th</sup> December 1993 is not currently available.

21. Social Services therefore continued to have responsibility for the Applicant until 17<sup>th</sup> January 1994, on which date full responsibility passed to St Patrick's Training School. At a case discussion on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1994 it had been agreed that that a Training School Order would be recommended. As discussed at that meeting and confirmed in the report prepared for court, the controlled environment of a Training School was considered necessary for the Applicant. The plan was that St Patrick's would undertake work with HIA 384 during his placement, with acknowledgement that should sufficient progress be made to enable him to be placed in foster care, Social Services would endeavour to find him a place within the professional fostercare scheme. Some involvement of the Social Worker is noted in the months following the Training School Order. She visited the Applicant (with **SPT 164**) on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1994 and 29<sup>th</sup> March 1994. She also attended Case Reviews on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1994 and 26<sup>th</sup> September 1994. The documentation available to the HSCB does not detail any progression in relation to professional fostering, however it is likely that the difficulties that continued to arise with the Applicant absconding made this an unlikely prospect. Relevant documents are at Exhibit 21.

22. Social Services do not and would not hold detailed records in relation to the Applicant's placement in St Patrick's Training School and thus the HSCB cannot comment on the remainder of allegations contained in his statement, save to confirm that there is no record that Social Services were aware of such issues while the Applicant remained their responsibility. Documents were however available on the Child and Family Clinic File, to whom the Applicant had been referred by Social Services. These appear to be as a result of Dr McCune and Michael Lenaghan's continued liaison with St Patrick's Training School after the Training School Order was made as outlined at paragraphs 15 and 16.

23. An issue was however raised by the Social Workers about the Applicant being tested for HIV during his initial placement in St Patrick's Training School while he remained the subject of a Fit Person Order. The Applicant was tested for HIV without the consent of the Social Worker, and in circumstances where

this had been considered and it was agreed on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1993 that such testing was not required urgently and could await his return to placement in Bocombra Lodge. The Social Worker was then advised on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1993 that the Applicant was at the Royal Victoria Hospital being tested. This issue was followed up by Social Services, who requested that St Patrick's undertake an internal investigation into how this had arisen. A chronology of the issue which was located on the Social Work file, together with all source documents located in relation to this issue (in chronological order) are at Exhibit 22.

24. In January 1996 the Applicant's circumstances were notified to the Social Workers in anticipation of the Training School Order expiring. At that time correspondence was also received in relation to the proceedings that were before the High Court in [REDACTED]. The Applicant remained in the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Social Services in Northern Ireland therefore had no responsibility towards him after 17<sup>th</sup> January 1994.

25. In November 2002 the Applicant commenced proceedings against the Southern Board, Craigavon and Banbridge Community Health and Social Services Trust, the Trustess of Bocombra Lodge and Edenvilla, and St Patrick's Training School. A settlement was reached on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010, the terms of which are at Exhibit 23.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

*Roger Hall*

Dated 13 August 2015

HIA REF: [ ]

Name: SPT 165

Hollywood DATE:

14/08/2015

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

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**Witness Statement of SPT 165**

I, SPT 165, will say as follows: -

1. I am employed as a [REDACTED] for Children's Residential Care within the SHSCT. I became professionally qualified in June 1986 and commenced work in the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Unit of Management. I have continued to work in the SHSCT since then within family and child care.
2. As a residential social worker (houseparent), I worked in Edenvilla Children's Home in Banbridge from it opened in 1987 until mid1990, save for a period in 1988 when I took maternity leave.
3. Edenvilla was a five bedded unit and as such was much smaller than other residential facilities, the ethos being trying to maintain a family like environment. HIA 384, [REDACTED] (HIA 384), was one of the first children admitted to Edenvilla and he was admitted together with two of his older siblings. I recall that he was the youngest of a sibling group, that there was a very complex family history including significant sexual abuse.
4. Staff were all aware of the need for high level of supervision between siblings because of incidents of inter sibling abuse. However, I recall that close supervision was difficult to maintain due to the numbers of staff on duty at any time and especially at weekends.
5. I recall HIA 384 as a little boy who needed a lot of time and attention. I recall he appeared to get on reasonably well with most children and staff in the house although other children sometimes found his behaviours irritating because of how insistent he could be.

6. HIA 384 had a particularly good relationship with SPT 165 (houseparent) and also with the [REDACTED] at that time ([REDACTED]). I recall he would seek out SPT 165 when she was on duty and appeared to enjoy spending time with her. I recall HIA 384 frequently asked after SPT 165 for example, when would she be returning back on duty.
7. As a houseparent I was responsible as part of a team of staff for the daily care of HIA 384 in terms of his physical, educational and emotional well-being and development.
8. HIA 384 alleges at paragraph 12 of his statement that in the summer of 1993 he ran away to [REDACTED] and met a man named [REDACTED]. He states he made a statement to [REDACTED], and claims he eventually withdrew this statement because of pressure mainly from the staff in the home. He names me as a social worker in the home. He records that I sat in on an interview at Banbridge Police station with him while he gave his statement to the police. He alleges that I told him he should not report this man to the police as he ran away from the home and went to his house and it was his fault. He further comments he did not feel supported by the staff and did not feel as if he could pursue this claim without support.
9. I have had sight of the file recording dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 1993 and wish to say the following:-

I was not working in Edenvilla Children's home in 1993 as I had moved jobs in 1990. I moved from Edenvilla, Banbridge to work in a Family Centre in Craigavon. I went on maternity leave late 1991 and following this I returned to work as a field social worker in Brownlow Social Services in March 1992, in the family and childcare team.
10. During this period of employment I was trained in joint protocol interviewing together with members of the police. I was asked to undertake a joint protocol interview with the police in respect of HIA 384 and this took place on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1993. HIA 384 was 13 years of age at this time. HIA 384 provided a very detailed allegation of sexual abuse in respect of a male he met when he had 'run away' to [REDACTED]. He named the male as [REDACTED]. At the end of the interview I note I record HIA 384 was quite keen that a court case could or should take place (in respect of the allegation he was making). I have recorded that I took time to explain to him that as it was a different county in which the alleged abuse happened there was a different legal system and as such there might not be anything come out of this. By this I meant the case may not progress given the different jurisdiction.

11. I recall stating this as there had been a number of situations discussed in the office around the matter of offences happening in other jurisdictions and the difficulties that had arisen in progressing these. Given I had knowledge of HIA 384 from previously working with him, and his level expectations I felt it was important to try to manage his expectations so that he would not be disappointed if the case did not proceed.
12. At no time did I ever pressurise HIA 384 either to not report this man to the police or not to make a complaint to the police.
13. I had no further discussions with HIA 384 in respect of this interview, and indeed had no further involvement in any decision making around the progress of this case as I had been involved only for the purpose of the joint protocol interview having been trained in such procedures.

I refer to exhibit 1 which is a record of the joint protocol interview as referred to above for information

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed:

**SPT 165**

Date: 14th August 2015.

HIA REF: [ ]

NAME: [ SPT 166 ]

DATE: [ 12 August 2015 ]

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

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**Witness Statement of SPT 166**

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I, **SPT 166** will say as follows: -

1. I am **SPT 166** and am identified in documents as the Social Worker for HIA 384 from in or around early 1993 until a Training School Order was made in respect of him in January 1994. I am aware that he is **HIA 384**
2. I am also aware that a number of documents relating to my involvement have already been exhibited by the Health and Social Care Board in their statement concerning this Applicant. I will only exhibit new or additional documents to this statement. As appears further below, my recollection of events is very limited and save as outlined below cannot add to the written documentation available.
3. In relation to my career path:

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4. As regards my involvement with HIA 384 I am aware the records available to the Inquiry detail my involvement. This included undertaking two sessions of individual work with HIA 384 alongside **SPT 164** records of which are available at **Exhibit 1**. I have no independent recollection of these sessions, but I note that HIA 384 referred in these sessions to **SPT 164** being like a mother figure to him and that would correspond with my general recollection of the relationship between them.
5. The records indicate that I made two visits to HIA 384 at St Patrick's Training School after he was made the subject of the Training School Order, which took place on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1994 and 29<sup>th</sup> March 1994. I recorded that HIA 384 was particularly pleased to see **SPT 164**. While I cannot recall these visits in detail, nor much about the Training School itself, I do remember HIA 384 being happy when **SPT 164** was present and believe that on one of these visits we took him out to a café in the Park Centre. I also recall that **SPT 164** would have been protective of HIA 384 and would have had his best interests at heart.
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6. I note from records that I attended case reviews after the Training School Order was made on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1994 and 26<sup>th</sup> September 1994. There was a limited record of these reviews and the only contribution by me recorded for the review of 26 September 1994, was to enquire as to whether contact was continuing between HIA 384 and SPT 164 which would indicate my view at that time that this was an important relationship for him. I note that the response recorded by SPT 87 HIA 384's keyworker was, 'contact had been maintained by telephone and that HIA 384 is a consistent letter writer to her.'
7. I regret that I do not have further personal or independent recollections with which to assist the Inquiry further. I am aware that the Inquiry has access to the records and correspondence I entered into at the time in relation to the making of a complaint to police about sexual assault that occurred in [REDACTED] and HIV testing that was undertaken with the Applicant while he was in St Patrick's Training School. I would note that from the records that while the issue of HIV testing was discussed by myself with staff from St Patrick's, there is no record that either myself nor any other member of staff appear to have been asked to give consent for such testing. In particular, I note a record dated 5 October 1993 by me which records, 'SPT 2 informed me that his Team Leader had decided that 'HIA 384' should be tested for HIV.....He said the decision was taken as 'HIA384' was too great a risk for the other residents in Slemish House given his sexual experience.' See Exhibit 2. I would respectfully refer the Inquiry to the documents that have been identified in relation to those issues. I cannot add any further information to same.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

SPT 166

Dated 12 August 2015

HIA REF: [ ]

NAME: [ DL 471 ]

DATE: [ August 2015 ]

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

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**Witness Statement of DL 471**

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i. **DL 471**, will say as follows: -

1. I have previously filed a statement to the Inquiry during Module 4, which is found at SNB 7463 to SNB 7469. At paragraph 1 thereof I detailed my qualifications and route into social work.
2. This statement is now filed to address specific issues relating to HIA 384 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
3. I detailed in my first statement: "on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1980 I was appointed [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] in Residential childcare and Daycare within Craigavon and Banbridge District. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] One of the statutory homes referred to was Bocombra Lodge, a children's home in Portadown in which HIA 384 was placed. He transferred with two of his sisters to a new satellite unit in Banbridge on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1987. This unit was situated at 6 Edenderry Road, Banbridge and became known as Edenvilla. HIA 384 was one of the first placements in that unit which was opened, along with a second satellite unit in Lurgan. This was a new project in the area modelled on the

Sharonmore Project run by Dr Barnardo's, so that initially Bocombra Lodge remained the "parent" house with one Officer-in-Charge having responsibility for the three units. Later they developed so that they each become independent and thus functioned as three separate units.

4. While I would have had limited direct involvement with HIA 384, as I will explain below, I do recall his family and had a level of awareness of his circumstances over a significant number of years. My first recollection of the family generally was in fact when they arrived into the [REDACTED] which I understand records date to in or around January 1981. [REDACTED]
5. My attention has been drawn to records from 1990, specifically an exchange of memos between myself and Mr Louis Boyle, Unit Director Child and Family Care, dated 29 November 1990 and 12 December 1990 regarding the outcome of a complaint by HIA 384 against [REDACTED] a houseparent. These records have assisted my memory. I recall that [REDACTED] was considered an experienced member of staff who was committed and dedicated. While I would never have been his direct line manager, I would have had some knowledge of him, and continued to do so in my role chairing reviews in my career as [REDACTED]. As expressed in the written memos, there was surprise that he had enacted punishment of putting HIA 384 into what was described by me as an enclosed area which resembled a cupboard under the stairs and this was seen as very uncharacteristic of him.
6. It was acknowledged that [REDACTED] should not have acted in this way, and this was to be addressed through on-going supervision. Steps were also taken to ensure that he was no longer in the same home as HIA 384. However no discipline was placed upon him, and this received the endorsement of Mr Boyle. Copies of the relevant memos are at Exhibit 1

7. I recall [REDACTED] remaining in employment as a houseparent for a significant period. I have no personal recollection of any other incident that caused any concern in relation to his child care practice.
8. I am aware that HIA 384 has also made allegations about behaviour of other members of staff. My own immediate memory of his time in the care of [REDACTED] was about the close relationships he had with staff. SPT 164 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] particularly came to my mind in this respect. My own sense was that they worked hard to provide stability for the Applicant, which he had not previously had.
9. From in or around 1989, in my role as [REDACTED] I chaired 6-monthly reviews in relation to HIA 384. This would have brought me into some direct contact with HIA 384 as practices were developing of having children attend for feedback from their review, then possibly part of their review, with the final step being children attending throughout. This was, of course, always subject to the young person's own wish to be involved. I would not, however, have had any substantive direct involvement with him - that would have been within the remit of the social work team and houseparents / residential social workers.
10. My attention has particularly been drawn to the allegation of HIA 384 at paragraph 12 of his statement regarding pressure being placed upon him not to pursue a complaint to police. I have also had the opportunity to read a record of a meeting, [REDACTED] on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1993, which is at Exhibit 2.
11. I would wish to highlight at the outset that this document is titled "Minutes of..." however I do not believe that would be an accurate description of same. Rather this is a record of the meeting summarising the discussion. I do not believe that it records the full extent of the discussion, however I have no independent recollection of the meeting, which occurred in excess of 20 years ago.

12. I expect, however, that the sole focus of our consideration was HIA 384's welfare and best interests. The composition of those in attendance at the meeting reflects this, in my view. I am also aware that the timing of this meeting falls during a period when HIA 384 was experiencing a lot of fluctuation following an admission to Training School and then an attempted return to Bocombra Lodge which broke down again quickly as a result of continued absconding. It is likely that this influenced the discussion.
13. I note that HIA 384's interests were represented at the time by an independent solicitor who was in attendance at the meeting, and who ultimately discussed the way forward directly with HIA 384. This was a solicitor who I clearly recall as being held in high regard in relation to his work on behalf of children and families involved with social services.
14. I am also now aware of correspondence on file communicating to the police that HIA 384 had agreed, following discussion with his solicitor, not to pursue the complaint. I have no knowledge of what steps were taken by the police on foot of same.
15. Finally, the documents on HIA 384's social work file show the continued liaison social services had during his initial placement in St Patrick's Training School under Place of Safety Orders and Interim Detention Orders. During these periods we would have remained actively involved and attended all case reviews to plan for a hoped return to the community. While this was achieved for HIA 384 after his first admission to St Patrick's, unfortunately on his second admission it was considered that a Training School Order was required. This was discussed by all relevant staff at a Case Review on 12 January 1994 at which I was present. A copy of same is at Exhibit 3
16. It is of note that continued liaison was initially anticipated. I believe this was an indication of the commitment of social services towards HIA 384 as upon the Training School Order being made all responsibility passed from social services to the managers of the school. It was also a recognition that the best outcome for him would have been a professional fostering arrangement to offer him a family experience. Unfortunately, however, given the immediate and serious risk that he was continually placing himself at through repeated

absconding behaviour, that could no longer be managed in a community setting. Unfortunately earlier attempts to secure fostering for HIA 384 through the media and local advertisements were unsuccessful, probably due to the difficulty in recruiting placements, particularly for those children that were considered more challenging. I did not, however, have direct responsibility for fostering and my knowledge would come only from the reviews held in respect of HIA 384 and feedback received through that forum.

17. On reading his statement to the Inquiry, I have noted HIA 384's description of his experiences during his placement in St Patrick's Training School. At no time while social services remained involved do I recall any indication of what is described being known to us.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

DL 471

Dated

20/08/15

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

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RESPONSE BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO  
WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (HIA 384)

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I, Karen Pearson, have been authorised to make this statement on behalf of the Department of Justice. I am the Deputy Director for Criminal Justice Policy, a senior civil servant in the Department. The information contained in this statement is based on a review of files undertaken by staff under my supervision.

The Department of Justice will say as follows:

1. Records show that [REDACTED], HIA 384, DOB [REDACTED] was admitted to St Patrick's Training School on a Place of Safety Order on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1993 (SPT-50120). A compiled movement history for HIA 384 can be found at SPT-50117. The movement history has been compiled from his pupil file, but may contain some gaps or inaccuracies.
2. An Interim Order of Detention was granted on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1993 (SPT-50131). He was discharged from this Order on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1993 (SPT-50120). On 30<sup>th</sup> November 1993 he was readmitted to St Patrick's on a further Place of Safety Order (SPT-50120). An Interim Order of Detention was granted on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1993. On 17<sup>th</sup> January 1994, he received a Training School Order (Care) (SPT-50125).
3. HIA 384's attendance history at St Patrick's indicates that he regularly absconded from the facility. On other occasions, he was allowed home leave to Bocombra Lodge. Said history can be found at SPT-50117. HIA 384 absconded on 16<sup>th</sup> August

1995, and left the jurisdiction proceeding to [REDACTED]. His Training School Order expired on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1996.

4. The Department, to the best of its knowledge, has supplied all relevant information that it could find in its possession in relation to HIA 384. If additional relevant information is discovered by the Department, it will be drawn to the attention of the Inquiry immediately.
5. HIA 384 issued a Writ on 4th December 2002 in relation to personal injuries and loss sustained by negligence and breach of statutory duty at St Patrick's TS 1993 to 1995 and at other locations from 1986 to 1995. Defendants named included the Trustees of St Patrick's, the Health and Social Services Board, the Craigavon and Banbridge Community Health and Social Services Trust, the Trustees of Edenvilla and the Trustees of Bocambra Lodge. Abuse and neglect by various members of staff and pupils at St Patrick's was alleged. The case was settled in January 2010.

The Inquiry is referred to the letter from Ms Claire Archibold, DSO, to the Solicitor to the Inquiry dated 13th March 2014 which can be found at SPT-52316. A schedule of HIA 384's NIO Files can be found at SPT-52300.

6. The Department has not received a request for disclosure of personal data (Form 81) from PSNI.
7. The Department notes the allegations of sexual abuse contained at paragraphs 19 and 29 of the statement made by HIA 384 and physical and mental abuse at paragraphs 14, 16, 20, 22, 25, 27 and 30 of that statement. To the best of the Department's knowledge and belief, the Department had no knowledge or record of such complaints prior to the receipt of HIA 384's letter of claim.
8. The Department condemns without reservation any act of abuse which may have been perpetrated against any individual at St. Patrick's Training School. Those who

were placed in that facility had every right to expect that they would be cared for with dignity and respect, treated compassionately and protected from abuse. Those who operated the St. Patrick's facility on a day to day basis, or who were responsible for its management, ought to have been fully aware of the high standards expected of them when caring for young people. They should have known that acts of physical, sexual or emotional abuse were unacceptable. They ought to have known that allegations of abuse, where they were raised, should have been reported to the appropriate authorities. The Department accepts that the evidence available to the Inquiry suggests that these standards were not always complied with in every case. The Department regrets any abuse which did occur and condemns the perpetrators of any such abuse as well as those who may have ignored the abuse or tolerated its occurrence.

Statement of Truth

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

*Karen Pearson*

Date: 21 August 2015

HIA REF: [ ]

NAME: [ SPT 158 ]

DATE: [ 24 August 2015. ]

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

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**Witness Statement of SPT 158**

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I [ SPT 158 ], will say as follows: -

1. I am currently employed by the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust as [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. My career path is as follows :
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - 1988 – 1994 – Senior Social Worker, North & West Belfast
  - 1983 – 1988 – Social Worker, North & West Belfast
2. In relation to the Inquiry's Module Seven: Juvenile Justice Units, I am able to assist the Inquiry by explaining my involvement with St Patrick's Training School from two perspectives. One was as a Social Worker / Senior Social Worker for children placed there. The other was as an occasional member of an Admissions Panel which reviewed placements of particular children in the secure unit within St Patrick's. This was known as Slemish House.
3. In relation to my involvement in the placement of children in St Patrick's and Rathgael Training Schools, this was mainly in respect of children who were already in the care system but for whom our Children's Homes were no longer suitable or had been unsuccessful, despite staff efforts. This may have been because the child was displaying disturbed behaviours, aggressive / violent behaviours or because they absconded regularly, thereby placing themselves at risk. My role would have

been with children / young people, usually 12 years plus. I would work with staff in the Training School to assess the most suitable placement for the young person. In most cases this would have involved a return to original placement or a full time placement in the Training School.

4. Young people could also enter the Training School system directly from the community without first having been in a Social Services Children's Home or Foster Care Placement. This could occur if the young person was deemed to be presenting challenging, aggressive behaviours, involved in anti-social behaviour or criminal activity. A Place of Safety Order could be taken by the Social Worker and following discussion with the Training School, the young person could be placed. A Place of safety Order could also be taken by the Police if they felt it necessary to seek a training school placement for a child in an emergency. They should have informed Social Services when this occurred. However this would be in contrast to when a Training School Order was sought through the Criminal Justice system. Social Services would have no role to play in such circumstances – see paragraph 7 below.
  
5. In cases where Social Services placed a young person in Training School, the Social Worker in conjunction with Training School staff would make an assessment as to the need of the young person to stay in the Training School : this assessment was usually made over a 15 week period. The first five weeks would have been accessed by use of a Place of Safety Order. It was then possible to make a request to the Court for up to a maximum of two Interim Orders each for five weeks. The granting of a Full Training School Order was always the decision of the Juvenile Court. If a young person was admitted on a Place of Safety Order and subsequent interim orders Social Services would have been fully involved with the young person meeting alongside Training School Staff. In a significant amount of cases the young person would have had a Psychological Assessment carried out by Adolescent Psychological Research Unit, APRU. This was a resource available to the Training Schools via the Northern Ireland Office. To my knowledge, this may on occasions have involved Lisnevin.

Reports would have been requested from all relevant agencies, education welfare, schools, GP, before an overarching assessment and in most cases agreed

- recommendations were presented to the court,. During this period the Social Worker would be visiting the young person in the Training school on a regular basis and would have maintained contact with parents or previous carers.
6. When a Training School Order was made the Social Services would normally close the case in relation to that young person. All key decisions in respect of the young person's life such as home leave and contact with relatives were made by Training School staff. Social Service Records were normally closed at the point a Training School Order was made unless there were pressing reasons to maintain involvement with other members of the family. This is likely to have happened when there were significant concerns about the family, for example in relation to safeguarding issues about other children.
  7. Young People could also be directly admitted to Training School after appearing in Juvenile Court for non-school attendance. The Social Inquiry Report was completed by an Education Welfare Officer or a Probation Officer and there may have been no involvement from Social Services. Young people could also be made subject to a Training School Order if they were proved guilty of criminal offences or if their Probation Officer felt it necessary to request their admission to a Training School. Once again, unless they were previously known to Social Services, HSC staff would normally not have played a role.
  8. In relation to my role on [REDACTED], I was an [REDACTED] [REDACTED] employed in [REDACTED], North and West Belfast Trust at that time. I believe that this arose because St Patricks Training School requested an Independent person from Social Services to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to ensure the young person was appropriately placed in Slemish House, was reviewed regularly and not kept in locked accommodation any longer than necessary. The Authority to place in Secure / locked accommodation was vested in the Training School. The decision to place a young person in Slemish House was mainly used in respect of young people who were regularly absconding from the Training school and partaking in severe risk taking behaviours such as solvent abuse. Thus I was not responsible for the child being considered as they could have come from any area in Northern

Ireland. I am conscious that other staff from North & West Belfast District also [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which met as and when required. I attach as **Exhibit 1**, a sample copy of Minutes.

9. Training schools had staff who provided an aftercare service to the young person after they were discharged from Training School.

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

Signed

**SPT 158**

Dated 24 August 2015

HIA REF: [     ]

NAME: [ SPT 167 ]

DATE: 24 August 2015

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

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Witness Statement of SPT 167

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1. I, SPT 167 will say as follows: -
  - 1.1 My name is SPT 167 I believe I am the person referred to by HIA 384 as [REDACTED] in his statement dated 21 April 2015.
  - 1.2 I graduated from the Northern Ireland Polytechnic in 1978 with a B.A. in Social Administration. I commenced work in Bocombra Lodge Children's Home on 14 January 1980 as [REDACTED]. On October 1 1980 I commenced in the post [REDACTED]. After the Hughes Inquiry, I recall that my employers supported staff through secondment arrangements to gain a social work qualification. This had to be done in a staged fashion as obviously, all staff could not be seconded at the same time. I qualified with a professional social work qualification in 1992. My qualification is the certificate in social service (CSS). This was an employment based route to qualification and meant that I worked alongside studying with I recall, one week per month spent in the college.
2. **BOCOMBRA LODGE BACKGROUND INFORMATION**
  - 2.1 I know that Bocombra lodge was a purpose designed children's home. When it opened in the early 1980s, I know that it was described as being "the pivot of future child care services" and that the then employers, the Southern Health and Social Services Board aimed to employ "qualified and experienced staff". I am aware of this because I have seen a saved newspaper article from that time, see **Exhibit 1**
  - 2.2 The design of the home allowed for two separate units (Unit A and Unit B) which each accommodated 15 children / young people. There were

also two flats attached to the units, originally planned as staff accommodation. Staff did live in them. However, when they were not occupied by staff, these were also used to accommodate children.

- 2.3 When I commenced work in Bocombra Lodge I worked in [REDACTED]. My memory of working in [REDACTED] at that time is of working with [REDACTED] groups aged from [REDACTED] year to possibly [REDACTED] years. I remember that two staff worked shifts together. Staff worked a pattern of 24 hour shifts. Shifts commenced at 2.30pm until 10.00pm, sleep in duty from 10.00pm until 7.30am, and 7.00am until 3.30pm the following day.
- 2.4 [REDACTED] became designated as the "[REDACTED] unit" I think in or around October 1980. At the same time [REDACTED] opened. This is where the younger aged group of children were now looked after. It also accommodated up to fifteen children. The attached flat opened also. I was [REDACTED] in the flat. There were five children accommodated there. I recall working with two young sibling groups, and with the children's parents and that those children returned to their parents' care.
- 2.5 I can recall shifts as being very busy and that there were upwards of thirty-five children being cared for in the home

### 3. EDENVILLA BACKGROUND

- 3.1 I can remember being involved in discussions and planning in regard to the development of what were termed as "satellite units". This included the development of Edenvilla Children's Home in Banbridge. It consisted of two semi-detached houses being made into one house, I can remember that there was an emphasis on ensuring that Edenvilla was anonymous and not recognised within the local community as being a children's home. I also recall that the underlying ethos of Edenvilla was to keep sibling groups, who were going to remain within the care system in the medium to long term, together.

### 4. HIA 384

- 4.1 [REDACTED] HIA 384 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I can recall HIA 384 and his [REDACTED] living in Bocombra Lodge before he and [REDACTED] sisters moved to live in Edenvilla. Another sister and his brother had by then moved from Bocombra Lodge. The sibling group lived in Unit [REDACTED] I recall that [REDACTED] HIA 384 had another sibling and I can recall him visiting the home during holiday periods. From records, this would have been from 7 March 1986 until 22 May 1987, prior to the opening of Edenvilla.

- 4.2 I also recall HIA 384 returning to live in Bocombra Lodge when he was a teenager. At this time he was placed in Unit A. Records indicate that this was from 26 May until 27 September 1993, with the exception of a seven day period between 9 until 16 June wherein HIA 384 returned to Edenvilla, and from 15 until 30 November 1993.
- 4.3 I did not work in Edenvilla when HIA 384 and his sisters lived there.
- 4.4 HIA 384 has stated that he was "verbally assaulted and pushed around" by myself and other members of staff. I did not verbally assault HIA 384. I did not push him around. I do not remember any member of staff verbally abusing HIA 384. I do not recall any member of staff pushing him around.
- 4.5 HIA 384 has stated, at paragraph 5 of his statement, that I and another member of staff "did nothing" "on one occasion when she (his sister) was fondling me". I do not recall this incident but HIA 384 and his sisters lived in Bocombra lodge from 7 March 1986 until 22 May 1987. I can recall that staff were alert to the concerning behaviours presented between HIA 384 and his siblings when they were living in Unit B. I believe that Dr Kennedy RVH and NSPCC worked with these children to address concerning behaviours. I believe that both Dr Kennedy and the NSPCC gave advice to staff about the best ways to respond to these behaviours. Otherwise, I do not recall this one incident outlined by HIA 384.
- 4.6 HIA 384 also alleged, at paragraph 8 of his statement, that I "offered him a penny if I did not move my eye". I have no recollection of saying this to HIA 384. I recall that HIA 384 attended hospital appointments with regard to [REDACTED] and I believe he [REDACTED]
- 4.7 I am aware that HIA 384 was subsequently made the subject of a Training School Order. I had no involvement with him after 30 November 1993 which was the last date that he resided in Bocombra Lodge.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed..

**SPT 167**

Dated...24...August...2015.....

HIA REF: (384)

NAME: SPT 168

DATE: 27/08/2015

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

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**Witness Statement of SPT 168**

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I, Maggie MacInnes, will say as follows:-

1. I commenced working in Bocombra Lodge in June 1980 as a part time house parent. In 1989 I gained my professional qualification in social work and was employed as a residential social worker [REDACTED]. Subsequent to that I gained the Certificate in Theory and Practice of Child Protection in 1992. [REDACTED]
2. HIA 384 (HIA 384), [REDACTED] HIA 384, I have a very clear recollection of HIA 384 as I was his [REDACTED] throughout his stay in Bocombra. When he moved to Edenvilla in 1987, I remained in close contact with him on a befriending basis. I visited him regularly in Edenvilla and I was always invited to his and his family's access visits with his mother and siblings. When he returned to Bocombra in 1993, I was again his [REDACTED].
3. The role of [REDACTED] was an important one; it ensured that a named worker was responsible for ensuring that the child's needs were met. I took this role on for HIA 384 and liaised closely with his field social worker, teachers and other professionals involved in his care and well-being. Contact with his family was planned and agreed with his social worker and supervised by at least one and often two members of staff.
4. As I recall, at the time of his admission, HIA 384 was one of the youngest in the unit. I was very fond of him [REDACTED].  
[REDACTED] At the time, my husband was still alive

and my sons (by then teenagers) were at home. Even knowing HIA 384's history of sexual abuse, I never had any fears regarding him [REDACTED]. I was always with him, playing cards, board games and sometimes baking with him. He did enjoy these times and it made him feel special as indeed he was to me. [REDACTED]

5. Within Bocombra, HIA 384 did appear, at times, to set himself up to gain negative attention from other residents. For example, he would make silly and out of context comments to conversations other young people were having. He tended to be rather clumsy and appeared, at times, to act in this manner in a deliberate way in front of others.
6. I recall one occasion when HIA 384 had returned to live in Bocombra, it must have been in 1993, he had run away and was returned by the Police in the early hours of the morning. I sat in on an interview with him and the Police, when asked why he had run away, he replied that it was because I would not allow him to see his mother. I was cross with him for telling such a blatant lie, I remember raising my voice with him for this untruth.
7. I believe that all the staff team were aware of the background information of HIA 384 and his family, of the physical, emotional and sexual abuse they suffered prior to coming into care. We supervised the children as closely as we could, given the levels of staffing and the demands of the unit; for example there were generally only two staff on duty to manage up to twelve children in the evenings and weekends. If one staff member took some of the children out of the unit, that left only one other in the unit to manage the remaining children. From 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday there could have been another two managers in the building as well. I am aware that an incident did take place between HIA 384 and his sister. HIA 384 asserts that I came into the room and witnessed him being sexually abused by his sister and that I did not do anything about this incident. I strongly refute his allegation – I did not witness the incident, it was [REDACTED] who disclosed this to me one Saturday evening, and I reported it to my line manager and the field social worker when they returned to duty on the following Monday morning. There was a referral made to the care unit of the police and I recall that Dr Kennedy from the RVH was consulted and that referrals were made for the children to attend NSPCC. I believe I acted appropriately and this situation was managed correctly. Documents relevant to this paragraph are contained in **Exhibit 1**.
8. I recall undertaking professional work with HIA 384; my work focused on preparing him for a potential foster placement – trying to improve his

interactions with others. I recall that I did not undertake any specific pieces of work with regard to his experience of being sexually abused prior to his admission to care, as this work was undertaken by other professionals from child psychiatry and NSPCC.

9. I always, to the best of my knowledge and experience of working with HIA 384, acted in his best interest. An indication of HIA 384 appreciation of this, can be evidenced in correspondence he sent to me whilst he was in St Patrick's [REDACTED] see **Exhibit 2**. It saddens me greatly to know what has become of him. It was clear he had been badly affected by his experiences at home prior to his admission to care. He did, however, receive great professional input as well as a personal input from me and a few others, who like me, befriended him. I hope and pray HIA 384 will eventually come to terms with his past and start a new chapter in his life.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed.

**SPT 168**

Date: 27/08/2015

HIA REF: [ 384]

NAME: SPT 164

DATE: 27/08/2015

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

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**Witness Statement of SPT 164**

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I, SPT 164, will say as follows: -

**Personal details**

1. My name is SPT 164 but I am generally known as SPT 164. HIA 384, as I understand he is now known, but who was known to me as HIA 384 (HIA 384), refers in his statement to me as SPT 164.
2. I have a Certificate in Residential Care with Children and Young People and was employed in the role of Residential Social Worker within the Southern Board from November 1981. At that time the staff in children's homes were called House Parents rather than Residential Social Workers. Initially I worked in Bocombra Lodge until 1987 when Edenvilla Children's Home opened and I commenced work there. There was a brief period when I transferred back to Bocombra Lodge for approximately one year. [REDACTED]
3. I came to know HIA 384 through my post in Bocombra. HIA 384 came to Bocombra in 1986. He was living in unit [REDACTED] on the site and I worked in unit [REDACTED] so I was not involved in direct care of HIA 384 during his time in Bocombra. I do remember HIA 384 at this time and one of my memories of him is that he would always follow the cleaning ladies around the unit with gloves on wanting to help them clean up.

4. When Edenvilla opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1987 I was one of the staff that transferred to work there. HIA 384 and [REDACTED] his sisters, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] moved to live in Edenvilla at this time. Edenvilla was set up as a family group unit. [REDACTED]
5. I worked directly with HIA 384 as a House Parent during his time in Edenvilla from May 1987 until June 1993.
6. During HIA 384's time in Edenvilla staff liaised closely with Dr Noel McCune with regards to all aspects of HIA 384's care plan and how to work with HIA 384 in meeting his needs. This included the bed wetting which HIA 384 has referred to in his own statement.
7. From memory I was not HIA 384's key worker (at that time known as primary worker) when he initially moved to Edenvilla. I was key worker for another resident (the resident I mentioned bullying HIA 384 and I think this caused a bit of rivalry between the two boys). However given that I had a good relationship with HIA 384 I did undertake a lot of the work with him. Within Edenvilla focus would not have been on who was the named primary worker for the child but rather on the child's identification with particular staff and who they might feel most comfortable undertaking work with. HIA 384 identified with me so I undertook a lot of the specific work with him along with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (his [REDACTED]). Later in his placement I think that I did [REDACTED] I had quite a bit of input into HIA 384's care in view of our positive relationship and the view that work might be more effective due to this relationship, particularly given his young age.
8. I recall an incident following handover one day whereby myself and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was in handover with me had come out of the room we used for handover and witnessed inappropriate contact between HIA 384 and his sister [REDACTED]. This was reported to management ([REDACTED], Team Leader) and the Field Social Worker involved in the case. Due to the concerns about the nature of this incident I recall that Norma was referred to NSPCC for some input from them. Given that HIA 384 already had input from Dr McCune this

incident was reported to him rather than introducing new services to commence working with an already traumatised and young child.

9. In paragraph 7 of his statement HIA 384 refers to me, stating that he felt at the time that he had a good relationship with me but that now as an adult he views this relationship as manipulative. On hearing this I felt saddened by HIA 384's views now as I feel that as workers we were very committed to HIA 384 and I feel that the standard of care given to HIA 384 was very good. I feel that I did have a good relationship with HIA 384 and was always trying to promote what was in his best interests to help him work through his issues and achieve a positive outcome.
10. Within Edenvilla "punishment" was not part of the ethos. Rather, if a young person behaved inappropriately then an appropriate boundary was established. For example if a young person took something that did not belong to them they would have been made to pay back for this to the person who owned it. Practices focused on a restorative model aiming to rebuild relationships and make amends for doing something wrong.
11. HIA 384 refers to bullying by his peers in his statement. I feel this is accurate as I remember HIA 384 being bullied by one male resident ( [REDACTED] ) in particular. It seemed to me that the bullying was two boys struggling to find ways to live together and this created a tension between the two. As I recall this was never physical bullying, more taunting and taking each other's things and vying for attention of staff and position within the peer group. However this was addressed by staff and efforts were put into helping to improve relationships between the two young boys. There were times when HIA 384 would have acted against staff advice when staff were trying to protect him from the bullying behaviours of the other resident.
12. HIA 384 talks in his statement of being bullied by staff in Edenvilla. I never bullied nor witnessed any bullying of HIA 384 by staff. At times HIA 384 was difficult to work with due to the trauma of his early childhood however I remained professional in all my interactions with HIA 384, never calling him

names as he has suggested. I only ever witnessed staff being professional towards HIA 384. From reading the file there is reference on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1990 of HIA 384 reporting to me and incident where he alleged he was locked in a cupboard whilst on holiday. It would have been normal for HIA 384 to come to me if he was annoyed about something as he had a good relationship with me and knew I would follow any concerns up with senior staff. The files indicate that I reported this conversation to [REDACTED] who investigated the incident. I was not on the holiday so did not witness any incident and I am not aware of the outcome of this incident as that would be a matter for more senior staff than me.

13. There was another resident in Edenvilla at the same time as HIA 384 who had a fostering respite arrangement whereby he spent each weekend with his foster carers. I felt that perhaps HIA 384 was hurt by this as he had no similar arrangement at that time. I remember at a later stage of HIA 384 placement that a befriending arrangement with the [REDACTED] family was in place for HIA 384 and he would have visited them on a Saturday for the day. He also visited the [REDACTED] family as he was friendly with their son at school. This was not a formal respite arrangement and ceased after he was found to have had sexual contact with their young daughter.

14. In paragraph 7 HIA 384 refers to his hands stinking of bleach from washing sheets. I can say with certainty that bleach was not permitted in the home due to Trust policies and procedures given concerns about harmful substances being used by workers or being inappropriately used by young people. There was a bed wetting programme in place in relation to HIA 384. This had been devised in conjunction with Dr McCune as part of helping HIA 384 to manage this issue. I recall that part of this programme was that staff would assist HIA 384 to bring his bed sheets down to the laundry room for washing. Staff helped HIA 384 manage this as discreetly as possible to ensure his dignity around other residents.

15. My memory of HIA 384's time in Edenvilla was that staff liaised closely with all involved with HIA 384, including Dr McCune, the Field Social Worker and

named teachers in his school to ensure a collective and positive approach to HIA 384's care plan.

16. In June 2015 HIAI was placed in St Patrick's Training School, I continued to visit HIA 384 along with the Social Worker, SPT 166 ( SPT 166 ) at St. Patrick's for a period of time. This was agreed by all parties involved as a means of helping HIA 384 transition to his new placement as he was emotional about being moved having had such a long placement between Edenvilla and Bocombra. Outreach was agreed to ensure some continuity of relationships for a period of time following his transition. As I recall at some point St. Patrick's ceased this outreach as they felt it would be easier for him to settle into his new placement without this contact.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed:

**SPT 164**

HIA REF: HIA 384

NAME: SPT 169

DATE: 28/08/2015

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

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**Witness Statement of SPT 169**

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I, SPT 169 will say as follows: -

1. My full name is SPT 169, known as SPT 169. I commenced work in the Southern Health and Social Services Board now the Southern Health & Social Care Trust in May 1988 as a houseparent in Bocombra Lodge.
2. Over the next eight years I worked between Bocombra Lodge and Edenvilla children's home in Banbridge, becoming a Senior House Parent in or around 1990. I recall working with HIA 384, HIA 384 (HIA 384).
3. I commenced my social work training in 1993 and I qualified as a social worker in 1995 with a Diploma in Social Work. Soon afterwards I moved to a field work post.
4. I recall working with HIA 384 in Edenvilla, I clearly remember that SPT 164 and he had a very close relationship and that he frequently would have sought her attention, asking when she would be on duty and he always wanted SPT 164 to be included in significant events in his life for example birthday parties.
5. I recall that HIA 384 suffered from enuresis and that we worked along with Dr McCune, Child Psychiatrist from the Child and Family Clinic to devise strategies to help him overcome this. For example we wakened him last thing

at night and encouraged him to use the bathroom before staff went to bed; we devised reward charts to positively encourage toilet training. I have no recollection of any staff member ever calling him names or being derogatory to him in any way. I remember other children in Edenvilla teasing him about his enuresis and his poor social interaction skills. However staff all would have intervened to prevent this and tried to help HIA 384 develop better strategies to manage this, for example, we discouraged other young people from teasing him and encouraged greater understanding of HIA 384's situation. We also supported HIA 384 to avoid reacting to the teasing.

6. I was also very aware of his sexual abuse history and of his heightened sexual interest in other young people. I know that staff endeavoured to supervise all the young people as closely as we possibly could. For example we would have encouraged the children to play within our range of vision
7. I recall that HIA 384 absconded from Edenvilla on numerous occasions and had to be returned by numerous Social work and Police staff. I do not specifically recall the [REDACTED] incident referenced in paragraph 12 of HIA 384's statement nor do I recall having a conversation with HIA 384 to dissuade him from making a statement of complaint to anyone about any issues, as he now alleges. I note there was a case discussion with social services and HIA 384 solicitor held on 29th of November 1993 where it was agreed that HIA 384 would be advised not to further pursue his complaint against [REDACTED], however, I was not present at this meeting.
8. I have read that HIA 384 alleged that he was put into a cupboard under the stairs by a member of staff while on holiday in Newcastle. I was not in Newcastle where the incident took place but it must have reported to me as I completed an incident report on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1990 and I reported this matter on to senior management for investigation. I do not recall if it was HIA 384 or a member of staff who reported this incident to me. I referred to the "cupboard under the stairs" in my report –I can only assume that I referenced it in this manner as that is how it was described to me.
9. I supported HIA 384 as he was feeling guilty about making a complaint against a member of staff, I would have praised him for coming forward and disclosing this information and told him that he had done the right thing in telling and advised him that the matter would be investigated. I have attached a copy of this incident report as **Exhibit 1**.
10. I also completed an incident report on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1991 in relation to a report of an incident that occurred while HIA 384 was visiting a family that befriended him. A copy of my record is at **Exhibit 2**.

11. I am aware that HIA 384 was subsequently made subject to a Training School Order, I had no involvement with him after 30<sup>th</sup> November 1993 which was the last date he resided in Bocombra Lodge.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

**SPT 169**

Dated: 28/08/2015

PRIVATE

HIA REF: SPT 53

Witness Name: SPT 53

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF SPT 53

I, SPT 53 will say as follows:-

1. I have previously made a statement in relation to my employment at St Patrick's Training School. I have now been made aware of allegations which have been made against me and wish to make a second statement to address those allegations.
2. I am now aware that allegations have been made by HIA 384 who was HIA 384. When I was advised of his name I initially had no recollection of the boy. I subsequently was advised that this boy was the subject of proceedings in HIA 384 after he absconded from the Training School. At this stage I recalled who he was because although I had no direct involvement in the case I do recollect that I drove another member of staff to HIA 384 one day and left him at the court to attend the hearing whilst I dealt with some personal matters.
3. It has been alleged that this boy approached me and made a complaint about abuse/bullying which he was supposed to be suffering in the Training School. I can categorically state that I did not receive such a complaint from this boy and I would never respond in the manner stated. I do not recall receiving any report of this nature about this applicant from any teacher or teacher leader who was

PRIVATE

responsible for the day to day running of the education department. I emphatically refute the allegation made against me.

4. I have also been advised that the same boy has made an allegation that I was in a meeting in which he was bullied by senior staff and forced to retract a statement he had made to police about sexual abuse he suffered at the hands of other boys. I never attended any such meeting and never spoke to this boy about any statement he had made to police. The allegation against me is untrue and totally without merit. I would not and have not behaved in such a way.
5. I always did my best for the boys in my care and refute in their entirety all allegations made against me.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

**SPT 53**

Dated

6/9/15

HIA REF: [ ]

NAME: SPT 2

DATE: [SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> 2015 ]

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

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Witness Statement of SPT 2

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I, SPT 2 will say as follows:

1. I have read the witness statement of HIA 272 I remember this boy and did not have any difficulties with him. I remember him in particular as one of the among the boys and he participated in hurling, swimming, indoor football and the mini gym. In respect of the alleged incident at page 6 of his witness statement, I do not remember any of this nature having occurred. If there had been an allegation of a sexual nature, I would have recorded it.
2. I have read the witness statement of HIA 94 HIA 94 I remember this boy well. The allegation he makes at page 4 of his witness statement did not happen. I did not beat any boy at St Patrick's. In relation to the involvement of SPT 1 I did not work the same shift as him at any point after I became a full time member of the staff in 1970. We could not therefore have been together as is alleged.

3. I have read the witness statement of [REDACTED] HIA 320 [REDACTED] I remember this boy and thought that I had got on well with him. I remember him as a soccer player at St Patrick's. I was never involved in any physical violence towards him.
4. I have read the witness statement of [REDACTED] HIA 344 [REDACTED] HIA 344 I do not remember a boy of this name from my time at St Patrick's. I have read the incidents he describes at page 3 of his witness statement. I was never involved in any such incident. I do remember incidents like this occurring but they were between the boys themselves and did not involve members of staff.
5. I have read the witness statement of [REDACTED] HIA 384 [REDACTED] HIA 384 In respect of the allegation he makes at page 9 of this witness statement, I never intercepted the post of any boy at St Patrick's. The boys were required to open their post in front of us because it was a secure unit, but the post was never intercepted as he describes. I have no memory of the incident he describes at page 10 of his witness statement. I do know that [REDACTED] SPT 3 [REDACTED] never worked the same shift as me. Also, four members of staff would not have been on duty at the one time as he describes.
6. I have also read the statement to police made by [REDACTED] SPT 134 [REDACTED] SPT 134 As a result I am aware that allegations against me of a sexual nature were made by this boy. None of the incidents described ever happened and I was never involved in any act of sexual misconduct during my time at St Patrick's.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed  SPT 2

Dated 4 . 9 . 2015.

HIA REF: SPT 3

NAME:

SPT 3

DATE:

23 September 2015

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of SPT 3

I, SPT 3 will say as follows: -

I started work as an assistant House Master in St Patrick's Training School in 1973. Eventually I was promoted to the post of [REDACTED] at St Patrick's.

I retired in [REDACTED] approximately [REDACTED] years after I began working there. In all that time I was never the subject of any complaint or disciplinary action.

I was involved in the initial setting up of Slemish House in and around 1990. This was a specialist unit and was modelled on units in Scotland, England (and Wales) [REDACTED]

The regime was designed for "challenging children" subject to care orders who were on the periphery of various types of behaviour including sexual abuse, violence, criminal damage and repeat absconding.

Being resident in Slemish House was not a punishment but rather a method of protecting vulnerable children in care and also the other children in open care settings.

The age group of the boys in Slemish House would have been approximately 13 to 16 years.

In relation the allegations of HIA 384 these should be seen in a context that Slemish House was a specialist unit with a strict regime rather than an open care setting.

There was a system of privileges in operation. Black was a basic level, amber was the next level and green was the highest level of privilege.

Staff could move boys up and down from black to amber depending on behaviour during the course of the week. To be moved to green status required a staff assessment which took

place at a meeting at which all staff were present each Thursday. Educational Psychologists and teaching staff in St Patricks would also have feed into these meetings. Green status allowed boys to go off campus i.e out of Slemish House, which required a high level of trust. It was never down to an individual member of staff to move someone to green status.

It would have been normal to talk to the boys about their status and link it to their behaviour. That was the purpose of the scheme. I never used this important method of discipline and development for the boys in the matter characterised by HIA 384

HIA 384 said that I used language like "queer". Language like that was forbidden. I wouldn't allow other staff to talk like that even in jest nor would I have used it myself, even 22 years ago when this type of language was much more prevalent in every day conversation.

As for the allegation that I "trailed" HIA 384 by the throat to the "time out" room. This should be seen in the context that there were procedures in place regarding restraint and I never trailed any boy by the throat and specifically not HIA 384

As for being placed in the "time out" room, time out was used a last resort. Verbal warnings for bad behaviour would be given first. Time out was not a punishment but was used to give boisterous or unruly boys an opportunity to settle down. It should be borne in mind that the facilities were not large and the time out room was used to protect the safety of others.

Time being spent in the time out room was recorded in a book. There were time limits for how long anyone could be put there.

In relation to HIA 384 allegations regarding his mail, I would have to say I do not remember clearly what the rules were regarding mail, however I seem to recall there were general safe guarding rules allowing staff to check mail for inappropriate material.

This material may have been for example of a sexual, criminal or violent nature.

To my recollection the power to intercept or read mail was rarely used. It would normally be used by a key worker specifically allocated to a resident who may have felt that it would be appropriate to intercept a certain boys post.

I do not recall ever opening any boys post and specifically not HIA 384

In relation to HIA 384 recollection of being before a Board of Directors, I would have to say I don't think any of the boys were ever at a meeting with the Board of Director of St Patricks. I don't know what HIA 384 allegation of abuse is. It may have been that he was before an admissions panel or a board of management and I presume this was to with the outcome of a complaint that HIA 384 had made.

I don't know when this presumed allegation of abuse took place and I can't even be sure there was ever a time when **SPT 2** **SPT 87** **SPT 88** and myself would have worked together in Slemish House.

I can say however that it is impossible to imagine us all collectively harassing a boy, practically that would have been all the staff in Slemish House focusing on one resident there. I deny that this ever happened or that it ever could have happened.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

**SPT 3**

Dated

23.9.15

PRIVATE

HIA REF: SPT 52

Witness Name: SPT 52

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

## WITNESS STATEMENT OF SPT 52

I, SPT 52 will say as follows:-

1. I was employed as a housemaster at St Patrick's Training school in 1967 and worked there in various roles until my retirement in [REDACTED]. I was promoted to the position of [REDACTED] during the 1980s and was then appointed as [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] 1990s. This was the position I held until my retirement.
2. I am now aware that allegations have been made against me by [REDACTED] HIA 384 [REDACTED] HIA 384. I am aware of who [REDACTED] HIA 384 is and recollect him fairly well. I considered him to be quite vulnerable and was always seeking attention. I am aware that Robert was the subject of proceedings in [REDACTED] on two occasions after he absconded from the Training School. I do recollect that I had to attend a number of hearings in relation to his cases. I believe that I had contacted the Northern Ireland Office in relation to these cases. I also believe that on one occasion I had to ask members of staff to go to [REDACTED] to collect him on an occasion when he absconded.
3. It has been alleged that HIA 384 approached me and made a complaint about abuse/bullying which he was supposed to be suffering in the Training School. I can categorically state that any complaint he made to me was dealt with in accordance with the protocols in place. I would always make the other staff

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aware of it so that we as a staff could keep a watchful on the situation. I completely refute the allegation that I was not concerned or that I could do nothing about it. I have no knowledge of a conversation with him in which he said he would contact police if he was not moved.

4. I have also been advised that **HIA 384** has made an allegation that I was in a meeting in which he was bullied by senior staff and forced to retract a statement he had made to police about sexual abuse he suffered at the hands of another boy. I attended meetings on a regular basis with senior staff to discuss and formulate policy but at no stage did I speak to **HIA 384** about any statement he had made to police. The allegation against me is untrue and without any foundation. The meeting in which he alleges I harangued him did not take place.
5. I did attend the police station with him when he wished to make his initial statement to police about alleged sexual abuse. I did give to police various statements and documents which were obtained from the boys involved when **HIA 384** made his initial allegations to staff at the School. It is correct that no solicitor attended at the station when **HIA 384** was making a statement but it is simply incorrect to say that he was not allowed access to a solicitor. He did not ask for one at any stage to my knowledge. I also recollect that I personally signed a number of police statements during the time they investigated the allegations. These were essentially statements confirming I handed various items to police and also giving consent for **HIA 384** to be medically examined.

#### Statement of Truth

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

Signed **SPT 52**  
Dated 23/9/15

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