

## PRIVATE

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

PRIVATE

IRA who were in St Patrick's at some stage. There were many boys who were in St Patrick's who were there for paramilitary crime ranging from murder to possession of weapons and explosives to membership. I believe that it was thought that the other boys who were there for petty crime were ripe for recruitment. When I was in St Patrick's there was another boy called SPT 28 SPT 28 who was also there. He was one of the main players in Fianna Eireann. He approached me one evening and gave me a book called "My Fight for Irish Freedom" by Dan Breen to read. It was one of the books that was given to people to read when they were being recruited for Fianna Eireann. [REDACTED] was used by the Provisional IRA. I had been watched for potential from a young age and was expected to join at some stage. SPT 28 had been involved with trying to "initiate" me into Fianna Eireann. I gave him the book back with the letters FTP, meaning "F\*\*k The Provisionals", written in the inside of the front cover. The Brothers seemed to be sympathetic to those boys who were in St Patrick's for paramilitary crimes. They seemed to get an easier time from the Brothers.

10. When we left SPT 27 and I were taken to Central train station by a houseparent called STP 76 and given two train tickets to get home to [REDACTED]

St Patrick's Training School, Glen Road, Belfast (19/09/1979 – 25/09/1979 and 15/05/1980 – 25/07/1980)

11. I was re-admitted to St Patrick's the following year on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1979. I was sentenced for riotous behaviour and criminal damage. I was released on bail pending appeal on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1979. On 15<sup>th</sup> May 1980 my appeal was denied and I was re-admitted to St Patrick's. I was on the senior side this time.
12. I remember the Brothers would beat the boys with leather straps if you were being punished for something. I remember being hit over the head with a bunch of keys by BR 50 once because I had hit another boy, who was his pet.
13. I remember thinking the Brothers were going to rape me again, after SPT 29 put the idea in to my head. They kept coming into my room at night with comics and I told them I didn't read comics so they didn't need to come into my room.

HIA 54

PRIVATE

3

PRIVATE

gave me the files from Health and Social Services and told me to be prepared before reading them as I might find it made me emotional and it did.

41. Another document from EHSSB (North and West District) shows I came from Rubane House and was admitted to Nazareth Lodge on 7 March 1985. The document suggests I was in Rubane House prior to Nazareth Lodge but I recall that I went to Nazareth Lodge first. There are definitely discrepancies in the paperwork provided in relation to my dates in certain institutions.

St Patrick's Training School, Glen Road (7 December 1986 – 21 January 1987 – approximate dates only)

42. I was placed in St Patrick's on the Glen Road on a Training School Order for care but there were other boys there who had committed criminal offences. I should never have been allowed to mix with criminals. I cannot recall my exact dates of admission to or discharge from St Patrick's. I think I may have been admitted there on 7 December 1986. The judge on a number of occasions stated that he was going to put me somewhere where I couldn't escape and they thought that St Patrick's was secure. I was always running away. Police had to pick me up on numerous occasions.

43. I got out of St Patrick's when I was about sixteen. St Patrick's wasn't a nice place. I was beaten daily by two older boys. I also feared the caretaker. He took no prisoners. If you were caught by the police after running away you were guaranteed when he opened the door he would have his cane with him and he would use it across your back, head, neck and across the back of the legs. I cannot recall his name. He walked [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I think he is still alive. There were no other staff present when this happened as they would have gone home at this stage. He used to shout all the time and you could hear the echo travelling. He looked after us when we were in bed at night. He didn't do anything to me but I know that he sexually abused other boys in the home.

HIA 50

PRIVATE

11



PRIVATE

believed that it was the best place for me but they did not know what was going on there at the time. They thought that they were doing the right thing for me. I was getting into further trouble when I was away from St Patrick's and eventually I was given a Training School Order.

4. During my time at St Patrick's I had problems with the staff but only the lay staff. I never had any problems with the Brothers in the place. I am aware that there have been allegations made by others about the Brothers but absolutely nothing like that ever happened to me. I would not say things happened if they did not.
5. I want to state that only some members of staff were abusive to me. There were certain members of staff who just did not like me because they were from the same area. Two of these staff members live in [REDACTED] now and I meet them every day. I just do not speak to them but I walk by them every day although it is difficult considering what they did to me. One of them is called SPT 64 and he was a [REDACTED]. He is approximately [REDACTED]. He was in his [REDACTED] at the time I was in St Patrick's. The other person is called SPT 65 and is [REDACTED].
6. SPT 64 physically assaulted me almost every time I returned to St Patrick's after absconding. He threw me into a cold shower and beat me with a big blackthorn stick he used to have. He hit me up to fifteen times with the stick and often I was bruised. SPT 65 was cruel and hit me regularly with wet towels or a bunch of keys. I do not speak to them when I walk past them and I have nothing to do with them. I do not know if they are still working with children.
7. I was hit by some staff on the back of the head with a bunch of keys and was slapped regularly. I was stripped naked and forced to stand in the corner of the common room for hours on end. I was told that it was to stop me running away so much. The staff would be there whilst I was standing in the corner but they did not touch me at any time. I hated being there so that's why I ran away so often. This type of punishment happened on at least seven or eight occasions.

1       abused him in any way, but that you were really violent,  
2       that you had hit him with your hands. There was a punch  
3       to the ribs and you hit him across the back of the head.

4       Now in evidence what he said was -- and I am going  
5       to summarise this, but his evidence can be found on Day  
6       138 at pages -- the relevant pages are pages 139 to 141  
7       and 148 to 151. You will recall that I read out to you  
8       what he told us when he sat --

9       **A. Yes.**

10      Q. -- in this room giving evidence. Essentially in  
11      a nutshell what he said was he was being sexually abused  
12      by two other Brothers, and while you did what he says  
13      that you did in that he maintains that you pulled him  
14      against your penis, he didn't consider that to be sexual  
15      abuse, and that he -- but he said it happened wherever  
16      in the school, in the main corridor, wherever you  
17      happened to be.

18      Now I know you have denied that allegation and, in  
19      fact, you were interviewed by police about it also.

20      **A. Yes.**

21      Q. And when you were interviewed, his allegations -- yes.  
22      You denied ever touching him or pulling him hard against  
23      your penis. You denied being physically violent. You  
24      said you might have lost your temper and shouted. You  
25      told police you used the strap to a person's hand, to

1 a boy's hand for minor things and that serious matters  
2 went to the manager.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. The other thing I just wanted to ask you was: was it  
5 ever the case where, if you didn't have the strap to  
6 hand or you didn't have time to go to the tuck stop,  
7 that you might have lashed out at a boy physically?

8 **A. I may have given him a clip on the ear if -- you know.**

9 **You had to line them up in the corridor on the way**  
10 **before you went into the dining room, because you had to**  
11 **have quite a bit of discipline that way otherwise you**  
12 **would have chaos. You know, he might be running or**  
13 **shouting or something like that and you would just give**  
14 **him a clip on the ear with the back of your hand. That**  
15 **would be about the most, you know.**

16 Q. That would be simply to deal with the situation at hand  
17 --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- rather than have to go to get a strap to deal with  
20 it?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. In your Inquiry statement at 2176 you deal with the  
23 allegations at paragraphs 5 to 7. That's page 2176,  
24 please. I think it is coming up. There is a little  
25 timer showing we are getting that statement. Yes. This



PRIVATE

7. The major problem I had during that time was with the IRA. I know that on one occasion the night watchman allowed masked men into the dormitory where I slept in order to give me a punishment beating. There were a number of other boys around when these masked men arrived and there was a mass fight. The masked men then made off because of the commotion. There were never any Brothers around when this was happening. The night-watchmen later told me they would say I was found wandering outside the dormitory. I absconded that night and walked to the house of a boy called [REDACTED]. He was also in St Patrick's but was on a period of home leave. His mother allowed me to stay that night but when I went to bed she phoned the Training School to let them know where I was. I understand that she was only doing what she thought was best for me but I left the next morning as soon as I could.
8. The Training School had a number of boys who had been remanded there due to suspected involvement with paramilitaries. There was a lot of Republican involvement in the school at the time and the Brothers seemed to let them do what they wanted and seemed to support them. I had the impression that they were treated a lot better than people such as myself who were not involved in that type of activity. I am aware that explosives were found in the grounds and I remember that I was arrested with a number of other boys and taken to Fort Mona for interrogation. I had absolutely nothing to do with that sort of thing. The Brothers became very anti-IRA after a while.
9. Two older boys beat me regularly and once they took me to Black Mountain and tortured me for five or six hours. The boys were called SPT 45 and SPT 46 who were both from [REDACTED]. They made me stand with my hands out holding rocks and hit me. They said that they were from the IRA and that I had been an informer and because of me the uncle of another boy had been interned. It was all nonsense and I do not believe that the boys were actually part of the IRA and were just pretending that they were. I was taken back to St Patrick's that night and was bleeding and bruised. I never received any medical treatment for the injuries I received that day. I remember that later that night the Irish National

1     **A. No.**

2     Q. And they also say that there would have been a log kept  
3       of the use of the punishment cell, but you don't  
4       remember?

5     **A. I wouldn't know about that.**

6     Q. You wouldn't know about that. Well, paragraphs 17 and  
7       18 here -- sorry. Just paragraph 15 you mention  
8       birthdays. There was an occasion -- sorry. If we just  
9       scroll -- yes, on your birthday the routine was that the  
10      boys sang "Happy birthday" to you and then you were  
11      beaten up.

12    **A. Yes.**

13    Q. I take it that's by the boys?

14    **A. Yes.**

15    Q. And was that sort of -- when you say "beaten up", was  
16      that sort of part of the birthday celebrations or was it  
17      more vicious than that?

18    **A. Well, everybody started singing "Happy birthday" and**  
19      **they slowly but surely come closer and closer round you**  
20      **until -- and when they got -- you know, when they all**  
21      **got in close beside you, then you just got a kicking.**

22    Q. You went home at Christmas and other holiday times.

23    **A. Yes.**

24    Q. Paragraphs 17 to 18 you say that about six months after  
25      this incident where you were in the punishment cells you



## PRIVATE

you too. BR 46 was a strict man but he was fair although he left fairly early after I was sent to St Pat's. I recall one occasion when he smacked me on my face for smoking a cigarette. There was frequent bullying going on and I ended up becoming a bully myself. There was a tier system between the boys and I was able to handle myself but I hate myself for that today.

8. I remember that we were taken to Lisburn Swimming Pool for swimming lessons. There was a member of staff and his name was DL 137. I do not know his surname but he was a DL 137 and he was just always called DL 137. There were two DL 137 and DL 137 looked after the boys in the evenings and took them to the pool as well as being employed as a DL 137 kept putting his hand down

10. I saw DL 137 once in later years on Tate's Avenue near the Lisburn Road and I confronted him about what he had done to me. I don't know what year that was but it was in or around the late 1990's. He just said that his head was away. I've always thought about him sexually assaulting me but I've never wanted to talk about it before.

11. In or around 1976/1977 I was placed at Lisnevin Assessment Centre, Newtownards for six weeks. I was transferred from there back to St Patrick's

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 96

Witness Name: HIA 96

---

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 96

---

HIA 96

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. I do not wish to provide any further information on my family life or my upbringing as it has no relevance to this Inquiry.
2. I was never in trouble with the police nor had I any criminal convictions when I was a child. Despite this I was taken by Social Workers and placed in Orana House Children's Home in Newry in or around April 1993. I was kidnapped and taken away from my family and placed somewhere I should never have been. I was told by [REDACTED], who was my [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] who was [REDACTED], that I would only be there for two weeks. This was a total lie as I was there for around fifteen months before I was sent to St Patrick's Training School because I was supposed to be out of control. In fact I was a victim of physical, mental, sexual and emotional abuse. I was a kidnap victim held against my will and because I resisted and fought back against those people I was deemed to be out of control. The reality was that those people and the system were out of control.

HIA 96

PRIVATE

1

PRIVATE

13. There were sexual predators within the female staff and the Brothers during my time in St Patrick's. I remember a female staff member called SPT 84 or SPT 84 took sexual advantage of the boys. I was taken advantage of on one occasion and am aware that she was also involved with other boys including a boy called SPT 85. She was around [REDACTED] and had [REDACTED]. I do not wish to provide any further details about what happened to me other than to say that she attempted to take advantage of me in a sexual manner and I put a stop to it.
14. There was another female staff member who came from [REDACTED] and she was around [REDACTED] years old and she had [REDACTED] hair. One evening I went into SPT 86 SPT 86 room to speak to him and she was partially dressed and in his bed. I just left the room and she stayed behind with SPT 86.
15. BR 26 was [REDACTED] St Patrick's and he used to come into the rooms at night when the staff had gone home. He brought comics with him but the boys just told him to get out because we knew that he was up to something. BR 92 BR 92 was another person who I was suspicious about. He came to our unit from the Republic of Ireland and I believe he was involved in sexual offences there. He always volunteered to supervise the boys in the swimming pool and I saw him watching the boys and sometimes he followed them to the showers and the changing rooms. He never tried anything with me however. I am not prepared to provide details of any of the other sexual abuse which I suffered as I am not comfortable with reliving it.
16. In my opinion there was a lot of emotional abuse. I was taken away from my family for no reason and exploited by the system. The staff manipulated the points system so that I lost out on home leave for example. They also accused me of things which I had not done so that I would be punished. I remember one occasion when I was getting ready to watch a film with a friend. A member of staff came up and told us to go to bed because glass had been put into the shower tray. It had absolutely nothing to do with me and I refused to leave the TV room. I was assaulted and taken to Slemish House for punishment.



PRIVATE

17. I did receive visits from my family from time to time. They lived in [REDACTED] so

Patrick's. I was on the verge of [REDACTED] but that never went any further either. I do not wish to provide any further details of my life after care to the Inquiry because I believe that my private life is and should remain private.

20. As regards redress for what I and others suffered I do not want an apology because it would just be words and would mean nothing to me. I do believe that counselling should be made available to those who wish to avail of it. I also

HIA 96

PRIVATE

6

PRIVATE

13. There were sexual predators within the female staff and the Brothers during my time in St Patrick's. I remember a female staff member called SPT 84 or SPT 84 took sexual advantage of the boys. I was taken advantage of on one occasion and am aware that she was also involved with other boys including a boy called SPT 85. She was around [REDACTED] and had [REDACTED]. I do not wish to provide any further details about what happened to me other than to say that she attempted to take advantage of me in a sexual manner and I put a stop to it.
14. There was another female staff member who came from [REDACTED] and she was around [REDACTED] years old and she had [REDACTED] hair. One evening I went into SPT 86 SPT 86 room to speak to him and she was partially dressed and in his bed. I just left the room and she stayed behind with SPT 86.
15. BR 26 was [REDACTED] St Patrick's and he used to come into the rooms at night when the staff had gone home. He brought comics with him but the boys just told him to get out because we knew that he was up to something. BR 92 BR 92 was another person who I was suspicious about. He came to our unit from the Republic of Ireland and I believe he was involved in sexual offences there. He always volunteered to supervise the boys in the swimming pool and I saw him watching the boys and sometimes he followed them to the showers and the changing rooms. He never tried anything with me however. I am not prepared to provide details of any of the other sexual abuse which I suffered as I am not comfortable with reliving it.
16. In my opinion there was a lot of emotional abuse. I was taken away from my family for no reason and exploited by the system. The staff manipulated the points system so that I lost out on home leave for example. They also accused me of things which I had not done so that I would be punished. I remember one occasion when I was getting ready to watch a film with a friend. A member of staff came up and told us to go to bed because glass had been put into the shower tray. It had absolutely nothing to do with me and I refused to leave the TV room. I was assaulted and taken to Slemish House for punishment.

## PRIVATE

35. BR 26 approached me when I was in the punishment cell. He felt all around me and tried to sexually assault me there and I kicked the legs off him.
36. BR 42 used to make you run around the yard. He would get us to form two circles and he would stand in the smaller circle as you ran round the outer circle and each time you passed he would wallop you with a hurley bat. This game could go on for ten or fifteen minutes.
37. I often tried to self harm when I was in St Pat's and I have scars remaining on my hands and wrists since this time. I was trying to get to hospital so that I could run away but they never took me to hospital. BR 26 just cleaned and bandaged up the wounds himself in the home.
38. The staff at St Pat's could not control me so I was sent to borstal for absconding. They sent me to Millisle. I appealed and got back to St Pat's only to run away again. I was sent to Crumlin Road Prison when I was fifteen for absconding. I went to London but they caught me and brought me back and I was sent to borstal yet again. Later in life I returned twice to Crumlin Road with convictions for theft.

Life after care

39. I was questioned by the police in 1995 about abuse by the brothers. Someone must have reported it and they came to question me. I told them about the abuse I had suffered during my time at Rubané House.
40. A criminal case was brought to court regarding the abuse I suffered but no-one was convicted. It was heard at Newtownards and Downpatrick court but Judge Gibson did not proceed with the case and I was told that this was due to so many of the Brothers now being deceased that they would not get a fair hearing and due to the lapse of time.



1     **A.   Yes.**

2     Q.   -- who was a civilian member of staff who worked --  
3         I think he began, he explains, working in St. Patrick's  
4         in 1964 and he remained there until the early 1990s.  
5         You explain here how he -- so he had only begun working  
6         in St. Patrick's whenever you were -- you were there,  
7         but you explain about a particular Saturday meal time  
8         where eight of you got into trouble with him for  
9         talking.

10    **A.   Yes.**

11    Q.   And you have said to the Inquiry that you weren't  
12         allowed to talk at meal times.

13    **A.   That's right.**

14    Q.   Now the Order have said to the Inquiry that there was no  
15         rule that prevented people speaking at meal times.  If  
16         there had been people getting out of hand, they would  
17         have been told to keep quiet, but there was no problem  
18         in people having a normal conversation.  That's not your  
19         recollection?

20    **A.   No.**

21    Q.   And on this occasion SPT1 took eight of you and lined  
22         you up?

23    **A.   That's right.**

24    Q.   And you explain how he struck you each on the face?

25    **A.   Yes.**

1     **A.   Yes.**

2     Q.   -- who was a civilian member of staff who worked --  
3         I think he began, he explains, working in St. Patrick's  
4         in 1964 and he remained there until the early 1990s.  
5         You explain here how he -- so he had only begun working  
6         in St. Patrick's whenever you were -- you were there,  
7         but you explain about a particular Saturday meal time  
8         where eight of you got into trouble with him for  
9         talking.

10    **A.   Yes.**

11    Q.   And you have said to the Inquiry that you weren't  
12         allowed to talk at meal times.

13    **A.   That's right.**

14    Q.   Now the Order have said to the Inquiry that there was no  
15         rule that prevented people speaking at meal times.  If  
16         there had been people getting out of hand, they would  
17         have been told to keep quiet, but there was no problem  
18         in people having a normal conversation.  That's not your  
19         recollection?

20    **A.   No.**

21    Q.   And on this occasion SPT1 took eight of you and lined  
22         you up?

23    **A.   That's right.**

24    Q.   And you explain how he struck you each on the face?

25    **A.   Yes.**

1 Q. But it had a television --

2 **A. It had a television.**

3 Q. A living room, as it were --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- with a television, and you took your meals there?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. So there was a kitchen and dining table --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- where -- and can you remember the number -- was it  
10 ten boys roughly?

11 **A. It wouldn't have been -- yes, because if I think back**  
12 **about the number of tables in that end of the thing, you**  
13 **know, three or four tables. So, you know, it wasn't**  
14 **a big crowd and that's why I say it wasn't a -- I don't**  
15 **recall it being an awfully big building.**

16 Q. And when you were in , that was a mix of boys.  
17 So it was which on your  
18 , and then some junior boys?

19 **A. Yes. I think were designed for the juniors**  
20 **is again my recollection.**

21

22

23 .

24 Q. You were saying to me that there was --

25 **A. There was another --**



PRIVATE

9. Sometimes they would take you to the pool to punish you at the weekend when the Belfast boys were not there. It happened mainly at holiday time because I was the one that never seemed to get out. I do not know the reason for this. All boys were allowed out whether they were admitted on the care side or the justice side.
10. The first time they took me down to Broadway picture house I waited until the screen went dark and then ran away towards the Falls Road. I didn't know where I was going and I had no money. Two brothers, **BR 26** and the tall skinny brother, came and picked me up. I got a big punishment for trying to escape a second time. The punishment was so bad that I only tried to escape twice. They took me to the swimming pool. Going down under the water all the time there is no sound and coming up your mouth is full of water and that was torture for me.
11. I remained in the cell for most of my stay at St Patrick's. About a year before I left the school they put me in a dormitory. **BR 26** used to come up with a big bunch of keys like a gaoler at 6.30am, he would hit your legs with a stick and tell you to get up for early mass and the sleep was hanging out of your eyes. I think Father Brendan Smyth said mass on occasion.
12. On Saturdays and Sundays when the Belfast boys were out, they made me push all the beds back in the dormitory. They gave me two cloths for under my feet and they would splash polish all over the big long dormitory and I had to walk up and down with these squares of cloth under my feet covered in polish and I had to make that floor shine. I had to do that in three dormitories. I always did this cleaning alone.
13. I ran away sometimes and the same four brothers previously mentioned punished me with beatings. They were bad. They took you up to the sick room on the second floor. There was no light, just a frosted window and a mattress on the floor with an army blanket. These Brothers came in with a cane and a belt and you would be beaten anywhere. In the room anything

PRIVATE

PRIVATE

went. Sometimes one would come in but sometimes two or three would come in and beat me. I think it was all down to that one incident with SPT 36

SPT 36

14. When I was about fourteen and a year before I left they put me into the kitchen to wash pots and pans. I was in the kitchen for about six months before I got out. I washed the pots for the junior and senior side and the skin started to come off my fingers. The constant washing resulted in me suffering from dermatitis.

15. They used to come at night because I knew by the frosted window there was no daylight coming in. BR 1 BR 5 and the tall skinny brother came to my room on a couple of occasions. They opened the door and they turned me around on the mattress, pulled my trousers down and sexually abused me. I was kicking out and two brothers held me down whilst the other brother abused me. It happened twice, once with BR 1 as the abuser and on the second occasion it was the tall skinny brother who abused me. On both occasions they had anal sex with me. One of them would hold you and you knew that would last about ten minutes and then they would go out and close the door. You would get a glass of milk and a jam sandwich the next morning. They would keep you in longer on those occasions because they knew you were upset.

16. On occasion when you had no marks on your body or face the brothers would take you downstairs to the canteen to eat with the other boys. This only happened every now and again and the boys knew they had to keep their distance from me. I was never allowed to befriend any of them and never knew their names. I always felt that I was the only resident who was treated in this way. You sat at a table of four but they put me at different tables. If you stayed in your cell at Christmas time for example you would get a jam sandwich. I don't remember Christmas dinners. As a result I used to hate Christmas as everyone was running around happy and getting presents and I just couldn't wait for it to finish.

PRIVATE

1       **twice, ran away, as I would call it. I was there for**  
2       **very long times, because I got bollock beaten.**

3    Q.   I am going to come on --

4    **A.   There was never a doctor called to my side once. When**  
5       **I was sick many -- on many occasions I never seen any.**  
6       **The cell was the place they put you in for long time,**  
7       **see. So I just feel that there about ...**

8    Q.   The other thing that the Order have said is there must  
9       have been a reason for you being put in a cell. You put  
10      that reason down as to this -- going right back to this  
11      incident on the first day you were there involving this  
12      boy SPT36, and they never cared for your after that.  
13      Isn't that right?

14   **A.   Every Sunday my marks were 0, 0 and that set you up --**  
15       **that set you up for the --**

16   Q.   Punishment?

17   **A.   -- for the week. 0, 0 set you up for punishment and**  
18       **I always had 0, 0.**

19   Q.   One other thing you mentioned to me was when you were in  
20      the home, you received two letters during that time from  
21      your mother, and you say in those letters she enclosed  
22      10 shillings, but that you never ever received that  
23      money. Is that right, HIA58?

24   **A.   I couldn't -- my mother sent -- I got two letters in the**  
25       **time I was there and my mother did tell me she had**



1 a girl. If we can just scroll down to the next page,  
2 she also says that she went to somewhere with  
3 a couple of times:

4 "By the way, why did you say you and had  
5 fell out? I have just heard you haven't, so even though  
6 I'm going with if I wasn't, I couldn't go with  
7 you because of ",

8 and that was received in March of 1975. Now she  
9 hasn't signed the letter. You don't ever remember  
10 seeing those?

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. Yet when we were talking there just before the Panel  
13 came in, I'd asked you, "Did you get letters from family  
14 members or anything?" You do remember getting letters  
15 from your family, but these letters seem to have been  
16 opened and marked as "Received" and certainly put on  
17 your file, but they don't appear to have been given to  
18 you or you don't certainly remember seeing them at any  
19 stage?

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. If we could then look at a different document. That's  
22 SPT47539. You will see -- we had mentioned about the  
23 recording of punishments and this seems to be an example  
24 of the punishment record book. It is obviously for  
25 St. Patrick's Industrial School, which was certified in



Mr Lenaghan said that at the present time Slemish House was the best place for HIA 384 as it does reduce the risks of absconding. Mr Duggan proposed that HIA 384 remain in Slemish whilst he is on his medication and that the situation be reviewed at a later date.

Mr Duggan voiced concern about the allegations made against staff and stressed the need to make them aware of these in case HIA 384 would 'up the stakes'. Mr Duggan stated that the point of today's meeting was to identify specific persons to do certain work with HIA 384. Following discussion, it was agreed that Mr Lenaghan would work alongside Mr Duggan regarding matters of a sexual nature. Prior to each of Mr Lenaghan's individual sessions with HIA 384, it was also agreed that he would contact Mr Duggan.

Br. BR 90 raised the point of HIA 384 complaints against staff and how these should be dealt with. Mr Duggan said that all complaints should be investigated. The Panel agreed with this.

Mr Duggan raised the point of staff opening HIA 384 mail and asked Br. BR 90 about the Management's view on this. Br. BR 90 stated that HIA 384 had made complaints about the staff opening his letters, but he was of the opinion that it was in HIA 384 best interests to open mail going outside the school campus. Mr Small agreed and gave those present an example i.e. HIA 384 had written a letter which had named another boy in the Unit and he had taken the decision not to post this particular letter.

Mr Lenaghan felt that it was a matter of judgement for staff and if they were concerned about mail going outside the school, they would be justified in opening letters. He also stated that staff would have to prepare themselves to be complained about.

It was also agreed that Mr Kennedy, Keyworker, would continue working with HIA 384 on all other matters with the exception of sexual matters and complaints made against staff within the Unit i.e. issues relating to day to day living.

Ms [REDACTED] enquired about HIA 384 Befriender [REDACTED] and whether there had been much contact with her. Mr Kennedy informed her that contact has been maintained by telephone and that HIA 384 is a consistent letter-writer to her.

Mr Duggan asked about the need for convening another meeting of the Panel. Br. BR 90 informed those present that it was now policy to review all boys placed in Slemish House after five weeks of their placement. The same would apply to HIA 384, once he has started his medication. Mr Lenaghan felt that a meeting of those present should be called at a future date once HIA 384 had begun his sessions and started his medication.

Before the meeting concluded, Mr Kennedy informed those present that HIA 384 had asked to meet them without the St Patrick's representatives being present. Members agreed to this and St Patrick's representatives left the room. The decisions of the Panel were explained to HIA 384 who agreed to abide by them.

NB: Any serious inaccuracies or omissions in these Minutes should be reported to the Chairperson within seven days, otherwise it will be assumed that the Minutes are agreed.

1 abuse were being dismissed. He said:

2 "At the end of the meeting I was taken back to  
3 Slemish House and was harangued in the same manner by  
4 namely [yourself], SPT3, SPT87 and SPT88,  
5 placed on black and remained on that rank for three  
6 months."

7 Now you make the point that all of those staff  
8 members would not have been on duty at the same time.  
9 I mean, I take it from your statement that you don't  
10 accept that you would have harangued him in any way to  
11 withdraw a statement being made to the police?

12 **A. Never happened.**

13 Q. Now just in his evidence he said a few things that -- at  
14 page 89 to 90, first of all. Well, he described you  
15 Slemish House and you accept that's who  
16 you were, but he also said that -- yes, he made the  
17 point about the interception of the mail, first of all.  
18 He said:

19 "It was quite strange how is  
20 saying he never intercepted mail, but yet at a case  
21 conference they are actually openly admitting that they  
22 were intercepting my mail. So I think one is telling  
23 lies somewhere along the line, because if they are  
24 intercepting my mail it is either "yes" or "no", where  
25 SPT2 is saying no, he didn't do it, which I know for

1 a fact that's not the case, because

2

3 What you are saying is it wasn't a case of you  
4 stopping the mail getting to the boys. They just had to  
5 open it in front of you --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and that is what you understood --

8 **A. It was in the rule book of the unit.**

9 Q. But you do accept that there were concerns about what  
10 boys were writing in the sense is of in this boy's case  
11 --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- the attempt was -- it was to ensure that there was  
14 no -- nothing untoward happening really --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- in relation to him was the rationale behind checking  
17 the mail. Would that be fair?

18 **A. He was a very dangerous boy.**

19 Q. Well, he also spoke about the colour scheme that  
20 operated in Slemish House at page 82 to 83 of the  
21 transcript of his evidence, and we were talking about  
22 that colour scheme and he said that:

23 "Just something has tweaked my memory. I remember  
24 at lunchtime -- after lunch, when the teacher who had  
25 been in Slemish House came down to have lunch, after

PRIVATE

knew for a fact he was abusing one younger boy at least. If we saw this abuse, the Brothers obviously saw it too but nothing was done about it. It was part of the whole culture, the whole regime.

18. My mother used to come up to visit me every Thursday evening from 7.30pm to 9pm. These visits were always supervised. If our visitors brought us food, very often the older boys would take it off us. An older boy called [REDACTED] used to look after me so I would share my food with him. On a Sunday we would get out to visit our families as well but there was a points system and if your points were too low on a Sunday you would be held back. Even while you were queuing to get the bus home, you could be refused permission over the smallest indiscretion.

19. We had morning Mass daily and then the Angelus in the evenings. I often saw boys being abused during the Angelus while they were at the rear with the Brothers. I think [REDACTED] BR 1 was one of the Brothers who abused boys during the Angelus.

20. I couldn't tell my parents about the abuse as they were very religious and would not accept that a member of the Catholic Church would do such a thing. There were two nuns there and they must have known about the abuse. We tried to mention it to the nuns because we thought we might get a bit of support or help from a woman but they just called us liars and hit us. I believe one of the nuns was called [REDACTED] SR 74 and though I cannot be positive, I recall a [REDACTED] SR 75 as well.

21. Boys would often run away from the home, especially those from the country. Whenever they did, the Brothers would take us bigger ones out in the car to look for them. If you done a runner, as punishment the Brothers would shave your head and take one of your shoes off so you couldn't run. There was one boy nicknamed [REDACTED] who ran away a couple of times and they shaved his head and took one shoe off him to stop him running away.

22. There were rooms underneath the kitchen with just a bed in them. We called them the cells and you would be put in there as punishment anytime you



## PRIVATE

dormitories. This usually happened if I had done something wrong. After being in St Patrick's for five months or so I did not really go to school. I was not learning anything and actually preferred to clean because it was something different to do. I worked up to teatime which was at six o'clock then I worked for another hour after tea.

17. In the evenings we used to play football because there were always footballs about the place. There were some facilities like a television and I remember that there were a couple of table tennis tables and an old snooker table as well which we could use. We would then have to go to bed at about nine o'clock in the evening.

18. There was clean bedding as far as I remember and in general the food was okay. Sometimes we would go on what we called hunger strike for maybe six hours so that the Brothers would put some jam for example on the table. All the boys got the same amount so some of them perhaps went a little hungry because they were bigger. I was fine although sometimes other boys would try to take my food and I would have to stand up for myself.

19. There was a nurse but she was really a nun who was classed as a nurse. I don't remember whether there was ever a dentist who examined me. There was a doctor who called if he was needed but he did not stay on the site. I can never remember a Social Worker ever coming to see me and the only visitors I really had were members of my family. I think I may have been ordered to see a Psychiatrist at St Pat's due to an unfounded allegation of self harm but I have no memory of ever actually meeting one.

**Life after Care**

20. I left St Pat's in 1973 when I was sent to Millisle Borstal. I absconded in November 1973 and went to St Pat's and made a statement to a member of staff about the abuse I had suffered. I was afraid of other kids getting tortured in the same way that I had been. I did not know who to make the statement to because I knew there was no point telling the Brothers and I felt that no one would believe me. People seemed to think then that they could do no wrong. I

PRIVATE

told the House Master, **SPT 2** about what had gone on and he wrote out the statement in his office. He told me that he was going to act on it as he was aware of the abuse but I never heard anything whatsoever about it. I did not retain a copy of the statement.

21. **SPT 2** was a genuine and good person. As far as I know he never acted on it. I believe that the power the Christian Brothers had then meant the man could have lost his job in a split second because they would have gotten rid of him if he had of complained and he would have needed witnesses. I do bear some ill will towards him as he never acted upon what I told him as far as I am aware. However I do appreciate the position he was in. I have seen him at various times over the years since I left St Patrick's but I have never spoken to him about it again.
22. I never spoke about what happened to me to anyone else for a long time except on one occasion I mentioned it to my mother when there was a news story about another person being abused. She was a Catholic mother and did not want to believe that they would abuse people. Her views were the way people felt at that time. I only wish she had lived to see that I was telling the truth. I never made any report to police either.
23. I was married but the marriage broke down and I never spoke to my first wife about my problems. I am now happily married and I have spoken about the abuse to my wife many times over the years. I have **[REDACTED]** children, **[REDACTED]** **[REDACTED]** My **[REDACTED]** a couple of years ago when she was **[REDACTED]** My son is **[REDACTED]** and my other daughters are **[REDACTED]** I am very close to my youngest daughter and I have opened up to her about my experiences but she does not know everything that happened to me.
24. I drank very heavily and was an alcoholic and was in and out of prison for many years. I was very withdrawn and full of anger. It built up over the years and made me a very angry person. I have problems with my memory due to alcohol. It is called Korsakoff Syndrome and it was explained to me as being like alcoholic dementia but my long term memory is fine.

HIA 272

PRIVATE

7



## PRIVATE

13. It was so boring in St Patrick's because there was so little to do. I remember that there was an old pool table but it did not have any felt on it. It was just slate and six pockets. There was also a table tennis table that boys could use. Some of the older boys were given power by the Brothers and were able to leave the grounds and look for people who absconded. If they found a boy who had absconded they were allowed to beat him and they were never reprimanded by the Brothers.
14. I went to school for a few hours every day but it was very poor. There was one English composition to be done in each week and there was a prize for the best one. There were no books, no Maths or English lessons and there was never any homework. I remember **BR 87** just sat at the top of the classroom and read the paper. The teachers did not really teach anything and if I complained about the poor standards I was beaten.
15. There were never any birthday cards or presents in St Patrick's. On your birthday the routine was that the boys sang Happy Birthday to you and then you were beaten up. At Christmas and other holiday times I was allowed home.
16. My parents came to see me whenever they could but they lived in [REDACTED] and it was not easy for them to visit all the time. I did not tell my parents what was going on at St Patrick's but I do remember that I made a complaint to one of the Welfare staff. I think she was called **SPT 48** I remember that within an hour of making the complaint I was beaten and taken to the punishment cell. The cells at St Patrick's were the worst cells that I ever experienced. The cell was inside a cupboard and had no windows, just bricks made of glass and a hard bed. There was only a half mattress on the bed and there was no food. I was kept there for three or four days. It was solitary confinement and it did not matter how loud I shouted because no one came to help me.
17. Approximately six months after I made the complaint I was sent to the Borstal in Millisle. I remember that shortly before I went to Millisle I was visited by two Brothers in Crumlin Road Gaol which was a holding centre for boys going to Borstal. I think that it was **BR 20** and **BR 87** The visit took place

PRIVATE

knew for a fact he was abusing one younger boy at least. If we saw this abuse, the Brothers obviously saw it too but nothing was done about it. It was part of the whole culture, the whole regime.

18. My mother used to come up to visit me every Thursday evening from 7.30pm to 9pm. These visits were always supervised. If our visitors brought us food, very often the older boys would take it off us. An older boy called [REDACTED] used to look after me so I would share my food with him. On a Sunday we would get out to visit our families as well but there was a points system and if your points were too low on a Sunday you would be held back. Even while you were queuing to get the bus home, you could be refused permission over the smallest indiscretion.

19. We had morning Mass daily and then the Angelus in the evenings. I often saw boys being abused during the Angelus while they were at the rear with the Brothers. I think [REDACTED] BR 1 was one of the Brothers who abused boys during the Angelus.

20. I couldn't tell my parents about the abuse as they were very religious and would not accept that a member of the Catholic Church would do such a thing. There were two nuns there and they must have known about the abuse. We tried to mention it to the nuns because we thought we might get a bit of support or help from a woman but they just called us liars and hit us. I believe one of the nuns was called [REDACTED] SR 74 and though I cannot be positive, I recall a [REDACTED] SR 75 as well.

21. Boys would often run away from the home, especially those from the country. Whenever they did, the Brothers would take us bigger ones out in the car to look for them. If you done a runner, as punishment the Brothers would shave your head and take one of your shoes off so you couldn't run. There was one boy nicknamed [REDACTED] who ran away a couple of times and they shaved his head and took one shoe off him to stop him running away.

22. There were rooms underneath the kitchen with just a bed in them. We called them the cells and you would be put in there as punishment anytime you

1 staff that we were looking at in the reports and the  
2 staff members indicating they are not prepared to accept  
3 that type of behaviour and challenging it and sending it  
4 up the line and reports being written then about that.  
5 Occasionally when it was regarded that things had gone  
6 too far, you being moved over to the Slemish unit, which  
7 was the secure unit, and difficulties in the teaching  
8 environment with occasionally you being taken out of the  
9 teaching environment and being taught one-to-one  
10 effectively in Aisling House.

11 What you were saying to me earlier, HIA96, to try to  
12 summarise it from your side, was it was like a war  
13 between --

14 **A. It was a war zone.**

15 Q. Yes, between the staff and the residents?

16 **A. Sure.**

17 Q. And is that a fair way to summarise what you saw?

18 **A. Yes. It was -- it was a war zone and that is a fair**  
19 **assessment. That is the reality, but it is one thing**  
20 **saying it. It is one thing actually living amongst it.**  
21 **It was a war zone. Make no mistake about that.**

22 Q. And what the records show, HIA96, whenever you -- I am  
23 not going to go through the long chronology you and  
24 I were looking at earlier as we were looking through  
25 documents, but at various times various members of staff



*Conclusion and Apology.*

40. In concluding this preliminary statement on Module 7 of the Inquiry, I offer the observation that throughout the history of Milltown and St. Patrick's the level of funding provided by the State, the level of regulation and inspection provided by the various statutory authorities and the frequency of supervision and inspection carried out by the Management Board itself appear to have been consistently more substantial and qualitative than was the case in Rubane. Particularly following the establishment of the new site on the Glen Road, this included a closer collaboration between St. Patrick's and the management of other Training Schools such as Rathgael, as well as more comprehensive and better funded provision for in-service training of staff.
41. The Diocese also wishes to acknowledge the outstanding contribution made by so many Brothers of the De La Salle Order, Sisters of the Bon Secour and Franciscan Missionary Orders, as well as so many lay staff who from the foundation of St. Patrick's acted with the noblest of motives, the highest of ideals and the utmost levels of dedication to the welfare of the children in their care, often in the most difficult social, financial and political circumstances, including partition, the Second World War and the period we know as the Troubles. That some of those charged with the care of children in such institutions betrayed the sacred trust placed in them by parents, the State, the Church and the young residents of St. Patrick's themselves, does not in the view of the Diocese detract from the outstanding concern for the welfare children most in need in our society shown by so many of those who founded, developed, managed and ran St. Patrick's throughout its almost 100 years of existence.
42. Mindful that this is the last module of the Inquiry in which it is called to give evidence, the Diocese wishes to repeat however, that the abuse of even one child by an adult charged with their care, all the more so one professed to witness to the highest Christian motivation and ideals, is utterly abhorrent and intolerable. On behalf of the Diocese I repeat our sincere and profound apology to anyone who was abused while in care in St. Patrick's or in any other institution owned or managed by the Diocese. It is our sincere hope that the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry will help to establish the truth about abuse in all such institutions in Northern Ireland and to make recommendations as to how such failures can be most assuredly prevented in the future. Most importantly, the Diocese remains committed to co-operating with the Inquiry and its findings in the effort to bring whatever healing and support that can be provided to those who were abused while under our care. We are mindful, that with the De La Salle Order, our predecessors, motivated by the highest ideals, undertook the responsibility of acting *in loco*