

HIA REFERENCE – BR 92

HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY 1922 – 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] BR 92 – BR 92

I, [REDACTED] BR 92 will say as follows:-

1. I was born on [REDACTED] I joined the De La Salle Order in 1968 and I am now retired [REDACTED]
2. I worked in a number of schools in the Republic of Ireland and was sent by my Provincial to work in St. Patrick's Training School on Glen Road, Belfast in September [REDACTED] I worked as a residential social worker in the school until [REDACTED]
3. My role was as a residential social worker in the school. I did not teach. I supervised the boys who were sent to the school under Care Orders. During my time each residential social worker was in particular responsible for three or four boys and we would have been their key worker. This meant we would see those boys on a daily basis and write up reports on their activities and behaviour. The normal age range of the boys I looked after was between 13 and 16.
4. During a boy's period in care, regular case reviews to monitor his progress and behaviour took place. In attendance at these meetings, would be his social worker, key worker and others interested in his welfare. Another meeting that took place regularly was the LRC, (Licencing Review Committee) This was an outside body overseeing the boy's progress during his stay in St Patricks. They would make recommendations as to how best to proceed. At this meeting the boy would be invited to attend and be given an opportunity to express his views on the care and treatment given to him during his time in St Patricks.
5. I have been asked to comment on the allegations made against me by [REDACTED] SPT 85 He made a statement to the police on 24 March 2014 and I was interviewed about his allegations at Grosvenor Road Police Station, Belfast on 27 March 2014. I understand [REDACTED] SPT 85 has not contacted the Inquiry or made a statement to it about his allegations against me.
6. I recall [REDACTED] SPT 85 and would have had some contact with him but I do not believe I was his key worker. I do not recall any issues between [REDACTED] SPT 85 and myself during the time he was in St. Patrick's.
7. The first allegation against me is that I sexually abused [REDACTED] SPT 85 in the changing room near the swimming pool. He alleged I touched him in an indecent way when we were alone together. I deny this completely. It simply did not happen. I do accept all the residential social workers would have supervised the boys from time to time in both the swimming pool and the changing room. This was to prevent horseplay or any incidents occurring. However it was unusual for one boy to be alone in the changing rooms. Normally the boys would have got out of the swimming pool together and then got changed. I think it is most unlikely I would therefore have been alone with [REDACTED] SPT 85 as he alleged.

8. His second allegation is difficult to understand. He claims I put him out of the classroom but he also refers to this taking place in Chalet [REDACTED]. If he was in the classroom I would not have been present. I was not a teacher. If a boy was fighting in the classroom it would have been the teacher who would have dealt with it. If the incident took place in Chalet No. [REDACTED] then it is possible I would have been there to supervise him. There were usually three Housemasters allocated to a Chalet and there was a corridor outside. I do not recall ever having to restrain [REDACTED] SPT 85 but it is possible, from time to time, I had to break up fights between boys and this would have involved pulling a boy away. I deny completely his allegation that when this happened I indecently touched him or squeezed his genitals. I therefore believe it is quite possible [REDACTED] SPT 85 would remember me from his time in St. Patrick's but I completely deny his allegations and wonder, if they were true, why he did not report any of them to his key worker who would have spoken to him on a daily basis.
9. I have also been provided with an edited copy of a statement made to this inquiry by [REDACTED] HIA 96. [REDACTED] HIA 96 - HIA Reference 96. According to his statement he was first admitted to St. Patrick's Training School on 12 May 1994 and I believe this was the same month [REDACTED] SPT 85 was also admitted to the school. I also recall [REDACTED] HIA 96 and I believe both he and [REDACTED] SPT 85 were quite friendly with each other. I note according to his statement, [REDACTED] HIA 96 makes no allegation against me whatsoever apart from his comment that he was "suspicious" about me. He explicitly stated that I never "tried anything" with him. He does say that I supervised the boys in the swimming pool and in the changing rooms. As I have already stated this was one of the duties of all the residential social workers and the reason was to stop the boys misbehaving. I am curious as to how he learned that allegations had been made against me [REDACTED]. While I was subject to a criminal prosecution, I was found not guilty. It seems from the statement made by HIA 96 the only reason given for his suspicions about me was the fact I supervised the boys in the swimming pool/changing room area but because he has heard about the other allegations in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] he has implied there was an ulterior motive for my presence. I also assume [REDACTED] SPT 85 who would have been friendly with him did not tell him about the allegations he has now made about me since there is no mention of this either in HIA 96's statement.
10. As far as I am aware no other boys have made any allegations against me in relation to the time I worked at St. Patrick's Training School.

SIGNED: _____

BR 92

DATED: _____

1/9/15

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Statement of Witness

Statement of: SPT 85

Age of Witness: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

I declare that this statement consisting of 1 page/s, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature of Witness: SPT 85 Date: 24/03/14 Service/Staff # if police/staff

Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)

Signature of Member: 21570 Date: 24/03/14 by whom statement was recorded or received Service/Staff # if police/staff

In May 1994 I was admitted on a care order to St Patrick's Training School, Glen Road, Belfast. I was 13 at the time. I was there for about four years in total. During my time there I was sexually assaulted by one of the Christian Brothers called BR 92. The first time was not long after I started at St Pat's. I was in the changing room in the swimming pool. I was at the far end of the room from the door. Just as I was getting undressed, pulling my trunks down, Br BR 92 came in and walked over to me. There was no one else in the room. He asked if I needed help getting changed, but I did not know what he meant. As I pulled down my trunks and had my towel trying to cover myself, he reached his hand over and stroked my bare buttocks. I pulled away, as I was shocked what he had done. He then reached round to my front and cupped my genitals in his hand. I pushed his hand away, and said something like "What are you doing?" I do not know what disturbed him or made him stop, I think maybe one of the other boys came in from the pool. BR 92 simply walked out of the changing room and nothing more was ever said about it. Nothing further happened until perhaps a year later. I was fighting in class one day in Chalet 2. BR 92 put me out of the classroom, and had to restrain me by putting me onto the ground and shoving my arm up my back. This was normal procedure when any of the boys were kicking off. Everyone else was in the classroom and BR 92 had me

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Table with 2 columns: Signature of witness, Signature witnessed by (Appropriate Adult). Row 1: SPT 85, [Redacted].

38/36 (2010)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of: SPT 85

Page 2 of 2

on the ground out in the corridor so no one would have been able to see what was happening. I was struggling but he shoved my arm even further up my back, so much that I thought he was going to break it. He reached round while I was still restrained and groped me between the legs. He reached over my trousers and squeezed my genitals. He was feeling me up. I struggled and fought him off even more. He told me that he would give me extra points. Points were given for good behaviour and could be exchanged for treats or crisps at the end of the week. I knew what he was doing was wrong. I never told anyone about this, until around September 2010 when I told SPT 108. He encouraged me to report this to Police and brought me to a solicitor. I never told anyone else about this abuse. It makes me feel quite sick to discuss it. I do believe that it has had a lasting impact on me, has affected my relationships with other people, and made me question my own sexuality. I have been a heavy drug user and am an alcoholic. I have seriously injured myself many times and have made several suicide attempts. I know that I have to go through this process to help deal with this and put it all behind me. I would like for him to be prosecuted for what he did to me, not just for the acts themselves but for the lasting damage he caused. I did start training to be a Youth Worker, but because of what happened to me, I questioned my own reasons for doing this. It messed with my head so much that I gave it up. I hope that dealing with this now will allow me to move forward with my life.

Certified a true copy of an original signed document

Signature of witness:	SPT 85
Signature witnessed by: (Appropriate Adult)	

38/36 (2007)