

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 51

Witness Name: HIA 51

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 51

I, HIA 51 will say as follows:-

Personal Details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] My family lived in [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I was the second oldest of five children. All my brothers have successful jobs, good careers and have kept out of trouble. I am the only one who has been in trouble with the authorities.
2. A friend and I were coming out of the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] we were running down a back entry and pulling bins over, I was about five or six years old at the time. Two boys sitting on a wall stopped us and asked if we wanted to come and see their hut, my other friend ran off and I went with them. They took me to the third floor of an old house and threatened to kill me. There was one guy either side of me and they made me perform oral sex on both of them. There was one concrete block missing in the wall where I could see light coming through and as it started to get darker they were discussing whether or not to let me go because they were afraid I would tell someone about what had happened.
3. I was wearing a bomber jacket with a hood on it and one of them grabbed me and hung me over the staircase and the other one told him to drop me but he pulled me back and I swore I would not tell anyone. I still get flashbacks about this incident and I recall the taste which was revolting. I got away from

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the old house and went to a garage in [REDACTED] where my mother's friend worked, [REDACTED] so I ran there and told her what had happened. She told my parents and others about the incident. My father and I went out to look for these boys and I pointed them out to him. They were standing on a street corner in [REDACTED]. My father got very angry with me and he hit me a big slap on the back of the head. He was angry at me for going to the house with them. I went back home and I got moved to another school, [REDACTED]. We then moved house to another part of [REDACTED]. I often wondered if we moved due to this incident but the issue was never raised again. It was my view that that was the end of my time as a child.

4. As a child I would sing and dance and make people laugh a lot but as time went on I no longer wanted to be the joker. We then moved to [REDACTED] when I was thirteen. It was a more middle class area, my brothers went to grammar school and our lifestyle had improved but we never forgot where we came from or looked down on anyone.
5. I started going to [REDACTED] with one of my brothers. The club is run by the [REDACTED] **SPT161** worked as a youth leader at the club and he took me and another guy, [REDACTED] to Bushmills on a trip. On the way there he bought us a carryout. He was a member of the Territorial Army and he had his uniform in a rucksack in the car. He had a small red car but the three of us were in it with sleeping bags and so on. When we got to Bushmills, **SPT161** told us to drink the cider as he did various chores. He had also got us cigarettes. I fell asleep in the sleeping bag which was up in the bunk, and he came in later on that night. I woke up at 5am or 6am with severe pain all around my back and my back passage. When I woke up **SPT161** had his hands around my neck and I knew he had abused me. He then went in to the dining room to eat with the other youth leaders. My sleeping bag was covered in blood and I had to leave it behind.

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6. I did not speak in the car going home and when I jumped out I said I was going to tell my mother and father what he had done. He said he would kill me if I did that and I knew he had a gun in his kit bag as he had shown it off to us earlier. I did not know if he was showing off to scare us. I went home to my room and I constantly went to the bathroom to scrub myself. I used brillo pads amongst other things and the smell was horrific and that went on for about two or three weeks.
7. **SPT161** was convicted of 13 offences and received five years imprisonment. He had made some frank admissions in his statements and he admitted to involvement with some 30 – 40 boys.
8. I started sniffing glue, drinking and taking all kinds of drugs. In 1981 I was drinking with about ten others at the back of my aunt's house. I went off for a while and when I came back they had broken into her house. Someone in the neighbourhood said they saw me running around the back of my aunt's house so I was arrested and charged at **██████████** police station. During my arrest for this offence I was asked by police about another incident involving arson and I admitted to my involvement in this matter and it was brought to court. Judge Tweed asked why I was behaving badly and swearing in court. I was very angry and coming off glue and drink and wasn't able to take stock of the situation I was in. I was charged with arson and criminal damage and I was placed St Patrick's Training School on the Glen Road for assessment under a Care and Protection Order. Prior to going to St Patrick's I was examined by Mr Curran who was a court appointed psychiatrist from the Mater Hospital. I told him about the abuse by **SPT161** during a visit at my parents' house. He said that he could not do anything about it as that was not the reason he was there.

St Patrick's Training School, Glen Road (8/7/1982 – 13/8/1982)

9. I was admitted to St Patrick's Training School on a Care and Protection Order on 8 July 1982. My parents didn't visit me for the first couple of weeks

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because they were angry with me when they realised I was charged with arson and criminal damage. The only one who came to see me regularly was my grandmother [REDACTED] my father's mother.

10. A guy in the next room to me slit his wrists and tried to kill himself. I heard the ambulance men next door and when I asked about him the next morning I was told by staff to mind my own business. There was nothing nice about that place.
11. You got washed in the morning and it was humiliating because you had to take your top half off first and put a towel round you and the Brothers stood there watching you. The boys got washed but didn't shower in the morning because it was a thing among the boys that you didn't use the showers in the morning as the brothers were watching the boys. The first day I came in I took a shower as I wasn't aware there was any problem. When I went out to the yard the other boys commented "did you see him eyeing you up and all, oh he's going to have a bit of you" and they made a joke of it but it is hard now looking back. The other boys were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are both now deceased and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who both live in [REDACTED].
12. [REDACTED] **BR 26** came to my room one Sunday night. I was lying in bed and he put comics on my bed. He chatted for over half an hour and then he proceeded to put his hand underneath the blankets and started to fondle me and touch me up. At one stage he had his own hand under his tunic and was making all sorts of rasping noises and saying "oh you're a good boy" and then he left the room. I had a pair of rosary beads in my hand. It is only in the last two to three years that I am able to deal with the gravity of what occurred.
13. St Patrick's had four dormitories and I had my own room. I used the chair against the door to keep [REDACTED] **BR 26** out after the incident outlined above. My grandmother had left me a birthday cake and [REDACTED] **BR 26** tried to get in to my room the following Sunday night to deliver it and I wouldn't let him into the room.

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14. **SPT 39** a civilian night care worker, then told us that night to put on our dressing gowns and go to the TV room. I went with the other boys but I could hear **BR 26** tap the window at me and ask me to come out. I ignored him and **SPT 39** asked me if **BR 26** and I were not talking but I wouldn't move as I thought there was safety in numbers and there was no way he would do anything to me in front of the other boys.
15. I made both a written and video statement to PSNI at Garnerville about four years ago. I also spoke to officers at Grosvenor Road and I liaised with Detective Inspectors **BR 26** and **BR 26**. I took a case about the abuse I had suffered but the PPS advised that they could not take the matter further. I therefore complained to the Police Ombudsman, to the Down and Connor Safeguarding Office, to the Archbishop of Armagh and I also wrote several letters to the Vatican.
16. I eventually received a response from the Vatican but it quoted Canon law and I found it impossible to understand. I have correspondence from the Catholic Church disassociating themselves from **BR 26**. I have had several meetings with members of the Catholic Church. In my meetings with Catholic church officials they more or less said that as he was a member of the De La Salle Order he was to a certain degree untouchable. That is the reason why I wrote to the Vatican. My argument is not with the Catholic Church. I still see myself very much as a Catholic even though I am no longer a practising member. I am very angry that he is being allowed to hide behind a cloak of convenience of the De La Salle Order. I contacted them about four years ago and spoke to a **BR 32**. When I asked initially if Brother **BR 26** was available he said that he was not under their care but when I called back half an hour later he had managed to locate him.
17. I have met with Bishop Walsh and Monsignor McCaughey on several occasions in relation to this matter. I also spoke at length with Archbishop Martin of Dublin as well as Archbishop Brady of Armagh. I have also written to Archbishop Brady on the subject.

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18. I reported everything to PSNI and have met with them many times. PSNI have told me about Operation Charwell led by Detective Inspector White. They have also advised that since my report to them, five or six other boys from St Patrick's Training School have reported other acts of violence and sexual abuse. The De La Salle Order has put obstacles before them in relation to the progress of this complaint.

19. I know of someone who spoke with **BR 26** and **BR 32** and was given a ten thousand pound cheque and asked not to say anything regarding the abuse he had reported. I only found this out at a SAVIA meeting in Stormont in 2012. This matter was dealt with by Napier & Sons who act on behalf of the De La Salle Order. There is a paper trail here. I know that **BR 26** is the **BR 26** in the **BR 26**. My fear is that he is still in a position to be moved around various schools in Ireland or elsewhere. I am aware **BR 26** was interviewed by the police in Grosvenor Road. He returned to St Patrick's and was picked up and taken to Dublin that day and has remained there since.

20. St Patrick's is now called Glenmona Resource Centre. I think they are trying to disassociate themselves from this connection to St Patrick's since 1982 or 1983. I think the De La Salle Brothers are still involved with it but they are saying it is a different type of place now.

21. I was in on remand then I got out on bail on 13/8/1982 and was never sent back to St Patrick's but I never got to tell anybody what went on or what happened there. It just wasn't the "done thing". It was a taboo subject.

Life after care

22. I went to jail for theft when I was 17 or 18 and got a two year sentence at Hydebank Young Offenders Centre. When I got out of jail I started stealing again. I tried to get employment but no-one would give me a job because I

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- had a criminal record. I got arrested again and charged for various burglaries and the Judge gave me a two or three year suspended sentence.
23. I have hundreds of stitches on my body as a result of self harm. I have taken three overdoses. I have lost two relationships and three children as a result of my past. I was overbearing and over protective as a parent and that is not a healthy environment for a child. I was married in 1993 but it was subsequently annulled subject to the proviso that if I wish to marry I require the consent of the Bishop of Down and Connor.
24. I obtained five GCSE's whilst in prison. I also started an English Literature degree with the Open University. I have a First Class Honours Diploma in Journalism from the London School of Journalism. I also have various certificates for other courses and workshops that I did in prison but then I started to go back to taking drugs whilst in prison and even though I received counselling I just went downhill as each week went on.
25. I have been to four counsellors. I have been to Nexus, it might work for others but it didn't work for me. I went to Fáoise which is a Catholic Church funded organisation based in the South of Ireland. I spoke also with a counsellor called Mary Grant. She runs a counselling service called "Lifespring" on the Cliftonville Road which is funded by Fáoise. She commented during the session that **BR 26** was probably abused himself which was a comment that I didn't find helpful. I don't care if he was abused, I was abused but it doesn't make me want to reach out to abuse the nearest child. Finally, I spoke to someone called Allister at the Community Addiction Team at Addiction Northern Ireland. I have also received psychotherapy.
26. I live alone in a two bedroom apartment on the **██████████** My partner and I have been together off and on for about thirty years and we have a son and I have two step sons. My son is a teacher and cross community youth leader.

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27. With this type of abuse your world just doesn't seem normal due to the self loathing and self hatred that you have and the amount of tablets and drink that you take.

28. I believe that a memorial would be a fitting tribute to those who suffered abuse and also serve as a reminder to others. I also believe that a counselling scheme should be available for those who wish to avail of its services. Counselling is not for everyone but it certainly can be a help to many. I also believe that the victims and survivors should be adequately compensated for the way their lives were destroyed.

29. I think it is important that there is a full, formal public apology from the Church as a whole rather than just individual people. I also believe that the State must apologise because the State placed people like me in an unsafe environment. This apology should be from a high profile public figure rather than just a bland statement from spin doctors.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

HIA 51

Dated

17th June 2015

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: [Redacted] HIA51
Name Rank

AGE OF WITNESS (if over 21 enter "over 21"): 'Over 21'

To be completed when the statement has been written.

I declare that this statement consisting of [Redacted] page, 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.

Dated this 20TH day of JUNE 1996

[Redacted]

[Redacted] HIA51

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom statement was recorded or received

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

My name is [Redacted] HIA51. As a child I lived with my parents, [Redacted] and [Redacted] and my 4 brothers, [Redacted] at [Redacted] [Redacted] was older than me and the other 3 were younger. [Redacted]

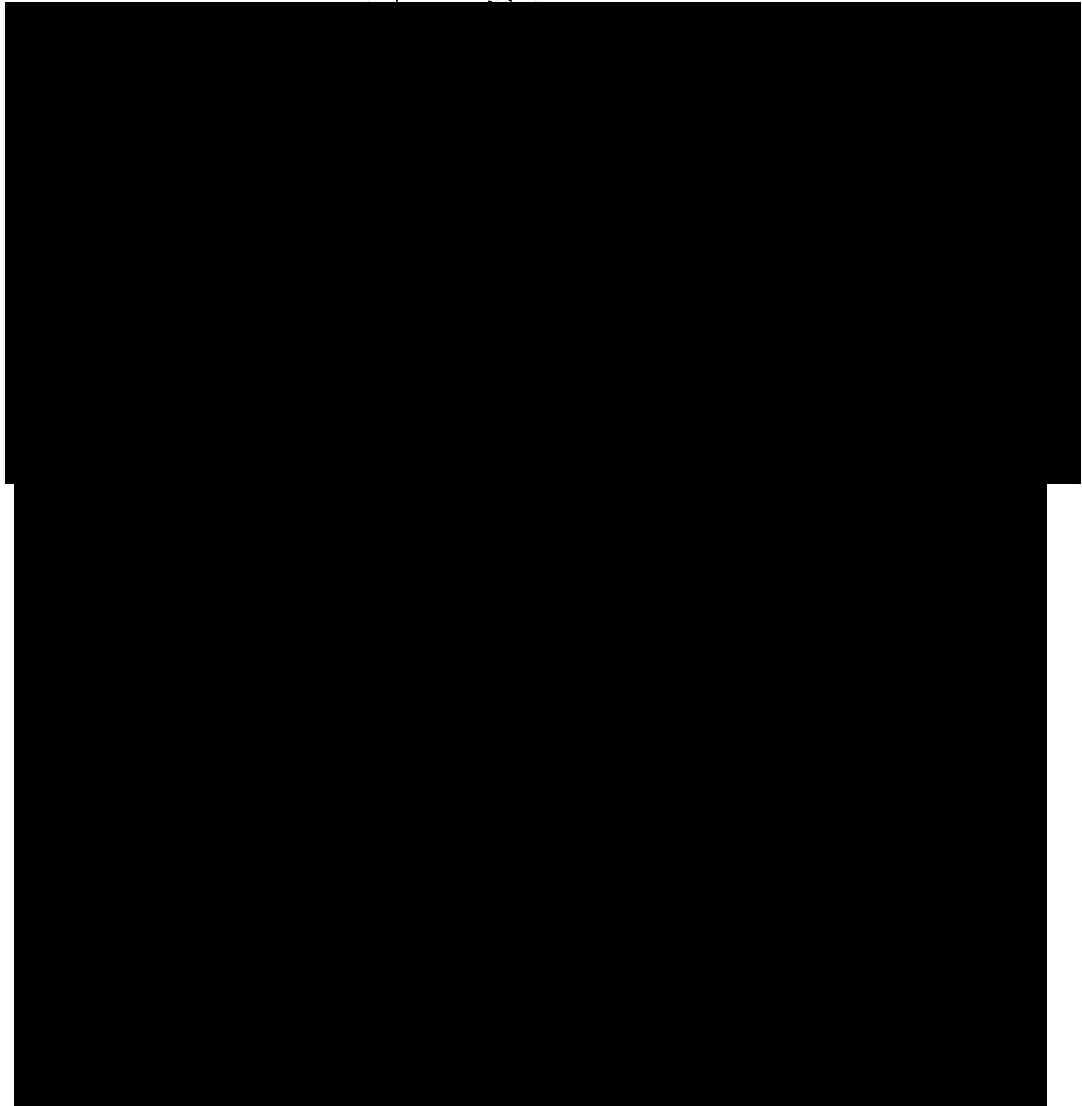
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SIGNATURE OF [Redacted] HIA51

STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: HIA51

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[REDACTED] In June 1982 I was taken into St Patricks Training School under a Care and Protection Order. At that time apparently I was out of control. I was glue sniffing and had attempted suicide on a number of occasions and my parents were influenced by a detective called [REDACTED] who told them I needed caged. He was from Oldpark Road Station. I was also attending doctors who also agreed that I was not of sane mind and was a danger to my family and the community. I was only 15 years old. Whilst in St Pats I stayed in room 5, that was in either St Anthonys or St Patricks dormitory. Each dormitory had a number of individual rooms. Every Sunday night [REDACTED] BR26 who was a member of staff in the home would come round with

SIGNATURE OF HIA51

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STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

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comics. It may have been the first Sunday or the second Sunday I had been in the home, I'm not sure. BR26 came to my door, he came into my room and sat down on the bed. He talked to me generally about why I was in St Patricks and what books I liked. He offered me comics. Then BR26 put his hand on my leg over the top of the blanket and rubbed my thigh. Then he put his hand underneath the blanket and fondled my testicles and my legs. I can't remember if anything was said. I just froze. You feel that you are no longer a person. I was in this home where I was supposed to be cared for and this was happening to me. You then hate yourself after it. Then on the second occasion BR26 came to my room something similar happened. He came in with comics and sat down on my bed. We had an informal chat. He again rubbed my leg over the blanket and then he put his hand underneath the blanket and rubbed my leg from my knee cap to my thigh and then fondled me over the top of my shorts I was wearing. He felt my testicles and my penis. At that age I had no experience with girls and I remember I felt slightly aroused. The third time BR26 came to my room he didn't get in. He had his own key to get into my room and as he tried to open the door I held the handle from the inside so as he couldn't get in. I remember that time because my granny had sent up a cake for me and it was in the wardrobe. I remember thinking that this was my defence and that if BR26 got into my room my granny was in the wardrobe and she would beat him. I stayed in St Patricks Training School for 7 weeks. At that time the Child Protection Order was revoked and I went back home. I didn't tell anyone at that time what had happened. Since then I have had little or no stability in my life. I was involved in drugs, you name it, I have taken it. I attempted suicide several times. I went to Amsterdam for a short time and then returned to Northern Ireland. I have spent a lot of time in and out of prison. At the age of 17 years I no longer feared anyone, I was in control. I have spoken to several psychiatrists and my medical records

SIGNATURE OF

HIA51

STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

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will prove how I injured myself. I first told a friend of my abuse 2 years ago. Since then I have told either Doctor [redacted] or Doctor [redacted] at the Maze Prison in quite a lot of detail about my abuse. Many other people are now aware and about 6 weeks ago I spoke to SR217. I want the police to investigate this and I am willing to give evidence in court. These people have wrecked my life.

HIA51

INSPECTOR 15026

Certified true copy of the original

SIGNATURE OF HIA51

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Re HIA 51 — **HIA 51**

Response by De La Salle Order

Date: 5th 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 51's personal file prior to submitting this response. If a file is located the Order will provide a supplementary response.
3. It is noted that HIA 51 was only in St Patrick's for 5 weeks. The Order does not have access to the admission register for the relevant period.
4. In respect of paragraph 10: Surviving Brothers do not recall 'self-harming' as being a serious issue. They do recall that there were some incidents of a more trivial nature in terms of actual physical injury which were considered contemporaneously to be attention seeking behaviour. The medical records held among personal files held by the Youth Justice Agency may be useful to the HIAI in this regard.
5. In respect of paragraph 11: It is accepted that Brothers and or lay staff would have been present when boys were showering. The presence of the Brothers/staff was required in order to prevent horseplay.
6. In respect or paragraph 12 & 13: **BR 26** accepts that he would have visited the boys' rooms in order to deliver comics. The Brothers bought a selection of comics in Marshalls, Donegall Street every week for distribution among the boys. **BR 26** denies the allegation of abuse. Any visit to a room was on a solely pastoral basis. **BR 26** has no recollection of any door ever being held closed against him as alleged.
7. In respect of paragraph 14: Unfortunately **SPT 39** is now deceased and unable to give his reflections on **BR 26** or comment on HIA 51's account.
8. In respect of paragraph 15-17: **BR 26** has been interviewed by the RUC and PSNI and has consistently denied the allegations made by HIA 51. HIA 51 did raise his complaints with the Diocese of Down & Connor.
9. In respect of paragraph 18: The De La Salle Order has never put obstacles before the PSNI or indeed the RUC in their investigations relating to St Patrick's Training School. I am confident that the police would verify this. Current and former Brothers, many of whom are elderly and infirm have consistently made themselves available for interview from 1994 right through to the present day.

10. In respect of paragraph 19: The individual to whom HIA 51 refers is in fact HIA 50, HIA 50. The fact that their HIA numbers are sequential may indicate that they initially went to this Inquiry together. HIA 50 did not meet with BR 26, BR 26 and BR 32. HIA 50 met with Br [REDACTED] and BR 32. However, HIA 50 in his statement to the Inquiry (Paragraph 25) erroneously stated that he had met BR 26. HIA 50 went on to recount how he had met other SAVIA members and told them about his settlement and how the De La Salle Order had burnt all the records relating to Rubane. It is possible that this reference, in error, to BR 26's association with HIA 50 has influenced HIA 51. It is noted that HIA 17 also erroneously repeats the account about BR 26 being at this 'meeting'. BR 26 has travelled to Northern Ireland on a number of occasions to be interviewed by the PSNI. BR 26 is now 85 years old and notwithstanding that his consultant is considering surgery for an [REDACTED] he continues to be prepared to assist with further police enquiries. BR 26 is not the administrator of the De La Salle Order.
11. In respect of paragraph 20: St Patrick's Training School became Glenmona Resource Centre in 1996. The De La Salle Brothers withdrew from St Patrick's about the same time and since 1996 the Order has had no involvement within Glenmona or indeed the St Patrick's site.
12. In respect of paragraph 21: There was a large police investigation into St Patrick's in 1994 at the same time as widespread publicity in Irish media about Fr Brendan Smyth. HIA 51 appears to have been contacted by the RUC in 1993 while in the Maze Prison but did not speak to investigating officers. Large numbers of then current and former residents were spoken to in the 1990s. HIA 51 did make a complaint to the RUC in 1996 and the transcript relating to the RUC's interview of BR 26 is attached as Exhibit 1. BR 26 was asked about allegations made by HIA 51 and those of a resident called SPT 154. BR 26 had been in St Patrick's since [REDACTED] and would have had contact with literally thousands of boys.
13. HIA 51 intimated a civil claim back in 2004 but no proceedings have ever issued. To be fair to HIA 51 and to put paragraph 10 above in context he was making allegations against BR 26 as early as 1996, long before HIA 50's 'meeting' with BR 32 and [REDACTED]. Within the letter of claim he alleges that he was abused by BR 26 on 'several occasions' but in his statement to this Inquiry he confines the allegations to a single incident. A memo dated 16th December 2004 which appears to have been recorded by [REDACTED] details a similar allegation to that made at paragraph 10 of his statement although HIA 51 does not link this attempt at self-harm to alleged sex abuse in his Inquiry statement. The memo goes on to record that HIA 51 had allegedly told the Chaplain to the Maze Prison, [REDACTED], a prison doctor, prison nurse, officials and [REDACTED] of the abuse. It is also recorded that HIA 51 had reported the matter to the RUC but as with the complaints made whilst in prison it is difficult to date the 'complaints' without further detail of the period spent in prison. See Exhibit 2.
14. BR 32 put the allegations to BR 26 and BR 26's response of 23rd November 2004 is attached. See Exhibit 3. Therein BR 26 disclosed that he had in fact been interviewed by the RUC in 1996 on foot of a statement made by HIA 51 at that time. The transcript of BR 26's interview of 5th September 1996 details that

HIA 51 repeats the basic premise of the allegation in his Inquiry statement but it is noted that the first two episodes were alleged to have occurred on Sunday nights although perhaps not the first Sunday night he resided in the home. The third incident is related to the 'birthday' cake from HIA 51's granny. HIA 51's birthday was on the [REDACTED]. He had been admitted on the [REDACTED]. The third Sunday post admission would have been some time after his birthday. It is also noted that HIA 51 told the police in 1996 that the birthday cake was already in the cupboard in HIA 51's room. In contrast, he recounts to this Inquiry that BR 26 was trying to 'deliver' the cake – see para 13. HIA 51 told the police that he had told Dr [REDACTED] or Dr [REDACTED] at the Maze. It is noted that the RUC spoke to Dr [REDACTED] and Dr [REDACTED] in 1996 – see Exhibit 4 – but it is not known whether either Doctor corroborated the allegation of complaint. The IO also made reference to the extensive investigation into St Patrick's Training School which he described as taking place over a three year period – see Page 17 of the transcript. HIA 51 had been approached as early as 11th August 1993 but had walked out of the interview without making a complaint. One can readily understand how HIA 51 may have found it difficult to talk to the RUC officers about their 'sexual abuse' enquiry given HIA 51's abuse as recounted at paragraphs 2-8 of his HIA statement but by his own account in 1996 he was alleging that he had spoken to people in the Maze about his alleged abuse by BR 26 and against that account it does seem unusual that he would not have spoken to the RUC at this time. The full RUC file in respect of HIA 51 and indeed the entire St Patrick's Investigation would be useful.

Signed: *Dr Francis Manning*
Dated: *5 June 2015*

HIA REF: [51]

NAME: [HIA 51 .]

Response by HSCB

DATE: [21 July 2015.]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of the Health and Social Care Board

Marian Hall, Children's Services Project Manager, assisted in the drafting of this statement.

The Health and Social Care Board will say as follows: -

1. HIA 51, born [REDACTED], was admitted to St Patrick's Training School, Belfast on 8 July 1982 under a Care and Protection Order after being charged with arson and criminal damage. The Applicant remained in St Patrick's until 13 August 1982 when he was discharged on bail.
2. The Board notes paragraph 8 of the Applicant's statement where he describes his arrest for arson and criminal damage which culminated in his placement in St Patrick's. Given the circumstances described, the Board believes it is likely that the Applicant was placed in St Patrick's as a result of a Care and Protection Order and that he did not have any involvement with Social Services.
3. There are no notes and records in the possession of the Board in relation to the Applicant which is in keeping with the Applicant's placement through the Criminal Justice system. The Board is therefore unable to offer any further detailed response or exhibit any relevant documents in relation to the Applicant's time in St Patrick's.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed  Roger Hall

Dated 21 July 2015.

06-AUG-2015 09:08

De LaSalle Provincialate

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THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Re HIA 51 — **HIA 51**

Supplementary Response by De La Salle Order

Date: 5th August 2015

I, Br Francis Manning, will say as follows;

1. To be read in conjunction with my earlier statement of 5th June 2015.
2. It is noted that HIA 51 was convicted for [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED]. On the 20th June 1996 HIA 51 alleged childhood abuse, including allegations relating to his time at St Patrick's. At that time he outlined two occasions when **BR 26** allegedly came into his room while delivering comics and touched him indecently. HIA 51 also recounted a third incident when **BR 26** was allegedly prevented from coming into the room.
3. The RUC at SPT 22888 assessed HIA 51 as a 'compulsive liar' and at SPT 22893 detail suspicions that they considered the allegations were in some way related to his parole hearing. It is not clear whether Dr [REDACTED] or Dr [REDACTED] ever recounted their recollections of the alleged reporting to them but it is noted that 163 pages of medical records made no reference to abuse alleged to have been perpetrated by **BR 26**.
4. **BR 26** conceded to the RUC as early as 15th April 1994 (while investigating the **SPT 134**^{SPT 96} complaints) that he may have touched boys while distributing comics but he did so in an entirely innocent manner. **BR 26** in responding to HIA 51's 1996 allegations accepted he may have touched boys legs, but 'never under the clothes' and not with any sexual overtone. The repetition of allegations about **BR 26** in association with the distribution of comics is notable. It is the Order's view that former residents have reflected on these genuine memories and have, for one reason or another, drawn negative conclusions from what was an otherwise pastoral and genuine attempt to help the boys.
5. The statements of [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and Sister [REDACTED] suggest that HIA 51 started reporting the abuse in February 1996. At SPT 22905, the statement dated June 1996, HIA 51 states he first reported the abuse 'two years ago'. That 'first report' is not borne out by the police investigation.
6. It appears that HIA 51 may have been the subject of abuse during his youth but the Order maintains that he was not abused by **BR 26** as alleged or at all.

Signed: *Br Francis Manning*Dated: *5 Aug 2015*

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

**RESPONSE BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO
WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] HIA 51 (HIA 51)**

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 51, HIA 51, DOB [REDACTED], was sent to St Patrick's Training School on 8th July 1982 on a Warrant of Commitment to a Remand Home (SPT-45738, SPT-45742) following a charge of arson and criminal damage. He remained at St Patrick's until 13th August 1982 when he was discharged on bail (SPT-45746).
2. The Department, to the best of its knowledge, has supplied all relevant information that it could find in its possession in relation to HIA 51. If additional relevant information is discovered by the Department, it will be drawn to the attention of the Inquiry immediately.
3. The Department has not received a civil claim in respect of HIA 51.
4. The Department received a request for disclosure of personal data (Form 81) from PSNI dated 19th November 2013 in relation to HIA 51.
5. The Department notes the allegations of sexual abuse contained at paragraph 12 of the statement made by HIA 51. 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 51's statement to the Inquiry.

6. 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